

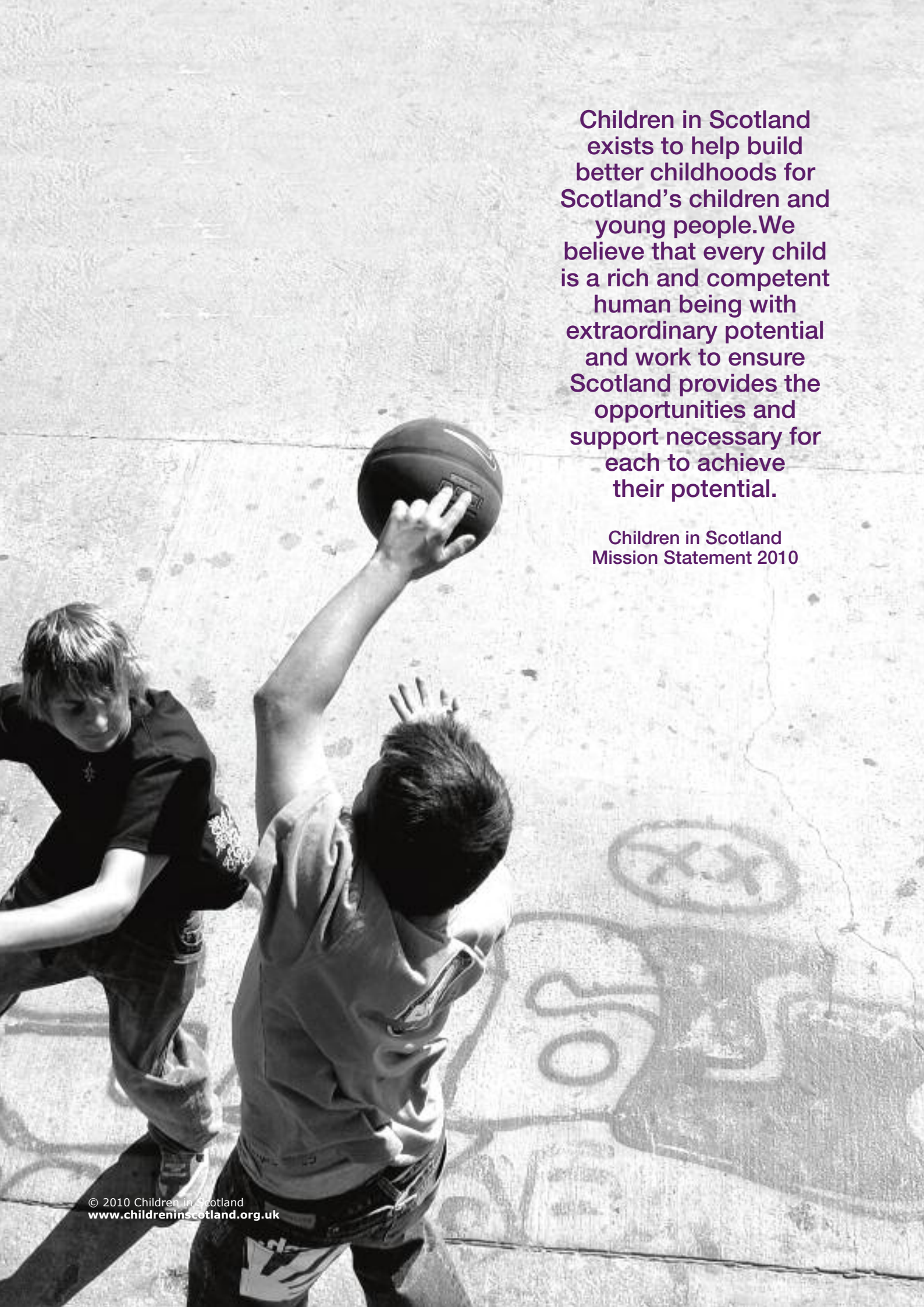
Children in Scotland

every child - every childhood

www.childreninscotland.org.uk



Annual Report 2009/2010



Children in Scotland exists to help build better childhoods for Scotland's children and young people. We believe that every child is a rich and competent human being with extraordinary potential and work to ensure Scotland provides the opportunities and support necessary for each to achieve their potential.

Children in Scotland
Mission Statement 2010

Every Child - Every Childhood

Foreword



Our work over the past twelve months has once again led the agenda in a number of areas across the children's sector in Scotland, and indeed beyond.



Under an extension to the Scottish Government funded programme, *Working it Out*, we embarked on further focused study of the children's sector workforce in Scotland. It is an area of our work which has generated considerable interest and discussion. A linked study visit to Denmark provided

further information to enhance Government thinking on the way forward in Scotland.

The continuation of the *Working for Inclusion* project also saw study visits to Poland and Norway. This project will conclude with a seminar to be held in the European Parliament in December 2010.

Our Enquire staff have led the dissemination of information about changes and updates to the ASL legislation over the last year. They have helped parents, as well as professionals, to adjust to the new demands. Their dedicated helpline, ongoing newsletter series, and new website have all facilitated the circulation of this information. We also held Government-commissioned events around the country to consult on amendments to the legislation.

We are consistent in our aim of generating debate and broadening horizons, and have again held events across the country to build on and complement our dedicated research work. We have welcomed speakers and delegates from across the world. From our packed programme, events of note included conferences on the changing workforce,

children's rights, and young children as scientists, as well as a highly successful annual conference on achieving better outcomes for children and young people, held with South Lanarkshire Council.

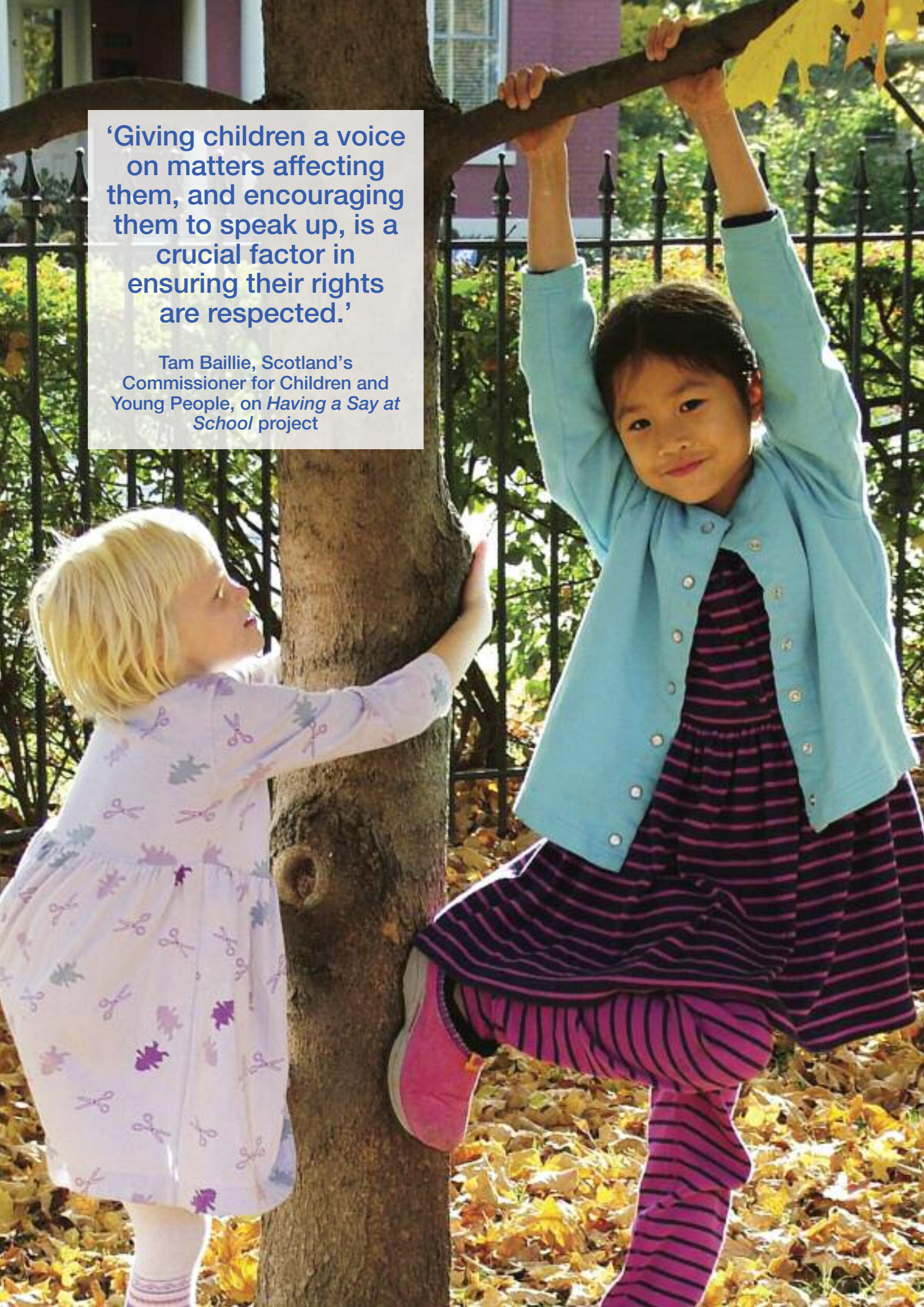
As we look ahead to the coming twelve months, our work will again focus on achieving the best start for every child in Scotland, and on building better childhoods, with equality of opportunity. We aim to support a generation of young people to have open and inquiring minds and who are purposeful and engaged citizens. The success of our *Having A Say At School* comic book demonstrated the importance not only of engaging with young people, but also of making sure that their voices are heard, and this participation will continue to be a key element of our work.

We are in little doubt that the coming year will be challenging. We will seek to ensure that Scotland continues to press forward with the integrative approach to services and policies offered by national strategies and frameworks such as the Curriculum for Excellence, *Getting it Right for Every Child*, the Early Years Framework and the amended Additional Support for Learning legislation. With our monthly magazine, and multi-national *Children in Europe* title, we will continue to encourage sector-wide debate, around these and other issues, informed by analysis and dissemination of policies and practice in Scotland, and drawing on European and international practice. Through the new Scotland's Children's Sector Forum, we will endeavour to ensure that at a time when resources are in short supply the right decisions are taken and children, young people and their families are accorded the priority they deserve.

The Right Honourable Lord Reed, Convener
Bronwen Cohen, Chief Executive

‘Giving children a voice on matters affecting them, and encouraging them to speak up, is a crucial factor in ensuring their rights are respected.’

Tam Baillie, Scotland’s
Commissioner for Children and
Young People, on *Having a Say at
School* project



Policy and research

In the last year, we have focused on: prevention, implementation and promoting meaningful engagement and improved wellbeing.

Influencing policy

Our work influenced policy and legislation through responding to government consultations on a wide range of issues and through the preparation of Parliamentary briefings and the submission of evidence on the following:

- Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Bill
- Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill
- UK Equality Bill
- Tobacco and Primary Medical Services Bill
- Public Services Reform Bill
- UK Crime and Security Bill
- Alcohol, etc Bill
- Children's Hearings Bill

We convened Scotland's Children's Sector Forum, a coalition of Children in Scotland members and invited guests which discussed issues such as reform to the Children's Hearings System and future policy making in Scotland. We also provided the secretariat (with YouthlinkScotland) for the Cross Party Group on Children and Young People.

Conducting research

- completed a study of pupil councils

throughout Scotland in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh. *Having a Say at School* produced a website, five research briefings and numerous presentations about its findings. It also created a comic book *Councils of the Galaxy: Scotland, Earth*, which was sent to every school in Scotland

- designed and analysed a nationwide survey about the inclusion of fathers in children's services and of men in child-related employment, a key part of *Making the Gender Equality Duty real to children, young people and their fathers*
- a detailed study of the ways in which the Early Years Framework could and should be implemented in one local authority
- researching the role of the early years workforce in addressing child poverty and social inclusion through a major cross-Europe project, *Working for Inclusion*
- analysing, with partner organisations, the child-related elements of all 32 Single Outcome Agreements across Scotland and the child-related elements of party manifestos ahead of the UK elections (with an emphasis on the Scottish implications)
- producing guidance on how to meaningfully solicit and include the views of students affected by proposed school closures. SCCYP commissioned this work and *Participants, Not Pawns* is available on our website

**‘Good to hear about work being done
in Europe and beyond.’**

Delegate, Children’s Rights Conference, February 2010



Developing skills and building knowledge

Training and events

'A superb day ... I will take back many of the informative experiences to our workplace.'

Delegate, Children, Risk and Responsibility Conference, October 2009

Children in Scotland continued to develop the professional capacity of the children's sector, reaching thousands of members of the children's sector workforce through training sessions, seminars, conferences and events.

Tracking professional developments in the sector, we introduced training and events on new topics such as:

- transforming early years spaces on a shoestring
- nature kindergartens
- impact of family lifestyle on child behaviour
- promoting the principles of play

We delivered conferences and seminars on a diverse range of topics, from the impact of new and changing legislation in Scotland to approaches to early years provision across Europe. Other key events this year included:

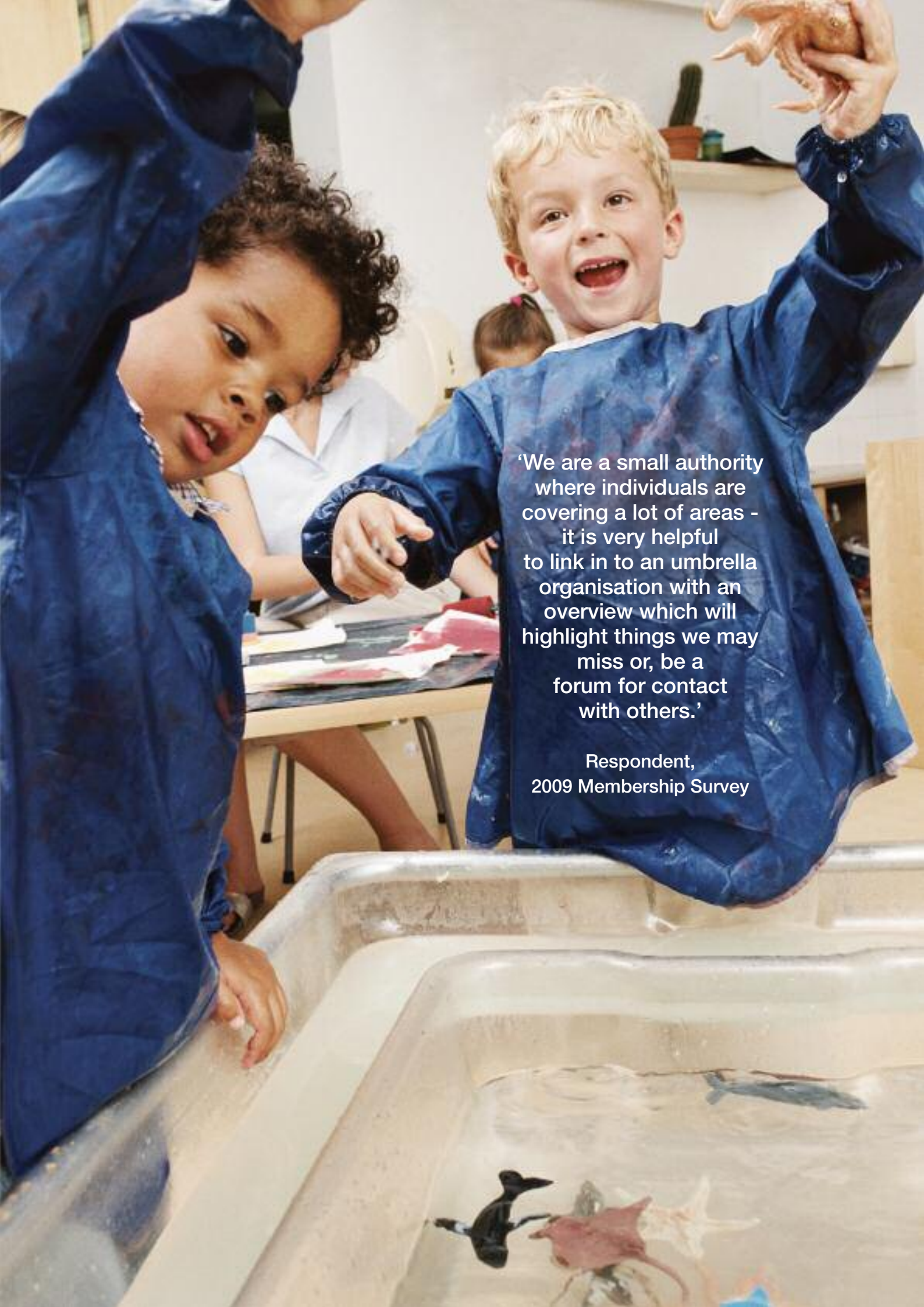
- children, risk and responsibility conference
- annual Conference 2009 in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council on improving outcomes
- exploring the world and beyond: young children as scientists, a Children in Europe Conference
- member's reception at the Great Hall, Edinburgh Castle, allowing our members to meet and network

We brought overseas experts to Scotland and shared international practice through:

- continuing to provide the best possible professional development for our members
- study visits across Scotland and Europe
- seminars and conferences on workforce reform, children's rights, supporting resilience and risk and play
- information and consultation events on behalf of the Scottish Government on ASL
- Education in Practice Professional Development Award, the first accredited qualification for artists working in formal or informal settings, resulting in 19 accredited practitioners

We worked with many partners including:

- Scottish Government
- Equalities and Human Rights Commission
- Kibble
- Learning Teaching Scotland
- Play Scotland
- Save the Children
- The Scottish Arts Council
- Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People
- South Lanarkshire Council



'We are a small authority where individuals are covering a lot of areas - it is very helpful to link in to an umbrella organisation with an overview which will highlight things we may miss or, be a forum for contact with others.'

Respondent,
2009 Membership Survey

Staying informed and connected

Publications and member services

'[Membership] has helped to make a difference to the service we deliver, therefore making a difference to the quality of life for many of our families.'

Respondent, 2009 Membership Survey

Member services

Our members represent a complex, impressive web of individuals, policy makers and a diverse workforce who have collective responsibility for every child, and every childhood in Scotland. Through and on behalf of our membership we:

- influence the development of policies that will improve childhood experience in Scotland
- support the development of values, knowledge and skills across the children's sector workforce that will enable the delivery of high quality child and family services
- provide a national and international forum for the exchange of practice, ideas and innovation that will help inspire change for the better

We made sure our members were up-to-date on children's sector issues through our regular publications:

- a daily news digest
- a weekly news update
- a weekly policy update
- a monthly magazine, *Children in Scotland*
- bi-annual European magazine, *Children in Europe*

Publications

We brought our members the results of research and study visits by publishing:

- 10 country reports, briefing papers and an overview report on early years provision across Europe
- a series of workforce newsletters
- a series of Enquire newsletters
- a variety of research and policy analyses

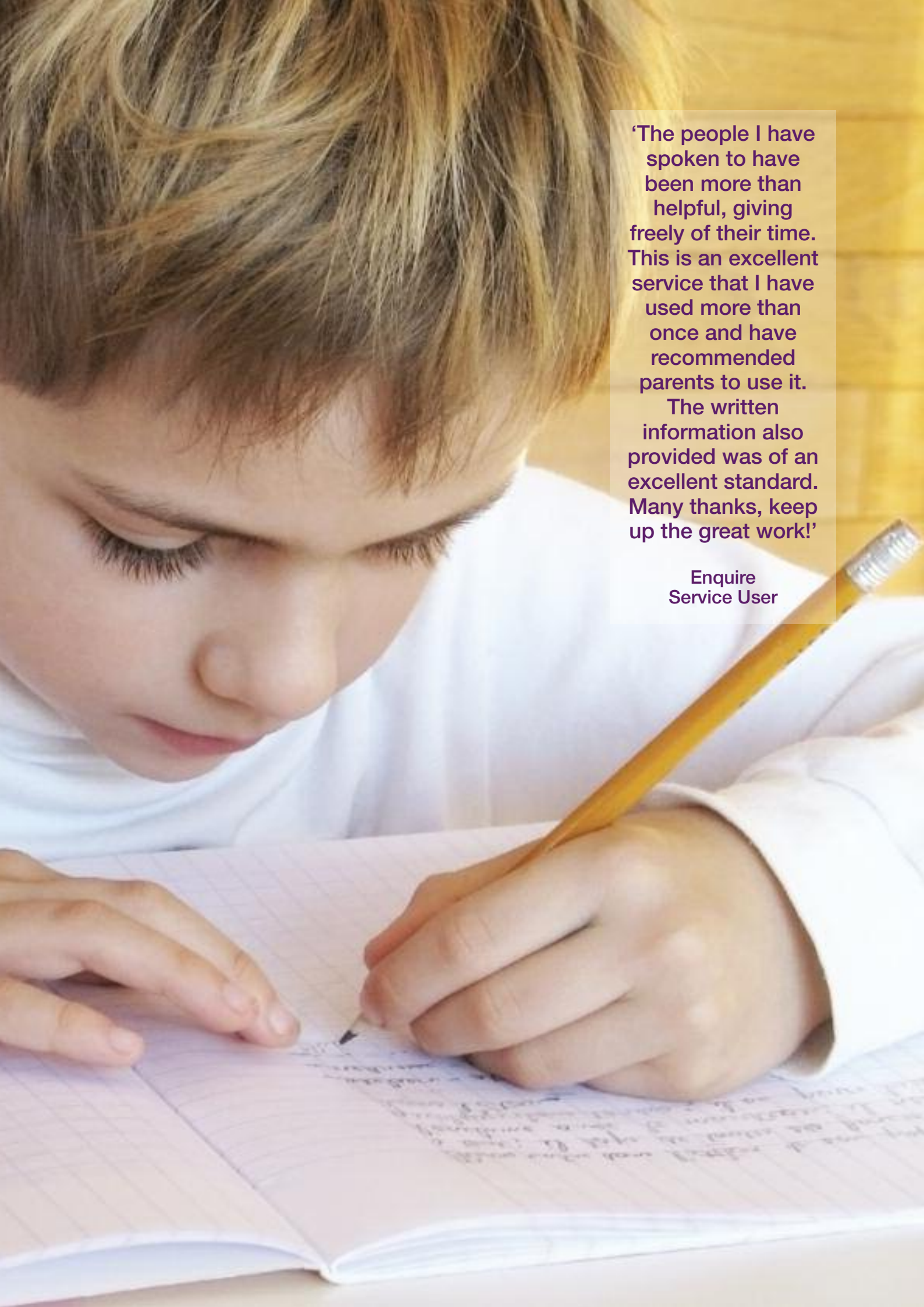
We produced publications on:

- young children and the arts
- early years provision in South Africa
- pupil councils in Scotland
- the Enquire annual conference

Despite uncertain times and the unpredictable economic climate, Children in Scotland membership has continued to demonstrate value for money. We provided our members with:

- an extensive training and events programme at reduced prices
- access to exclusive information and informative publications
- a platform for commenting on policy and reform
- reviews of best practice and new legislation
- access to a cross-sectoral network of professionals

A list of over 450 members is available online at www.childreninscotland.org.uk/ourmembers



‘The people I have spoken to have been more than helpful, giving freely of their time. This is an excellent service that I have used more than once and have recommended parents to use it. The written information also provided was of an excellent standard. Many thanks, keep up the great work!’

Enquire
Service User

Additional support needs services

'A brilliant service offering clear and practical advice.'

Enquire Service User

Enquire is the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning. It is managed by Children in Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government.

Enquire key achievements included:

- handling a 34% increase in enquiries on the previous year
- sending over 82,000 publications to parents/carers, practitioners and children and young people and developing both the website for children and young people and the main Enquire website for parents and practitioners, which received over 400,000 hits over the year. We also added 9 podcasts to the series on the children and young people's website
- talking to over 100 BEd student teachers about additional support for learning and Enquire
- delivering an annual conference and various training and information sessions for over 1500 people
- celebrating our 10th anniversary

Visit: www.enquire.org.uk

Access All Areas

Access All Areas is a project funded by the Scottish Borders Council. The aim of the project is to develop a system of consultation with pupils on how to improve school life for children and young people with additional support needs. The project works with primary and secondary pupils in schools throughout the Scottish Borders. Pupils' views are used to inform the Authority's

accessibility strategy, as well as that of individual schools.

Visit: www.childreninscotland.org.uk/programmes

RESOLVE:ASL is an independent mediation service to assist local education authorities to meet the mediation requirements in the Education (Additional Support for Learning)(Scotland) Act 2004, as amended.

RESOLVE:ASL's key achievements included:

- building Service Level Agreements to provide ASN Mediation to 13 Education authorities across Scotland
- the launch of an interactive training DVD 'Talk 2 Us' produced in conjunction with Glasgow Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- the appointment of Muriel Gray, broadcaster and journalist, as the first ever Patron for Additional Support Needs Mediation in Scotland
- delivery of a Mediation Masterclass for mediators from all fields across Scotland.
- the recruitment and training of five new mediators to add to our growing service
- the delivery of information and consultation events across Scotland for parents on Supporting Children's Learning; Code of Practice and on secondary legislation which supports the Education ASL Act 2004 in association with the Scottish Government

Visit: www.childreninscotland.org.uk/resolve

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a pink and red floral patterned jacket and blue jeans, is climbing a blue rope structure on a wooden playground. She is looking to the right. The structure consists of vertical blue ropes and horizontal red-handled bars. The background is a blurred green field.

‘In the present financial climate it is important that Children in Scotland maximises the potential of the financial resource to achieve their objectives in improving the health and welfare of children, but also strategically ensures there is a robust financial plan to guide the organisation through these difficult times’

Stewart Forsyth,
Vice Convener,
Children in Scotland

Managing resources effectively

Financial statement (year ending March 2010)

Children in Scotland's summarised financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2010.

Funds received with no conditions attached (for example membership income, events income and publication sales) are used in such a way as to best meet the aims and objectives set out in our forward plan, which is available on our website. A surplus of £16,154 was achieved on unrestricted income.

The majority of our income is through grant funding for specific projects and there are restrictions on how this income can be used. These projects are carefully budgeted to break even. This year we incurred a deficit of £30,503 on

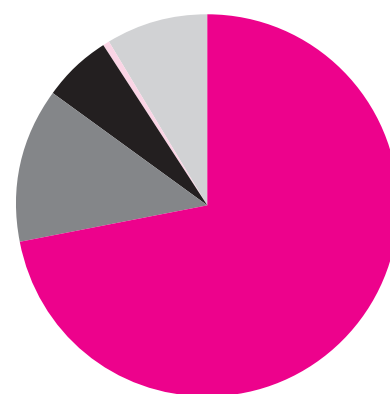
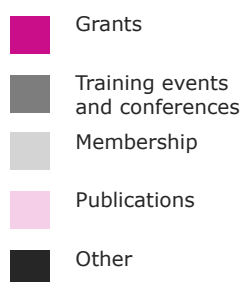
restricted income. This loss is because of the timing of grant income being received.

Our core costs are kept under constant review to make sure our money is best spent to make a difference to children's lives in Scotland.

For a copy of our full audited accounts, contact the finance manager:

accounts@childreninscotland.org.uk
or tel 0131 222 2416

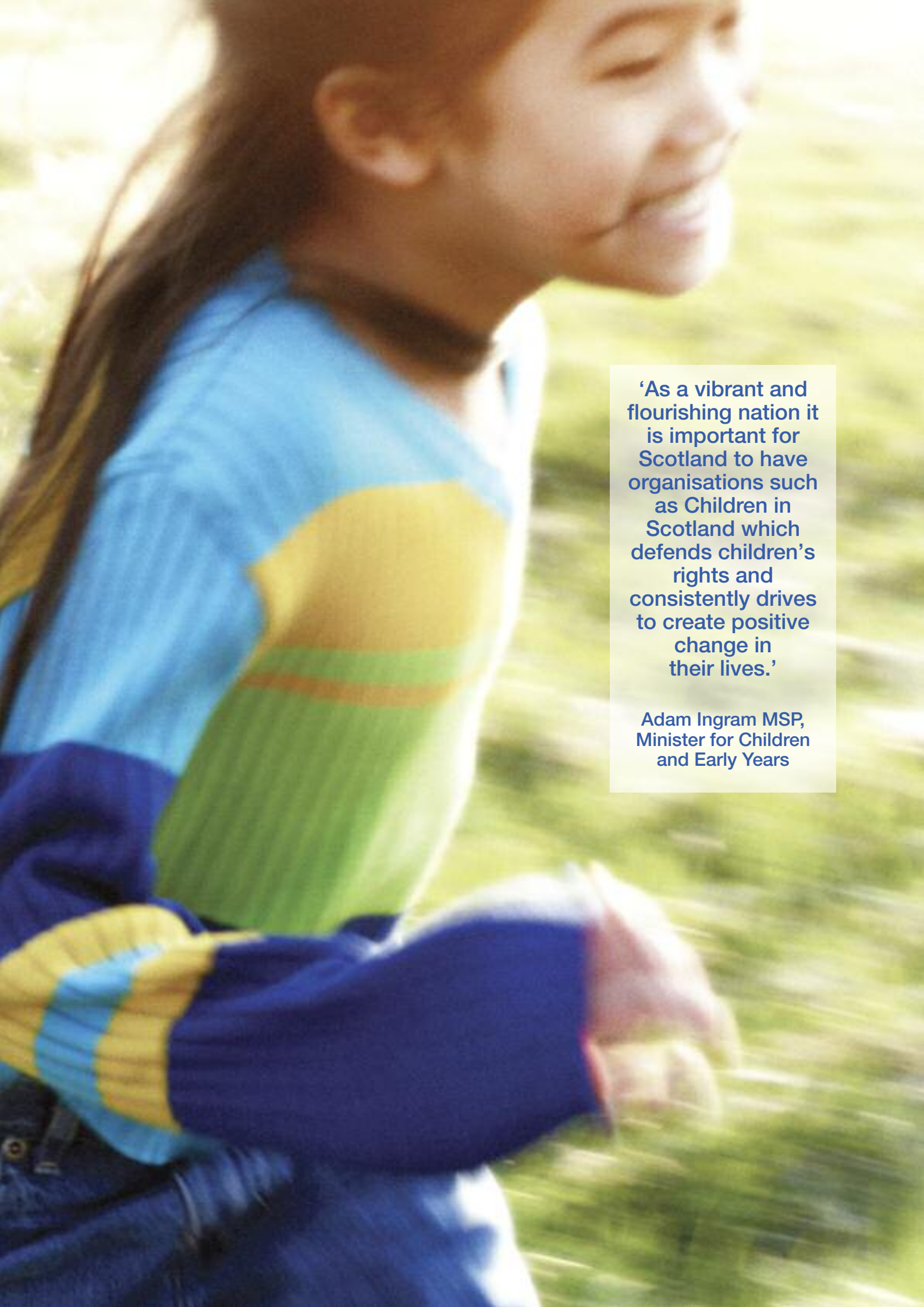
Income	£	%
Grants	1,272,656	72
Training events and conferences	217,877	13
Membership	107,432	6
Publications	10,573	0.5
Other	164,986	8.5
Total	1,773,524	100



Expenditure	£	%
Cost of generating voluntary income	7,998	0.3
Activities in furtherance of objectives	1,768,888	99
Governance costs	10,987	0.7
Total	1,787,873	100

Deficit

Total deficit for the year	14,349
of which restricted (deficit)	30,503
of which unrestricted (surplus)	16,154



‘As a vibrant and flourishing nation it is important for Scotland to have organisations such as Children in Scotland which defends children’s rights and consistently drives to create positive change in their lives.’

**Adam Ingram MSP,
Minister for Children
and Early Years**

Our governance

Our work is led by our board of directors, and our advisory groups and committees.

Board of Directors

Convener: The Right Honourable Lord Reed,
Judge of the Court of Session,
Member of the Privy Council, Edinburgh

Vice Convener: Professor Stewart Forsyth,
Medical Director, Ninewells Hospital and Medical
School, Dundee

Vice Convener: Keir Bloomer,
Vice Chair of Court, Queen Margaret University,
Edinburgh

Treasurer: Gillian Donald CA,
Partner Scott Moncrieff

Secretary: Dr Bronwen Cohen

Board Members

Graham Bell, Kibble Education and Care Centre
(until Nov 09)

Celia Gardiner, NHS Scotland

Sally McNair, Broadcaster and Journalist
(from Dec 09)

Phil Robinson, Chief Executive, Quarriers
Councillor Mary Smith, Convention of Scottish
Local Authorities

Gillian Tee, Director of Children and Families, City
of Edinburgh Council (from Dec 09)

Ian Wall, former Chief Executive of the
EDI Group Ltd

Auditors

Chiene and Tait
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh EH3 6NL

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
142-144 Princes Street
Edinburgh EH2 4EQ

Solicitors

Anderson Strathern
1 Rutland Court
Edinburgh EH3 8EY

Gillespie Macandrew WS
5 Atholl Crescent
Edinburgh EH3 8EJ

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