

SCMA Community Childminding | An Overview

Who is it aimed at?

- Supports a range of families including young/lone parents, those with limited support networks and those unable to access/not engaging with other universal services
- Over 900 families around Scotland have been supported in the last 3 years between 2016 – 2019 (approx. 300 families per year)
- Over 70% of referrals come from health visitors
- 95% of children are aged under five, with 69% aged less than three
- 57% of parents/carers with mental health difficulties
- 89% of parents and carers stated they were isolated and not engaging within their communities

Where is it delivered?

Community Childminding is currently delivered in the following local authority areas:

- Aberdeen City
- City of Glasgow
- Fife
- Scottish Borders

What are the outcomes for children?

- Children feel safe and nurtured in a non-stigmatised childcare setting
- Children's social, emotional and cognitive developmental needs are identified and addressed
- Children are nurtured; able to express and manage their emotions for increased mental wellbeing
- Children benefit from increased confidence and resilience

What are the outcomes for parents?

- Parents benefit from having a trusting relationship with Community Childminders, who are non-judgmental, encouraging them to engage and seek support and guidance
- Parents show increased confidence with their parenting skills
- Parents can use newly developed strategies and activities to improve learning at home
- Parents have reduced stress and improved mental well-being
- Parents strengthen their relationships with their children, resulting in increased attachment

Key findings:

- ✓ 70% of children have improved physical and cognitive development
- ✓ 75% of children have improved social skills and increased confidence
- ✓ 65% of parents report improvements in their wellbeing

Why offer a Community Childminding Service?

Community Childminding is shaped by local need and aims to build resilience in families and provide support for the wellbeing of parents and children.

The range of issues which are addressed can vary, but all benefit from a short-term intervention to prevent issues from escalating.



Here are some typical examples of a Community Childminding referral:

- supporting a parent with poor mental health who requires respite
- a child who has behavioural and attachment difficulties and parent is struggling to cope and use effective parenting strategies
- a bereavement or separation within the family
- young / lone parent who lacks confidence in their parenting skills, has no family network and is isolated

Parents become more confident in their parenting skills, relationships are improved, and secure attachments are strengthened, thus serving to develop resilience in children. This approach is supported by evidence which shows that early intervention and prevention for young children results in better outcomes as adults.

How does it work in practice?

SCMA is contracted, and financially supported, by interested local authorities to deliver Community Childminding services in their area. A Childminding Development Officer is responsible for co-ordinating the service.

Liaising with key stakeholders and partners, they match referrals with Community Childminders who are best placed to meet the needs of the child and the family. Community Childminders are experienced childminders who have undergone additional training to carry out this more specialised activity. A placement is agreed, usually for an average of 12 weeks, and the childminder will provide support for 6-8 hours per week for the duration.

Childminders provide a nurturing childcare experience within a home setting and are often seen as an 'extended family'. They care for children, offering a range of stimulating activities, including creative play, outdoor learning, reading, storytelling, music and physical activity.

Children also benefit from being with other children of mixed ages and backgrounds, as well as participating in groups and activities within the local area. This will contribute to the child's learning and development, enhance their social and emotional development, enable them to build confidence, develop secure attachments and build resilience.

Childminders see parents on a regular basis and develop strong, trusting relationships which allow for open and honest communication, giving them valuable insight into how parents are feeling and coping. They provide a listening ear, and with their extensive experience of working with children on a daily basis, can offer guidance. This can take the form of providing advice on parenting, demonstrating positive role model experiences and offering strategies which they are using with the child and which can be incorporated at home. For example, agreeing together how to establish night-time routines, how to respond to behavioural issues, support potty training, as well as engaging in the community in local groups such as Bookbug. We receive regular positive feedback on this practical, hands on approach.

Often, following the end of a placement, the relationship that has developed between the Community Childminder and parent continues, and the parent has access to ongoing informal support.

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Scottish Childminding Association, 7 Melville Terrace, Stirling, FK8 2ND
Tel: **01786 445377** | Email: **information@childminding.org** | **childminding.org**



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