



Advance notice

Embargo 23rd August 2007

Publication of *Northern Lights: building better childhoods in Norway*

Part of Children in Scotland's new series 'Building better childhoods'

'Building better childhoods' series – titles that highlight innovative policies and practice in Scotland, throughout Europe and beyond. As we strive to improve childhood experience, sharing ideas and practice at national and international level can inspire change for the better.

Northern Lights: building better childhoods in Norway

In 2006 a small group of highly experienced individuals, all involved in different ways in the planning and delivery of childhood services in Scotland, travelled North to view a snapshot of service delivery in a country that shares so much with Scotland, yet appears to have succeeded in achieving higher levels of child well-being.

Northern Lights has been written as a record of this visit to Norway and to encourage many more policy makers, professionals and practitioners in Scotland to ask questions about our own approach to service delivery. Is Scotland dealing with the same issues? If so, how and why are we doing things differently? What is Norway providing that we are not? What is Norway doing that we are not?

Northern Lights focuses on:

- Norway's national political landscape
- Local planning for children, youth and family services in Norway using "*oppvekstplans*" - translated into English as "upbringing plans".
- Norway's consistently proactive work to advance children's rights and promote participation
- The benefits of 'universal services'
- Maximising local resources in education
- Nature as a resource in services

Further information will be issued shortly.

Contact: Nicola Pay - npay@childreninscotland.org.uk