

Annual Review 2018-2019



Scottish Out of School Care Network
Supporting children's rights to play, care and learning

Chairperson Overview

Reviewing all of the activities of SOSCN over this year I am struck by how much we manage to get done with a small number of core staff, but a large and highly engaged membership. As a board we are pleased to see the foundational aims of SOSCN to address disadvantage being met and reflected in developing new Scottish Government policies for out of school care.

I know my own service has learned and improved through training and Achieving Quality Scotland (AQS), and much of this was freely available through the core government funding of SOSCN or Glasgow and other councils in Scotland sponsorship of AQS.

As a Board, we have to be mindful of the funding climate for organisations like SOSCN, which cannot be fully funded through government grants and has to ensure income is generated to help cover costs. This means that some previously free or very low cost training and events will need to be charged for in the future and we hope the membership will understand and support this as a measure to keep your national organisation sustainable for the future. I thank the membership and the wide range of organisations and individuals across the country who work in partnership with SOSCN and who deliver such essential services to children and their families.

Anne Dick, Chairperson

Chief Executive Overview

We are pleased to report considerable progress on our longstanding aim for the development of a national policy framework for out of school care in Scotland. This year we took part in many activities around the development of this new policy, including providing our expertise, research, contacts and views to the Scottish Government Out of School Care Team, holding seven regional Shaping the Framework events in partnership with them, participation in the national reference group for out of school care, and sub groups set up to inform the policy, and keeping you all updated via our website, social media, and newsletters. (As part of this work, looking ahead, June 2019 saw the establishment of a new 3 million pounds fund by the Scottish Government, over 2020/22 to invest in pilots and models of delivery of out of school care which addresses disadvantage and promotes the social inclusion of the least well-off families and children in our communities.)

This period also saw the fruition of Glasgow City Council's investment to support the quality improvement of Glasgow services by investing in SOSCN's Achieving Quality Scotland (AQS) Quality Improvement Framework. Through this funding a total of 22 services achieved AQS Gold Award. We know that most of the participating services have gained higher Care Inspection grades as a result of their hard, but worthwhile, work. Congratulations to all for their well deserved awards.

Our events and training, from the Orkney Isles to the Scottish Borders, focused on children's wellbeing, including supporting children with autism and additional support needs, and those facing Adverse Childhood Experiences. From across the country, feedback on this training is consistently high, while we celebrated a close partnership with CALA in delivering our ongoing physical activity training across the Highlands. We successfully delivered the final training & research with children STEM Champions project and results are highly positive from all involved. We also consulted children and parents directly and out of school care is highly valued by parents and children, as it should be, knowing you are all trying hard to make your services the best they can be for children and families in the communities you serve.

Irene Audain MBE, Chief Executive



CYPFEIF
core grant
administered
by CORRA
Foundation



SOSCN is a
Living Wage
Employer



facebook.com/soscn



twitter.com/soscn

Who We Are

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) is the national infrastructure umbrella organisation providing support, mentoring, training, information and resources to all childcare services in Scotland, which provide childcare, play and learning opportunities for school-age children.

OSC in Scotland

The out of school care sector is the largest provider of play opportunities for school-aged children. There are 1014 OSC services in Scotland, for 748 this is their main service. There are 661 breakfast clubs and 472 holiday services. This provides a total of 53,600 registered childcare places.

In 2018 to 2019 we worked directly with 383 services and 1,291 staff in research, training and events, and all the staff & services involved have a potential reach of over 21,000 families and 25,000 children.

We also worked directly with 1,082 children and 298 parents through consultation processes.

We held 8 events across the country for over 320 attendees representing over 14,000 children and 12,000 families.

‘Seeing the Whole Child’ – National learning event, Glasgow, Sep 2018

The aim of this event was to inform and educate on the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences, how to address children’s need for positive caring and understanding relationships, and to explore difference ways of framing children’s behaviour.

‘Shaping the Framework’ – Local engagement events, Nov 2018 - Mar 2019

These events provided updates and networking opportunities from SOSCN, and in close partnership, opportunities for the Scottish Government Out of School Care Policy team to consult with the sector on the new framework for out of school care. There were 7 of these events held across Scotland.

We worked directly in:

Aberdeen, Dumfries & Galloway,
Dundee, East Dunbartonshire,
East Renfrewshire, Edinburgh
City, Glasgow City, Highland,
Moray, North Ayrshire, Orkney,
Renfrewshire, Scottish Borders,
South Lanarkshire, West Lothian

We provided a total of 30 direct training sessions for 388 participants from 102 services across Scotland, with a reach of over 8,500 children and 8,000 families. We also provided additional direct support to 8 services in North Ayrshire, Orkney and Glasgow. In Addition, we trained another 70 staff in STEM skills through our STEM Champions Project, in partnership with West College Scotland.

Our E-membership mailings potentially reach 93% of the whole out of school care sector when large multi-site contacts also cascade them to their individual services, some of which are often also represented in our ‘service’ or ‘individual’ membership lists.

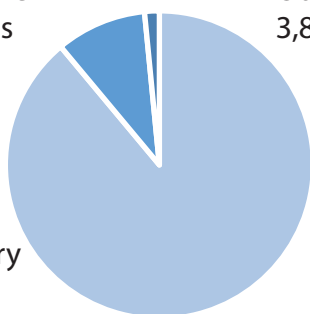
Financial Report

Extracted from
examined account
2018-2019,
prepared by
Alexander Sloan &
Co.
180 St Vincent
Street, Glasgow

Charitable
Activities
23,980

Other
3,894

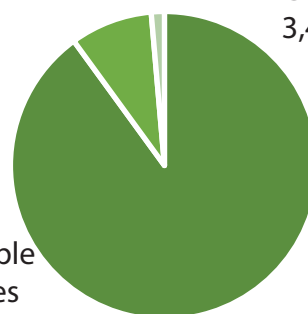
Voluntary
Income
223,960



Raising
Funds
21,327

Governance
3,404

Charitable
Activities
222,192



Communications

We have produced 4 newsletters, 4 social media-round-ups and 6 blog posts. Moreover, 4 consultation responses and 39 free recruitment adverts have been placed on the website. We also provided the Deputy First Minister's office with a mailing list to disseminate their Easter and Summer Maths challenge to OSC services.

We currently have 1,887 followers on twitter and have added 142 new followers 2018-2019. We have had a total of 164,300 impressions on twitter (number of times something shows up in other people's feeds). On facebook we have 766 page likes and 810 followers.

Core HQ Staff

Irene Audain MBE, Chief Executive Officer (and company secretary)
Andrew Shoolbread, Policy and Research Manager
Finlay Wright, Information Officer
Greig Cavanagh, Physical Activity and Wellbeing Coordinator

Board of Directors

Anne Dick, Chair
Margaret Graham, Vice Chair
Ann McKenzie, Treasurer
Stuart Patterson, Board Member
Sharon Gibson, Board Member

Award

Our Creative Computing Course developed by Dr Amanda Ford won a commended award from the College Development Network.

Professional Advisors

Independent Examiner:
Alexander Sloan & Co.,
180 St Vincent Street, Glasgow
Bank: Bank of Scotland,
Argyle Street, Glasgow

Quality Improvement in Out of School Care

In 2018-2019, there have been 17 AQS awards made; 14 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze. There are a further 9 services currently under assessment. We also delivered 11 mentoring sessions.

What is the biggest difference AQS has made?

"It has given me a system that I know meets the standards and made it easier to keep this up."

"AQS has boosted the team's confidence and highlighted all of the amazing work that they are carrying out on a day to day basis."

"Allowing staff to see how valuable the work they are doing is. The positive impact it has on the children and their progress. Staff see a more holistic cycle and understand quality assurance processes better. They have learned, the who, when why and what. Plan act and review cycle process. Making us a stronger team."

"It enabled an invaluable opportunity to review the unit's current policies and procedures, engaging with our children and parents throughout the process, it also helped improve and build even stronger relationships both internally within the unit, and externally with the school and other services."

See a full list of our AQS awarded services on our website: sosc.org/quality

Charitable Objectives

SOSCN was established with charitable status in 1991 and become a company limited by guarantee in 1999. All of the work of SOSCN is underpinned by our commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989. The objects of the charity are the advancement of the education and social welfare of children by the development of day care and recreational facilities for children.

Thanks to our partners and funders and to the children, parents, staff and volunteers who participated in our work this year.

The Scottish Out of School Care Network is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and is a Scottish registered charity. Company Number: SC200662. Scottish Charity Number: SC020520

Registered Address: 4th Floor, 41 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2ER

Tel: 0141 564 1284 | Web: sosc.org | Email: info@sosc.org

Policy and Partnership Work

The most significant policy development for 2018-2019 is the establishment of a Scottish Government dedicated out of school care team to lead the development of a new policy framework for out of school care.

Policy Forum & Working Group Representation

- ELC Reference Group (Skills Development Scotland)
- Play Council Strategy Group (2)
- Scottish Government ELC Conference
- ELC Strategic Forum (2)
- Outdoor Play-based Learning Coalition
- Scottish Government OSC Team (4)
- GIRFEC Policy Guidance Workshop (2)
- Poverty & Inequality Commission Round-table
- Scottish Government OSC Reference Group
- Scottish Government OSC Working Groups (3)
- Care Inspectorate Online Modules Scoping Meeting

Partnership work

- Scottish Government OSC team – events, liaison, input to Reference group and 3 working groups, sharing of statistics, research evidence and international contacts
- West College Scotland (STEM)
- Glasgow City Council (AQS and Glasgow OSC Conference)
- CALA Physical Activity training and Inverness event
- North Ayrshire Council research consultancy
- North Lanarkshire Council (AQS)

Expert Knowledge Representation

- University of Dundee Childhood Practice Programme Board
- University of Glasgow Childhood Practice Programme Board
- CHANGE Project Programme Board (2)
- Nancy Ovens Trust (2)

Policy Consultations Evidence

- Briefing for Poverty & Inequality Commission
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups and the Disclosure of Criminal Information
- Early Learning and Childcare Service Model for 2020: Consultation Paper
- Welfare Foods - a consultation on meeting the needs of children and families in Scotland
- Early Years Assistance, Consultation on the Best Start Grant Regulations
- Nutritional requirements for food and drink in schools
- Together gathers information each year on the State of Children's Rights in Scotland and we provided two case studies from innovative out of school care services (one about outdoors, one about food insecurity)

Research *We published the following research reports*

'What I liked best was making the Sprite move'

Interim Report - Year 1 Mar 2019

This reports on the positive first year results from 430 children's participation in our STEM Champions in out of school care project. Results demonstrate that the project has contributed towards closing the attainment gap and gender gap in STEM and improved children's STEM skills.
sosc.org/stem

Workforce Survey

We surveyed the OSC workforce on topics such as pay and working practices as well as other demographics. In total, 392 responses were received.
sosc.org/wfs/2017.pdf

Current Commissioned Research

Commenced in February 2019, we worked with out of school care services across North Ayrshire to provide an assessment of their needs for support on behalf of North Ayrshire Council.

'The service is a lifeline' - Parents/carers thoughts on OSC

Survey results of parents/carers using out of school care (OSC) in Scotland, Jan 2019

This shows the results of a survey of parents/carers using out of school care in various locations across Scotland. In total, 298 responses were received.
sosc.org/downloads/reports/lifeline.pdf

'Fun! FUN! Super fun!' - Children's thoughts on OSC

Survey results of children using out of school care (OSC) in Scotland, Jan 2019

This shows the results of consultation with over 650 children in out of school care about their services from across Scotland.
sosc.org/downloads/reports/super-fun.pdf