



MEDIA RELEASE

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'New thinking' needed on how Holyrood-Westminster relationship impacts on children's services

A cross-bench peer in the House of Lords has said that new thinking is needed on how current constitutional arrangements affect services for children in Scotland.

Interviewed in the October issue of *Children in Scotland* magazine, Stewart Sutherland argues that the net savings made by Westminster departments through devolving power to Scotland must be considered in any discussion of the West Lothian question.

Lord Sutherland, chair of the Royal Commission on Long-Term Care, many of whose recommendations were implemented in Scotland, suggests that a review could examine problems in the current constitutional settlement – and propose changes.

“A review could independently look at the kind of issues that have come up and see what structures might best deal with these, and try to anticipate those that hadn't been thought about so far,” he says.

It is important to address when decisions made on reserved areas impact on Scotland and services for children in Scotland, Lord Sutherland says.

Also featured in the issue is an exclusive article by John Bennett on the findings of a new report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *Starting Strong II*, which provides an international overview of progress in early childhood education.

The report reveals a growing consensus – based on research from a wide range of countries covering demographics, social change and cost-benefit analyses – that governments must invest in and regulate early childhood education and care.

The report coincides with the publication of the new issue of *Children in Europe*, *Managing the Mix*, which looks at how nine European countries deliver early childhood services.

The October issue of Children in Scotland magazine can be ordered through our website, www.childreninscotland.org.uk

Children in Europe can be ordered at:

<http://www.childrenineurope.org/english.php>

Notes for editors:

- Children in Scotland is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provisions are of the best possible quality and able to meet the needs of a diverse society.
- Children in Europe is a magazine for everyone working with and for children from 0-10 and those interested in children's issues. It is published simultaneously in eight languages by a network of national magazines. It aims to provide a forum for ideas, practice and information and contribute to the development of policy and practice and European and national levels. It is published in the UK by Children in Scotland, the national agency for voluntary, statutory, and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland, with the support of the Bernard van Leer Foundation.

For more information, contact Chris Small

Tel: 0131 222 2419

Mobile: 07986 589 514

Email: csmall@childreninscotland.org.uk