



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The Children's Hearing System - Taking Stock of Reforms

The Scottish Parliament's Education and Skills Committee has today, 1 March 2017, launched a call for written evidence as part of its look at the Children's Hearing system.

Organisations and individuals are invited to submit written evidence to the Committee setting out their views on whether and how the Children's Hearing system can be improved.

It would be helpful if written submissions could address all or some of the following questions:

- Have the reforms in the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 produced the desired outcomes?
- Are current strands of policy work across children's services sufficiently co-ordinated and complementary?
- Thinking back over the last 10 years, to what extent has the ability of children to participate in their Hearings changed? What factors have had the greatest influence on any changes?
- Do we have appropriate standards in place for the operation of Children's Hearings and guidelines for the functioning of a Hearing, and are they consistently applied? If not, what improvements need to be made?
- Do social work departments provide the optimum support to children and young people who are part of the Children's Hearings system and have sufficient resources? If not, what improvements need to be made?
- Do local authorities fully implement the recommendations that are made by Children's Hearings and does the system of the 'feedback loop' work as intended?
- What is your view on the involvement of solicitors in the Children's Hearing system?
- What is your view on the interaction between Children's Hearings and the courts? Can improvements be made in how they work together?



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The closing date for receipt of submissions is **Monday 13 March 2017**. Please **contact the clerk if you need additional time to make a submission**.

How to submit your evidence

Short submissions would be appreciated and, in any case, submissions should be limited to no more than six pages of A4. Responses should be sent, wherever possible, electronically and in MS Word format to the following email address: es.committee@parliament.scot

Before submitting your evidence please read the Parliament's policy on treatment of written evidence by subject and mandatory committees (see below). Responses can also be sent by post to:

Clerk to the Education and Skills Committee
Room T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP.

Written submissions will be made public on the Committee's webpage. If you do not wish your response to be made public, please contact the clerks to discuss (you may wish to refer to the [Parliament's policy on handling information received in response to calls for evidence](#)).

The Committee welcomes written evidence in English, Gaelic or any other language. If you have any further questions regarding the Committee's work on this inquiry, please contact the Committee clerking team at the above e-mail address or call 0131 348 5204.

Follow the Committee on Twitter: @SP_EduSkills