



**Minutes of the Scottish Play Policy Forum
Tuesday 7 October 2008
Red Carpet Eglinton, Edinburgh**

In attendance: Alex Cole-Hamilton- Aberlour, Amanda Godsell- Play Scotland, Eric Mitchell- Capability Scotland, Frances Barbour- National Association of Hospital Play Specialists, Gwen Garner- Scottish Pre-School Play Association, Irene Hogg- The International Play Association, Scotland Branch, Jane Crawford- Scottish Childminding Association, Laura Powrie- Scottish Government, Laura Paton-Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People's Office, Lesley Patterson- The National Playbus Association, Lesley Fox- National Association of Leisure and Toy Libraries, Linda Lauchlan- Learning and Teaching Scotland, Margaret Westwood-Chair of Play Scotland/City of Edinburgh Council, Marion MacLeod- Children in Scotland, Stephanie Bruce-Care and Learning Alliance, Sue Gutteridge, Sue Palmer-Author and Chair of SPPF, Susan McIntyre- Play Scotland

Apologies: Maureen McKissock- Scottish Out of School Care Network, Kevin Lafferty- Forestry Commission Scotland, Alastair Seaman- Grounds for Learning, Maureen Fraser- Barnardos, Colin Rennie- Fields in Trust, Frances Scott- Scottish Social Services Council, Sue Sutton-Institute for Sport, Parks and Leisure, Ronnie Hill- Care Commission, Douglas Hamilton- Save the Children, Mark Griffith- Shelter Scotland, Julie Proctor- Greenspace Scotland, Marguerite Hunter Blair- Play Scotland, Debbie Willett- SkillsActive, Marie McCormack- Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People's Office

1. Welcome

Sue Palmer, Chair of SPPF welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table and those joining the meeting for the first time were welcomed. Sue stated that it was a huge privilege for her to be chairing the Forum.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising not on the agenda

SP asked if there were any comments re: the Terms of Reference to be added- there were none. The minutes were accepted by the group. There were no matters arising.

3. Update from UK CPPF and Inspiring Scotland Fund

In Marguerite Hunter Blair's absence, SP asked Susan McIntyre to give a short **update** and asked the group if they had anything they wanted to feedback into this. SM said there was no news on the last Children's Play Policy Forum but information can be sent around. SM fed back on the findings of the Scottish Play Commission. A summary leaflet was circulated. SM will circulate the full report- pdf to members.

SM gave a brief update on Inspiring Scotland. A period of research is ongoing at present. New Philanthropy Capital is doing this on behalf of Inspiring Scotland and Scottish Government. A report will be available at the end of December 08 when the research ends. We are hoping that they will be able to do an input on this at our National Conference on 19-20 November 2008.

Laura Powrie from Scottish Government told the group that NPC researchers would be keen to speak to forum members and get information on the Sector to assist with their research.

4. Presentation – UNCRC Monitoring: Laura Paton- Development Officer- SCCYP

Laura thanked the group for allowing her to come along today. She gave a brief outline of the role of the Commissioner's Office and mentioned that Play has been a priority for the organisation for the last few years. The focus of her presentation was on the UN Reporting Process: Opportunities for Play.

Laura's PowerPoint Presentation is attached.

5. Discussion on UNCRC Monitoring

- Laura Paton mentioned that the UK's next report is due in January 2014 and the Scottish government has committed to following up the Concluding Observations from this Report. The UNCRC Partnership Group has been established with representatives from COSLA, other NGO's, SCCYP and the Scottish Alliance on Children's Rights. They are moving to becoming a lobbying organisation.
- Alex Cole- Hamilton mentioned that he is also a member of this Group. He asked how did Scottish government take the questioning. Laura stated that England took the lead and a lot of time was actually spent discussing ASBO's in England. Also because the Rapporteurs did not have the opportunity to visit Scotland (Visa issues)- they were not able to get across an understanding of Scottish issues
- Margaret Westwood mentioned the Child in the City Conference in Rotterdam- which happened the day before- stating that IPA had been consulting on Play. A letter has gone to UNCRC Committee and 7 NGO's have signed up to this letter.
- Laura Paton stated that indicators are 2 years onto the Agenda.
- Sue Palmer asked if the Recommendations were general. Yes they are generic. Scotland were not really mentioned but a lot of the Recommendations also affect Scotland.

Northern Ireland is dealing with post conflict issues and Wales were commended on their track record.

- Gwen Garner stated that we should not be too despondent.
- Laura Paton stated that the Recommendations were reflective of the Commissioner's Report. She will send on the Link for the concluding Observations and stated that the Commissioner's Report is available on the SCCYP Website.

6. Follow up from the first meeting

The proposed amendment to the Mission Statement was circulated,

Proposed Amendment to the mission statement of SPPF

“To discuss and when relevant coordinate work at a policy level in Scotland, in order to support the development of quality play opportunities for all children and young people aged 0-18 years.”

Particular attention may be required to ensure that the right to play of children who are sometimes excluded, such as those who are disabled, disadvantaged or marginalised in any way is upheld.

Susan stated that a review date is to be set to re-look at this. The group agreed that the Mission Statement was ok. The group agreed to put the terms of reference on the agenda for the March 09 meeting, to think about a review.

7. Definitions of a Play Activity

SP kicked off by stating that no one really knows what play is and in terms of a definition it is quite hard to define. She highlighted three particular areas that are of concern to her:

1. Health and Safety- risk aversion
2. Commercialisation of Childhood as a whole
3. Negative stigma of young people in society in general

Susan asked people to share their ideas and thoughts on play and mentioned the idea of a Leaflet for the SPPF which would have play definitions on it. Susan also raised the idea of a logo competition for the group. This could be run similar to Play Scotland's recent competition held for their 10th Anniversary. The group's networks could be used to advertise this.

Various ideas and quotes were shared around the room- these are enclosed separately. SM informed the group that Play Scotland would attempt to draw up a draft leaflet for the next meeting.

8. Chair Summary of meeting outcomes and points for CPPF

Laura Powrie gave a short update on the Early years Framework. A DRAFT Framework will be sent out to Task Group Members to check through. The deadline is 17 October 2008. Laura will send to SM to circulate and feedback on the links to play. Laura Powrie also asked that Marguerite Hunter Blair feedback on play through her task group.

Alex Cole- Hamilton asked is there a suggestion that there will be a “refreshment” of the Concordat? Laura Powrie said that this would not be the case. Single Outcome Agreements for every Local authority will look at how the Early Years Framework ties into the work that they are already doing at local levels. She stated that the Youth Framework which focuses on age 9 upwards is to be published. This gives a very positive image of young people.

SP thanked everyone for their inputs and closed the meeting.