

The Scottish Centre For Children With Motor Impairments

The Doran Review – Perspective of Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments

Press Release

The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments (SCCMI) wishes to offer its views on the Doran Review - *The Right Help at the Right Time in the Right Place: Strategic Review of Learning Provision for Children and Young People with Complex Additional Support Needs* from the perspective of a Grant Aided Special School which receives funding from the Scottish Government's Support and Wellbeing Unit.

Changes to Scotland's national provision for children and young people with additional support needs are undoubtedly required. The difficulty experienced by some families to secure quality education and other services which meet their child's needs, as described in the Doran Review, does not reflect well on the current situation. Such difficulties are illustrated by one parent's description: "I used to cry, now I fight", which is unfortunately, an all too familiar story heard throughout Scotland.

SCCMI welcomes the Scottish Government's intention to ensure children and young people who have additional support needs throughout Scotland have easy and equitable access to high quality educational and other services which address their complex requirements. The challenge for the Scottish Government, local authorities and the NHS is therefore to create educational, health and other services which are effectively managed, efficiently provided, equitably available throughout Scotland, are of the highest quality and meet the needs of children and young people. This requires the commitment to place the interests of children and young people as the primary focus of all actions.

The commitment of the Scottish Government to provide national leadership and direction to COSLA, local authorities and the NHS to address parental concerns and ensure services for children and young people with complex additional support needs are effectively co-ordinated, managed and delivered, is therefore welcomed and fully supported.

SCCMI is pleased by the Scottish Government's commitment to funding which will not be less than that currently provided, particularly in a challenging economic climate. There is concern however that future funding of a national framework, which is as yet undefined, is merely being redirected from the Grant Aided Special Schools and which will result in the cessation of direct funding for from the Scottish Government in due course.

The commitment of the Scottish Government to take a leadership role in the establishment of a strategic national planning process is acknowledged, with such national leadership being essential. SCCMI offers services to children and young people across Scotland who are affected by cerebral palsy and will have a proactive engagement with the Scottish Government, local authorities and other agencies to facilitate the conversion of governmental ambitions into the reality of services which are truly national and of the highest quality.

Notes to Editors

The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments is a Grant Aided Special School partially funded by the Scottish Government to provide integrated education and therapy for children and young people with cerebral palsy and related conditions throughout Scotland. SCCMI is committed to providing educational and therapeutic services of the highest quality and has the ambition to establish the organisation as a centre of excellence in the education and therapy provision for children and young people affected by cerebral palsy throughout Scotland. This ambition is consistent with the Scottish Government's ambitions. It is anticipated that over 1,000 additional children will be affected by cerebral palsy in Scotland over the next decade.

The BBC Children in Need programme to be broadcast on November 16th, will feature the work of the Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments. For further information please contact Professor Patrick Salter, Chief Executive on 01236 456100 or psalter@craighalbert.org.uk.