

Title of report	Care Experience Report 2024-2026 and Children's Rights Report, 2023
Public/Confidential	Public
Summary/purpose of report	This paper introduces our draft Care Experience Report 2024-2026 and Children's Rights Report 2023. The Council is asked to approve both reports for publication.
Recommendations	The Council is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the progress we have made to achieving our duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 2. approve the reports for publication.
Author	Neil Macleod, Policy and Equality Manager
Responsible Officer	Laura Shepherd, Director, Strategy and Performance
Link to Strategic Plan	These reports links to all strategic themes and outcomes in our Strategic Plan 2023-2026.
Link to Risk Register	Risk 3: We fail to meet corporate governance, external scrutiny and legal obligations. Risk 4: We fail to provide value to stakeholders and demonstrate our impact.
Impact assessments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was not required. 2. A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) was not required. 3. A Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) was not required.
Documents attached	Appendix 1: Care Experience Report, 2024-2026 Appendix 2: Children's Rights Report, 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report sets out our approach to meeting our corporate parenting and children’s rights duties. The reporting requirements are set out in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (the 2014 Act.)
 - We must develop a report setting out steps to fulfil our duties under Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) of the 2014 Act.
 - Section 2 places a duty on authorities to report on how we promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

BACKGROUND

2. We published the previous version of both reports in 2021.
 - [Realising Potential, our plan for putting care experienced children, young people and adults at the heart of what we do 2020-2023](#)
 - [Children's Rights Report 2020-2023](#)
3. Our Care Experience Report 2024-2026 has a review of our priorities over the past three years. Our Children’s Rights report covers our activities between March 2020 and March 2023. The Care Experience report also has an action plan covering both reports.

CARE EXPERIENCE REPORT 2024-2026

4. The Care Experience Report covers highlights such as our:
 - work to supporting vulnerable fitness to practise witnesses
 - drive to embed trauma informed practice in the SSSC and the social care, social and children and young people workforce
 - report exploring [ten years of residential childcare workforce data](#)
 - sessions for staff with the Promise Scotland, Who Cares? Scotland and Each and Every Child.
5. The Care Experience Report also has updates on the SSSC’s key actions in the Promise’s [Change Programme One](#). These actions are the review of the Codes of Practice for Social Service Workers and Employers and the ongoing refresh of the [Common Core of Skills, Knowledge and Understanding and Values for the Children’s workforce in Scotland](#).
6. The action plan has two new activities in action four. These are a review of:
 - our preparation for the incorporation [of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#)
 - how we can do more to treat care experience as a protected characteristic.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS REPORT 2023

7. The Children's Rights Report covers highlights such as:
- the [National Directory of Continuous Professional Learning for the Early Learning and Childcare workforce](#)
 - the updated [Safer Recruitment through Better Recruitment guidance](#)
 - achieving the Investors in Young People Silver award.

CONSULTATION

8. Executive Management Team and Operational Management Team have contributed to the development of these reports and action plan. Who Cares? Scotland also shared feedback on the draft Care Experience Report.

RISKS

9. We have an averse risk towards legal compliance. These reports are a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

IMPLICATIONS

Resourcing

10. There are no new costs associated with these reports. The actions in the Care Experience Report are already a priority for the SSSC. There are two new internal actions. Further information is set out in out paragraph six.

Compliance

11. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 is the driver behind the development of these reports. Our role in keeping the Promise drives our work on supporting care experienced children, young people and families.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equalities

12. We did not develop an EQIA for these reports. Many of the actions in the Care Experience Report have or will need an impact assessment.

CONCLUSION

13. The Council is asked to endorse the progress in our Care Experience and Children's Rights reports and approve both for publication.