

Appendix B

Changes to landscape of Children's Social Work including, not exhaustively:

Recent Changes (ie last 2 – 3 years)	
Policy / Legislative Area	Description of changes
The Promise	Following the findings of the 'Independent Care Review', Scotland made a promise to care experienced children and young people; so that they will grow up loved, safe and respected. The Annual Reports on this this highlight the challenges facing local authorities and within ACC we would concur that we need sustainable funding to address local needs and that key to success here will be on supporting our workforce.
Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 (legislation.gov.uk)	changes to the law in relation to the care of children and the involvement of children in the criminal justice system. The Act provides enhanced protection and support for children by recognising that anyone under the age of 18 as a child and introducing supportive reforms. The Bill became an Act on 4 June 2024.
Re-design of the Children's Hearing System	The redesign process is underpinned by giving effect to the Promise, ensuring compliance with UNCRC, upholding the original intension of the Kilbrandon Review and creating a system that can deliver child friendly justice system upholding rights and ensuring effective participation.
National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021	updated in 2023.
Whole Family Support model	A route-map and national principles of holistic whole family support were launched in 2022. It promotes consistent standards of practice across Scotland which will help deliver improved outcomes for children, young people and families.
Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and child trafficking	There have been national policies relating to UASC and child trafficking; focusing on the delivery of the National Transfer Scheme.
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024,	Scotland incorporated the UNCRC that directs policy, law, and decision making to take account of children's rights ensuring that all children have a voice and are empowered to claim their rights.
Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM)	The development of the SCIM for joint investigative interviewing, has provided national training for child interviewers to ensure that the risk of potential further trauma for child victims and witnesses is reduced, and aims to improve the quality and consistency of interviews.

Transitions: The Association for Real Change (ARC) Principles into Practice Framework	Guidance to help improve the experiences of disabled children, young people, and their families during the period when young people develop from children to young adults.
Self Directed Support (SDS)	In 2024, the revised SDS standards were published, along with a suite of practice resources.
<u>Future Changes</u>	
Policy / Legislative Area	Description of changes
Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill	The Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill is a proposed legislation by the Scottish Government to protect the rights of people with learning disabilities and autistic people, as well as people with dyslexia, ADHD, and other neurodivergent people. The Bill will aim to ensure that these people are respected and protected in areas such as education, health, social care, and justice.
Plan 24 – 30	Plan 24 – 30, is Scotland’s route map to #KeepThePromise by 2030. It sets out who needs to do what by when. It is organised around the five foundations of The Promise. It is a markedly different approach to planning and implementation building on the previous Plan 21-23. It was designed to be used from its launch in June 2024 and will continue to evolve to be of use right through until 2030.
‘Bairns’ Hoose’	Scotland also set a commitment for all children to have access to ‘Bairns’ Hoose’, that offers holistic, child centred support to those who have been victims or witness of abuse or for those under the age of criminal responsibility who have caused significant harm to others; Aberdeen is currently one of 5 pathfinders nationally for Bairns Hoose.’
National Care Service	A NCS will be established to improve care services in Scotland, to ensure the delivery of consistent and high standards in health and social care services.
National Social Work Agency for Scotland	The planned NSWA will play a key role in improving working conditions for social workers with key reforms and ensuring that the voice of the profession is heard. The new agency will be in charge of workforce planning, pay grades, terms and conditions, the training and development of social workers, and social work qualifications. We acknowledge that alongside some noted advantages here, geographical location of Aberdeen and cost of living challenges specific to this area may mean national standardisation of pay may pose additional challenges in Aberdeen compared to other parts of Scotland.
‘Moving on’ from care into adulthood: consultation - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)	The consultation seeks views on the support available to young people as they transition from care to adulthood. It covers areas such as planning, preparation, Continuing Care,

Aftercare, health, wellbeing, education, and housing. It is about ensuring that young people leaving care and moving into adulthood have the right scaffolding of support available to ensure they thrive.

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