THE CHILDREN'S MANIFESTO

The Children's Parliament engaged with four hundred children between the ages of 6 and 14 and asked what we need to do in Scotland to make sure every child is safe, happy and healthy. Children considered life at home, in play and learning environments, in the community and more broadly in Scotland.

The children's views have been presented to Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People as part of the 'Right Blether' national consultation.

The Children's Parliament
September 2010

www.childrensparliament.org.uk

Children's
Parliament
Empowering children. Energising Scotland

SCCYP!

ABOUT THE CONSULTATION

Children from four Local Authorities took part in the consultation. They were from Angus, East Lothian, Fife and North Lanarkshire. The children from Fife are engaged with 2 Children's Parliament groups supported by Fife Council.

The children came from different backgrounds, had a range of abilities, represented boys and girls equally and were aged between 8 and 14 years old.

One hundred children formed the core group for the consultation and in turn they worked with 3 friends; allowing the consultation to engage with 400 children.

The core group of 100 children were provided with an activity created by the Children's Parliament team called a Brain Box; a self assembly cube on which children could gather and report on their views and those of their peers in words or illustrations. The Brain Box posed a question: what do children need to be safe, healthy and happy? Children were asked to respond by thinking across key areas of the child's life: home, learning, community and Scotland.

Following their consultation with peers the 100 children attended a workshop at which they shared and discussed the experiences and views collected. Using their completed Brain Boxes as inspiration the children gave further consideration to the one thing they would wish for Scotland's children in order that all children can be safe, healthy and happy. These final wishes were expressed in an illustrated disc, which alongside photographs of the children has been used to create an interactive exhibition which will be used to report back to SCCYP and to the participating children about this national consultation.

Using the content of the children's Brain Boxes, and their wishes as expressed in the exhibition, the Children's Parliament facilitators have compiled this report which identifies the priorities children have identified for the Commissioner's Office. We have called this report The Children's Manifesto because it also presents an agenda for action and change for all adults who care about the safety, health and happiness of Scotland's children.

HOME

- Help every child have a happy home
- Help parents and children to be friends and spend time together
- Promote healthy eating for children at home and healthy school lunches for everyone. Help adults understand they need to have healthy eating habits so their children learn too.
- Help every child to have a private space at home
- Make sure every child has a loving and safe home
- Help parents be more understanding of their children
- Help adults understand children need cuddles
- Encourage adults to play with children
- Help make sure children have free time to do their own thing
- Help make every home warm and safe with double glazing, good heating and smoke alarms
- Make sure no child lives in a home where their parents get drunk or come home drunk
- Make sure every family has enough money to live / pay their bills
- Make sure every child has a bed to themself
- Help children to have a pet if they want and learn to look after it
- Make sure no child is homeless.

COMMUNITY

- Help make sure every child has friends
- Encourage children to re-cycle at home, at school and in the community
- Make play areas and parks more local, cleaner, and safer to play in
- Make it safer to walk to school – have lollypop men and women at crossings
- Help make communities safer for children
- Use CCTV to make communities safer
- Help neighbours get to know each other, including children
- Make drivers drive more safely
- Stop crime and vandalism in our communities
- Give children opportunities to do new things they haven't done before
- Make libraries friendly for every child
- Help get more sports facilities and centres in the community
- Help create more cycling lanes
- Make sure needles/syringes are picked up so children are safe
- Help stop drugs in communities
- Get more clubs in the community
- Help get more police in the community – make them friendly toward children
- Encourage every community to make their own energy and be more eco-friendly
- Better town centres in communities.

LEARNING

- Help make sure every child gets to play every day
- Every school should have ways of letting pupils have their say. This should include having a pupil council
- Circle time in every school
- Help make schools places where children can change things
- Make learning at school more fun
- Help teachers to give children more praise
- Stop bullying in school
- Help children to have more books and read more
- Make schools places where children feel safe
- Help teachers to be kinder and easy to talk to
- Stop teachers being moany / shouting
- Make sure every child has a friend at school
- Get schools to provide more sports equipment and activities at school
- Help get more teachers and assistants in schools so that all children get attention (not just those who misbehave)
- Get drinking water in every school
- Make classes smaller so children can learn more
- Help children get more choice about what they learn at school
- Get schools to give children time to relax
- Get more clubs and activities in school and after school
- Help schools to do more learning outdoors
- Help different schools to work together
- Help make language learning better in school
- Help schools to get more adult supervisors in the playground to stop the bullies
- Make sure gifted children get the support they need
- Help schools to do more projects about being healthy
- Ensure children are educated about sex and relationships.
- Make sure that school buildings get repaired/ have what they need / all equipment works.
- Make school toilets cleaner
- Help make sure if children fail an exam they get another chance
- Give children the opportunity to make music, art
- Improve school dinners
- Make school a place where children can be honest if something isn't working.

SCOTLAND

- Help children to look after Scotland's environment and use it for play and learning
- Help keep Scotland's beaches cleaner
- Make Scotland where people don't smoke (especially where children are)
- Help children to plant more trees and learn about plants
- Help children get fit
- Make transport better so children can get about more
- Make Scotland a place where children laugh and have fun
- Help children to like each other and get on with each other. Help us learn to work as a team.
- Make alcohol more expensive and stop cheap alcohol
- Help every child to go to the dentist and have good teeth
- Help make children healthier by stopping pollution from industry
- Make Scotland a country where everyone is ambitious
- Help stop young people carrying weapons in Scotland
- Help adults to listen to children
- Make Scotland a place where children are respected and asked for their opinion.
- Make Scotland a kinder place
- Help stop abuse
- Make sure children have someone they can talk to if they feel worried / comfort them when things go wrong.

a RIGHT blether
What's important to you?

THANKS

To all the participating children and to colleagues in:

- Fife Members of the Children's Parliament
- **North Lanarkshire Council**; Holy Family Primary, Bellshill; Knowetop Primary, Motherwell; Cambusnethan Primary, Wishaw; St Bartholomew's Primary, Coatbridge; Condorrat Primary, Cumbernauld.
- **Angus Council**; Wardykes Primary, Arbroath; Strathmore Primary, Forfar; Aberlemno Primary; Langlands Primary, Forfar; Southmuir Primary; Kirriemuir
- **East Lothian Council**; Campie Primary, Musselburgh; Whitecraig Primary, Musselburgh; Yester Primary, Gifford; Saulton Primary; Haddington Infants.