

# Children in Scotland

every child - every childhood

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3 April 2009

Health and Sport Committee  
T3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

## **Call for Written Evidence on the Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Bill**

Children in Scotland welcomes the invitation to submit evidence to the Health and Sport Committee on the Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Bill. We would like to note that we strongly support the evidence submitted by ASH Scotland, one of our member organisations.

We particularly endorse the points they have made in regard to the links between smoking, ill health and deprivation and the increased likelihood of young people from deprived backgrounds continuing smoking into adulthood.

We also support ASH's proposals for tighter regulation of retailers, tobacco display bans in shops; and the removal of tobacco vending machines, to limit the access of tobacco products to young people. Preventing access to, and significantly reducing, the use of tobacco products by children and young people should be a priority for the Scottish Government in its dealings with the tobacco industry and retailers.

Preventing children and young people from taking up smoking is key to preventing future ill health and premature death from smoking related diseases in Scotland.

For further information please contact Marion Macleod, Senior Policy and Parliamentary Officer.

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Children in Scotland is Scotland's national agency for organisations and professionals working with and for children, young people and their families. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that policies and services and other provisions are of the highest possible quality and are able to meet the needs of a diverse society. Children in Scotland represents more than 450 members, including 90% of Scottish Local Authorities, all major voluntary, statutory and private children's agencies, professional organisations, as well as many other smaller community groups and children's services. It is linked with similar agencies in other parts of the UK and Europe.

The work of Children in Scotland encompasses extensive information, policy, research and practice development programmes. The agency works closely with MSPs, the Scottish Government, local authorities and practitioners. It also services groups such as the Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Children and Young People (with YouthLink Scotland). In addition, Children in Scotland hosts Enquire - the national advice service for additional support for learning, and Resolve: ASL, Scotland's largest independent education mediation service.