



# Community Childminding Service

**scma**

Scottish  
Childminding  
Association

committed to quality childcare



# What is Community Childminding?

SCMA's Community Childminding Service provides intervention for families at a time of crisis. The desired outcome is to prevent circumstances deteriorating and avoid a more substantial intervention being required. Families are referred for a variety of reasons from children with behavioural difficulties to a parent's mental illness.

SCMA provide training and local support to quality childminders, who in turn offer short-term placements to families in need, allowing children to remain looked after in their communities. The wellbeing of the child is paramount. Childminders provide care based on the child's individual needs, helping them develop resilience and achieve crucial milestones. The Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) eight Wellbeing Indicators are used to map achievements and measure success.

The Service benefits children and families through short-term placements, typically lasting eight hours per week over six to 26 weeks. The majority of children cared for are in the 0-3 age bracket although the service can provide for children of any age.

Families are referred to the Service by health visitors, social workers and family support workers.

## Our focus...



Community Childminding is shaped by local need. The service focusses on:

- supporting families to function for the wellbeing of parents and children
- offering early intervention that is effective in preventing further escalation of problems
- responding in a timely, proportionate and appropriately targeted manner

A range of **key outcomes** have been identified from delivery of the service:

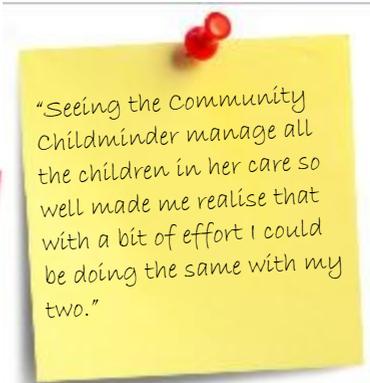
- Children have increased **confidence**
- Children have **improved** sleep, eating and toileting habits
- Children are able to engage more **positively** with peers and other child age groups
- Children are able to **engage** more positively with nursery and in social settings
- Parents have improved parenting **skills**

Children's wellbeing is enhanced by spending time away from stressful situations with a responsive adult who can focus on their needs. Children's individual needs are identified, such as delay in developmental milestones, health issues, behavioural problems, lack of ability to engage with their peers and appropriate actions are implemented to support children to achieve their potential.

Parents also benefit; the childminder is seen as a role model in a non-judgemental environment. They become more able to cope with challenging family circumstances, feel supported at a time of personal ill-health and acquire helpful knowledge of parenting and childcare routines.



"My child is so different now, willing to share and play with the toys and games properly. I have learnt to play more with my child.. My child is a different child now but I am a different parent too."



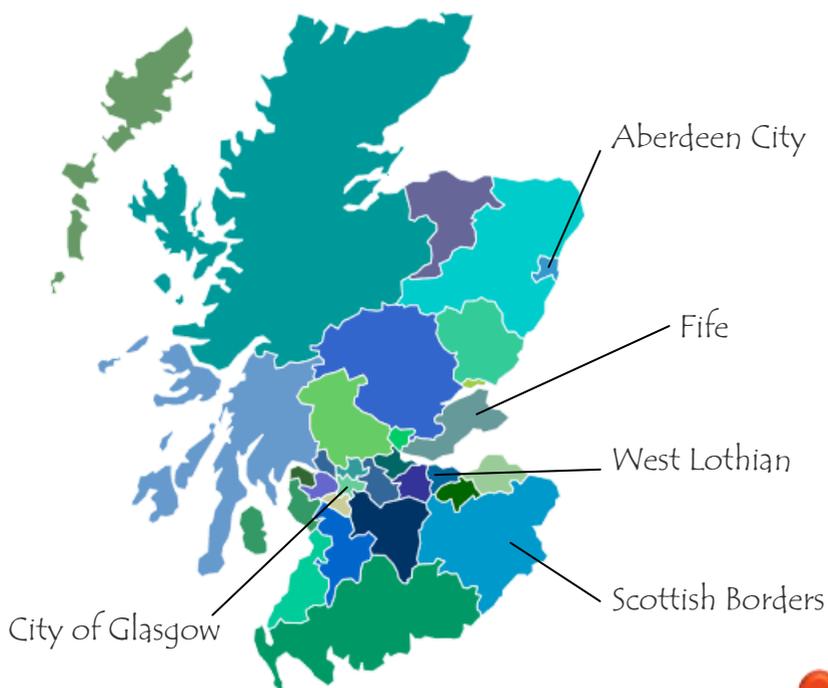
"Seeing the Community Childminder manage all the children in her care so well made me realise that with a bit of effort I could be doing the same with my two."

## Our Services...

Community Childminding Services currently run in five local authority areas.

The service was launched Fife in 2011, after SCMA won funding from Inspiring Scotland's 'Early Years Early Action Fund' and has proven to be a huge success.

Our services have helped more than **500 families** in crisis so far.



*"Seeing how the  
Community Childminder  
provides consistent regular  
care has taught me that  
my grandson benefits  
immensely from this and  
if I am honest so do I."*

## The Stats...

Of the children accessing the service **95%** are aged under five, with **69%** aged less than three.

The main reasons for referrals have been:

- **41%** children requiring social skills development
- **27%** children with behaviour issues
- **27%** main carer had medical issues

**89%** of parents and carers stated they were isolated and not engaging within their communities

**57%** of parents/carers had mental health problems



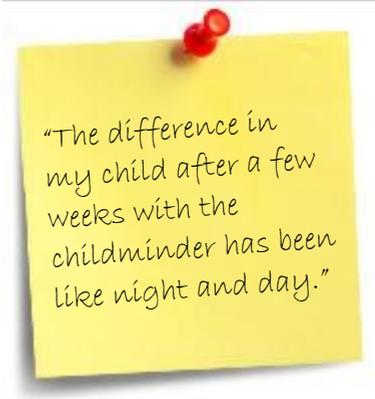
## Mark's Story...

Eighteen-month-old Mark struggled with separation issues. He was referred to SCMA's Community Childminding Service by a social worker, after his family were moved into a Woman's Refuge.

Mark's mum is a single parent with four other children and the family were constantly moving between homes. The older children were getting very little one-to-one attention from mum, as Mark would not let her out of his sight. Mum found it too difficult and upsetting to leave him, when he cried out for her.

Today, Mark spends one day a week with a Community Childminder from SCMA and is improving every day. He now looks forward to going to toddler group, where he is happy to leave mum and play with the other children.

The whole family has benefited from Mark's Community Childminder, including mum who is now much more relaxed and is able to more spend time with her other children.



*"The difference in my child after a few weeks with the childminder has been like night and day."*



*"This service has been a godsend. I am more confident about my parenting skills and my abilities to be the best parent my child deserves."*

# Community Childminders: the Requirements

We've set a stringent list of criteria childminders must meet before they are selected to become a Community Childminder. As well as agreeing to attend specialist training, Community Childminders must also fit the person specification below:



- Ability to provide warm and consistent care,
- Ability to provide stimulating play activities,
- Knowledge and understanding of children's developmental needs and ability to meet these,
- Knowledge and understanding of appropriate methods of dealing with challenging behaviour, behavioural difficulties or problems,
- Positive attitude to anti-discriminatory practice,
- Ability to respect parent's individual needs and wishes both within and out with the childminding setting,
- Ability to maintain good relationships with parents and to communicate openly,
- Ability to respect and practice confidentiality,
- Ability to balance the needs of own family, individual minded children, and their parents or carers,
- Willingness to attend training and meetings,
- Willingness to work with the service co-ordinator, to work flexibly and as part of a team,
- Supportive attitude of childminders husband/spouse or partner and other family members,
- Ability to keep good written records,
- Knowledge of First Aid,
- Knowledge of the particular requirements of special needs children,
- Knowledge of Child Protection issues and procedures.

Moira, a Scottish Borders childminder who has worked as a Community Childminder since 2005, said:

“I went through hard times when I was bringing up my own children, so I felt I was in a good position to support other families who were struggling.”

## **“I can help them through a bad patch.”**

“Working as a childminder, I already had a lot of knowledge and experience with all kinds of challenges relating to child development and behaviour. I recognised the difficulties that families can face - I don't judge them, but instead look to see how I can help them through a bad patch.”



# Community Childminding Training



Taking referrals through our Community Childminding Service is likely to broaden the range of children coming into a childminder's care. They may be required to take children from a wider age range and background experiences. Some of the referrals received may be for children who have been taken into care, either temporarily or permanently.

The intention of the SCMA training course is to increase the confidence of childminders in their ability to work with this wider range of children, by having the chance to explore some of the relevant issues. The ethos behind this core four day training programme is to focus on identification of the needs of the individual child incorporating the social model of inclusion. The course comprises the SCMA Community Childminding programme and Inclusive Childminding training. The course contents are as follows:

## Day One

Nurturing Identity  
Equality and Discrimination  
Identity and Loss  
Attachment and Resilience

## Day Two

Safer Caring  
Understanding the Effects on Child Development  
Understanding and Managing Challenging Behaviour  
Working Together

## Day Three

Inclusion of Families with Additional Needs  
Quiz on Disability  
An Overview of Disability  
A Journey of Change through a Century  
Children's Rights  
Medical and Social Models  
Inclusion of Vulnerable Families  
Communication

## Day Four

Basic Needs  
Additional Needs  
Child Development – facts and effects  
Relationships / Parent Partnership  
Additional Information



To find out more about SCMA's Community Childminding Service call us on **01786 445377** or email **information@childminding.org**.

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