

## Strategic Summary Plan 2019-2020

### Our Vision

Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) promotes childminding as a quality childcare service, through its Vision for childminding. This was developed by the Association's Elected Members, who are all current active childminders. Our Vision is *"Quality Childminding... building confident children within a family childcare experience"*

The Scottish Government's aspiration is for "Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow up and the best place in the world to bring up children".

Our Strategic Plan is designed to support the achievement of this high-level aspiration, focussing on how childminders fit within current national policy and strategic developments such as:

- the [National Performance Framework](#) which includes support and development of small businesses like childminding;
- the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC](#) emphasising children's rights;
- the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act](#) with particular reference to the delivery of the funded hours of ELC and [Building the Ambition](#) practice guidance;
- and is underpinned by [Getting it Right for Every Child](#) (GIRFEC);
- [The Health and Social Care Standards](#) setting out what we should expect from health and social care services;
- Scottish Government's vision for education and reforms through [Education Governance: Next Steps](#);
- Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) aims in [Achieving Excellence and Equity](#) to ensure that ELC is responsive to individual children's needs;
- the intended extension to [1140 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare](#) (ELC) including full engagement with our members;
- the outcomes of the [every child, every chance](#) child poverty delivery plan including the importance of community childminding to improving child and family outcomes;
- the [Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce](#).

In order to achieve our Vision we focus on the following areas...

### Strong Foundations

The emphasis here is on the childminder's journey through the registration process, on to their first inspection and developing their service to build a resilient business for the future. Strong Foundations provides all the products and services childminders need to make sure they can provide a high quality service for children and families. It includes:

- Materials and support to assist childminders in their childminding career
- The Childminding Induction Support Programme
- Access to further relevant workshops and e-Learning opportunities
- Access to a complete Business Toolkit
- Tailored insurance policies covering all aspects of a childminder's business
- Confidential Helpline and legal advice service
- Provision of after-care and website support

## Support

As childminders progress in their career SCMA is on hand to provide services when and where they are needed from experienced staff who understand childminding in Scotland. The range of support services include:

- SCMA Helpline providing information and advice to potential and active childminders.
- Online Membership Dashboard which personalises your visits to our website.
- Local staff providing information, advice, training and support to all in their area.
- Quality Improvement Officer travelling across Scotland to ensure childminders are aware of what we provide, and to gather your feedback helps to help us develop services that meet your needs.
- Childminding Support Officer, helping our newest childminders to be business-ready and providing guidance to those childminders who need it on an individual basis.
- Individual and group support which is provided by phone, email and face to face contact.

## A Voice

It is important that childminding is recognised as a key part of the professional workforce, providing care for 32,660<sup>1</sup> children mostly between 0 – 12 years in Scotland. Significantly this includes a quality flexible service to preschool children and a large proportion of year round out of school care.

As all childminders are running independent businesses within their own communities, our role is to ensure that representation is made at the highest levels of government and with other national bodies, including the Care Inspectorate, influencing policy around childminding.

Our emphasis will be the recognition of childminding as an effective early intervention service. We will link with the mental health task force and the tackling child poverty delivery plans. We aim to see the expansion of our community childminding services for our youngest children and to support families. These services can then provide a transition for children into the funded hours of ELC. We will prioritise the increased inclusion of childminding in the delivery of funded ELC. Our strong member base of 4,100 childminders throughout Scotland - and the ease with which we can communicate with them - provides the opportunity for their voices to be heard convincingly.

## Professional Growth

All businesses need to grow and develop to ensure sustainability and continuous quality improvement. SCMA provides a range of learning opportunities and materials for childminders which supports their Complete Childminding Learning Pathway and assists them in working towards a qualification at SCQF Level 7 by:

- Delivering a range of workshops and e-Learning programmes designed to meet childminders learning and training requirements.
- Materials and support tools to assist childminders on their Complete Childminding Learning Pathway.
- Networking opportunities across Scotland for childminders to gain relevant information and share best practice.

SCMA provides development opportunities to support and encourage diversity in childminding settings. We promote childminding as an invaluable community resource:

- Securing contracts to deliver specialist services such as Community Childminding.
- Further developing out of school care.
- Ensuring parents can access 1140 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare with a childminding service anywhere in Scotland.

Our focus is our Vision and our ultimate goal is to **Make a Difference** to the wellbeing and development of Scotland's children. This overarching objective guides us and ensures that children's wellbeing is always at the core of our activities.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/2722/Childcare%20Statistics%202015.pdf>