ANNUAL REPORT FOR SCOTLAND'S COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Ask SCCYP...

I want my mum's name to be on me - how do I go about this?

This year, SCCYP's Enquiries Service handled almost 600 queries - from children and young people, their families and those guarding young people's rights across Scotland.

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A Research Officer will carry out in-depth research with children and young people and SCCYP's Communications Officer will handle media enquiries coming through to the office. Across her participation team, Kathleen also has chosen a policy team to help her to inform the issues raised by young people. They will do this in a number of ways. An Inquiry Officer and an Information Officer with a background in information requests and queries from children and young people, their families and professionals working with them. A Parliamentary and Legal Officer will help keep an eye on new legislation (laws) being considered by the Scottish Parliament and a Policy Development Officer will highlight what those new laws mean to children and young people peoples' voices and young people's views should be considered.

Finally, SCCYP's admin team will help make sure the office runs smoothly on a day to day basis.

It was appointed by the Queen in 2004 for a first year in office.

Changes to the design have been made to SCCYP's website has been given a brand new look to enhance a user-friendly first year in office.

Kathleen has been keen to make sure that every child or young person in Scotland feels that their views are accurately represented. A Research Officer will carry out in-depth research with children and young people and SCCYP's Communications Officer will handle media enquiries coming through to the office.

SSCYP Team Appointed

Their role will be to create innovative ways for children and young people to feed through their views to Kathleen, including creating three "reference groups" of young people to inform the work of SCCYP (the Commissioner's office).

The reference groups were specially created - open to young people between the ages of 10 and 18.

Kathleen hopes they will help build up a picture of some of the issues facing children and young people across Scotland - and that young people will feel able to speak to them as they are closer in age. Some children and young people do find it more difficult to have their voice heard and problems young people are facing are being. This is useful, as if a particular problem seems to come up time and again, then this might indicate that there's something wrong with a system or a policy. Kathleen is nothing the Commissioner may be able to do something about.

Their voice and their views are important – how do I get him to do this?

So here's how the votes came in:

- Things to do
- Bullying
- Safe Streets
- Parental Input
- School/Health
- Transport

It's been a very busy year for me and the issues I've had a say in include:

- Making sure young people's views are heard
- It's challenging role, but
- I provide information and point people in the right direction for help. It is however is unhappy I will find the most appropriate route for them to make a complaint.

- Sexual and gender identity
- SCCYP launches new Look Website

SCCYP Launches New Look Website

SCCYP's website has been given a brand new look to enhance a user-friendly first year in office.

Changes to the design have included the introduction of an interactive message board, designed to find out what young people think about the issues that matter to them. The site has also been improved to allow for a more user-friendly experience.

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