



**MEDIA RELEASE – 19/12/08**

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**Working It Out: helping to shape the future of Scotland's children's sector workforce**

Scotland's children's sector workforce is being invited to join the national debate on future workforce development as part of a year-long programme undertaken by Children in Scotland with the support of the Scottish Government.

Children in Scotland are facilitating regional seminars in Aberdeen (in conjunction with Aberdeen City Council and the University of Aberdeen) and in Glasgow (in conjunction with Glasgow City Council) ahead of a major international conference in Edinburgh in March, which will bring participants from across Europe to learn from and discuss cross-national experience.

Scotland, in common with many other countries, needs a children's sector workforce equipped to meet the challenges and new aspirations that face societies today. That includes child-centred services that treat children and young people as active participants, and recognise parents, carers and community as partners. It requires a workforce that is skilled, valued and representative of the population it serves.

Employers, planners, universities, colleges and other stakeholders will join together to consider how best to achieve the long-term vision of children's services as a single, child-centred, unitary system.

Issues discussed will include:

- Employer and provider perspectives on qualifications and professional development
- Shared objectives and values
- The Danish pedagogue model and its potential role in upskilling the Scottish workforce
- Implications of the Early Years Framework for the early years workforce.

Children in Scotland Chief Executive Bronwen Cohen said:

**Additional information**

1. Seminars titled 'Qualifications and professional development: opportunities for new partnerships' will be held at the University of Aberdeen on 4 February and at Glasgow City Chambers on Wednesday 11 February. The International Conference will be held in Edinburgh on 4 March.

2. Children in Scotland will issue regular newsletters throughout the year-long programme, available on the Children in Scotland website.

**Notes to Editors:**

For press quotes or further information, please contact Tracey Francis, 0131 222 2419.

**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 provision are of the best possible quality and able to meet the demands of a diverse society. For further information visit: [www.childreninscotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk)