

MEDIA RELEASE

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Norway offers lessons on learning

Children's minister Adam Ingram recently returned from a fact-finding visit to Norway arranged by Children in Scotland.

The purpose of the trip was to gather information on the country's education system for its youngest children and to examine issues relating to the workforce and child-centred planning, ahead of the publication of Scotland's new early years framework, which is due later this year.

The trip followed a previous study visit to the northern region of Nordland, which formed the basis of the recent publication *Northern Lights*, co-edited by Children in Scotland chief executive Bronwen Cohen and childcare expert Rosemary Milne.

According to Unicef, Norway is in the top 10 of 21 industrialised countries for overall child wellbeing, while the UK is at the bottom of the league. Norway also spends 7.6% of its GDP on education, compared to only 6.2% in Scotland, while Norwegian parents pay just 30% of their childcare costs compared to 60% in Scotland.

Read more about the study visit in the new issue of 'Children in Scotland' magazine.

To purchase copies of 'Northern Lights', visit www.childreninscotland.org.uk/publications

For more information, please contact Children in Scotland press officer, Chris Small, csmall@childreninscotland.org.uk, 0131 222 2419.