



Scottish Out of School Care Network

supporting children's  
rights to play, care  
and learning

# Annual Review 2019-2020





## Chairperson Overview

The work of SOSCN in April 2019 to March 2020 was characterised by an energetic development of new and expanded training programmes, events and quality improvement work with the out of school care sector.

Little did we know then, that at the tail end of this financial year, we all had to develop new and innovative ways to support the care of school age children. I did this myself, as my service became a critical childcare provider, all through and beyond lockdown.

SOSCN did not stop in delivering support to the out of school care sector, throughout this pandemic, in March the staff team were able to quickly move into working from home and online, so are still there for the sector in the current climate.

I want to thank our staff team, fellow board members and every out of school care service in Scotland for their sterling work in the past normal times, and being innovative and adaptive in the current, challenging times, for us all.

We are grateful for the core funding from the Scottish Government through the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund, administered by Corra, which underpinned so much of this work. Thanks also for investment by local authorities in Achieving Quality Scotland and sponsoring some of the Regional Engagement events, or who commissioned consultancy work from us.

**Anne M Dick, Chairperson**

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CYPFEIF core grant  
Administered by  
CORRA Foundation



## Chief Executive Overview

Reviewing our activities for the mainly pre-Covid-19 year, April 2019 to March 2020, is a salutary reminder to appreciate what freedom we all had to travel, gather together, meet up to learn and train, indoors and outdoors, whilst also supporting the massive consultation exercise that went into the development of the policy framework for out of school care in Scotland.

This work included:

- Policy development, advocacy, gathering staff and children's views
- Training on inclusion, GIRFEC and trauma informed practice
- Physical Activity e-module in partnership with CALA
- Quality Improvement work
- Regional engagement events

### **Conference on Celebrating Out of School Care (postponed)**

We had a fully booked up conference to celebrate out of school care planned for 23rd March, with short films with children, a great line up of speakers and workshops, including the Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd, but we postponed this and moved forward to June 2021 – for now to wait and see, if this is possible.



## **Communications and Media**

Undoubtedly, the middle of March 2020 will be remembered as the time so many organisations had to turn virtual, and for SOSCN, central to this is our communications and social media work, which has proved invaluable in still being able to deliver support, information and advice and to be policy advocates for the school age childcare sector.

## **Thanks to everyone**

Thanks to our supportive Board of Directors and to you, the membership who have constantly engaged with us throughout, helped with our surveys and research, participated in our training and events, and kept in touch. We are also grateful for the support of partner organisations like CALA, and local authority development staff across Scotland.

## **Children's views and happiness**

Most of all, it is the feedback from children themselves, and their undoubted happiness at out of school care, that energises all of us in supporting children and families in Scotland who need this vital sector. I know we are proud of every one of them, as they cope and adapt in changing times.

**Irene Audain MBE Chief Executive**

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Thanks to all our  
members!

Join SOSCN:  
[soscn.org/membership](https://soscn.org/membership)

## 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.

1,014 Out of School  
Services in Scotland

The formal objects of the charity are the advancement of the education and social welfare of children by the development of daycare and recreational facilities for children. This includes out of school care services and clubs, holiday care and breakfast clubs for school age children in Scotland.

These objects are underpinned by a commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, (UNCRC) equality and social inclusion. The charity aims to promote the UNCRC at all levels of our support to school age childcare.

53,600 Children  
attend OSC  
Services

## What is Out of School Care?

The out of school care sector is the largest provider of play, care and informal learning opportunities for school-aged children.

There are 1,014 Out of School Services in Scotland, for 748 this is their main service.

There are 661 breakfast clubs and 472 holiday services.

The number of children registered with main service OSC is 53,600. (Care Inspectorate, 2019)

## Policy Development

We have worked in partnership with the Scottish Government team of civil servants appointed in this period to take forward the development of a new policy framework for out of school care.

### New National Strategic Framework for Out of School Care

The Scottish Government Consultation on the Framework for Out of School Care launched in late summer 2019. A new £3 million Access to Childcare grant programme for out of school care for lower income families and children was launched in June 2019 for 2020/22. Both policy developments are mentioned in the Scottish Programme for Government 2020.


The consultation on the draft Framework for Out of School Care closed in early December 2019. As well as responding ourselves, we disseminated information on this frequently and social media images of children's views on out of school care collated by services. Over 1,200 responses were received, as well as further feedback from children and parents.



## Policy Forums, Working Group Representation and Expert Knowledge Representation

A select list of events we have presented at, and partner organisations we worked with this year:

National Afterschool Alliance from the USA (in Scotland for a study trip); [Glasgow University Childhood Practice Conference](#); Change out of school care event; [Glasgow City Council Out of School Care Conference](#); Video presentation to international Extended Education Conference Stockholm; [Scottish Book Trust](#); Dundee City Council; [Glasgow City Council](#); CALA; [Scottish Government ELC Strategic Forum](#); Dundee BA Childhood Practice programme board; [Care Inspectorate](#); Disclosure Scotland; and represented OSC/SOSCN at a range of national meetings.



### Research and Consultancy

#### North Ayrshire Consultancy

In 2019/2020 we were commissioned by North Ayrshire Council to conduct a research and support consultancy project to measure the support needed by out of school care services and potential models of future delivery, including the creation of a local authority out of school care policy and establishing a local network. The final report was submitted in June 2019.

As a result of this work we produced a basic Getting it Right for Out of School Care Toolkit to help services cover all they need to do to be compliant with regulations and basic good practice.

#### Research Reports

We published the workforce survey 2018 results and completed the annual workforce survey for 2019 and an additional survey to services on staffing recruitment. Download a copy of these:

[Workforce Survey 2018](#)

[Workforce Survey 2019](#)

[Recruitment and Retention Survey 2019](#)



## Membership Survey

A short membership feedback survey was completed in 2019. A selection of quotes below demonstrate the value of SOSCN to the sector.

*"SOSCN is a great organisation and the only national organisation representing Out/After School Cares."*

*"SOSCN have helped improve the sector due to influencing the Government."*

*"SOSCN needs to be round the table as they understand what we go through with premises, council, SEN kids etc."*

*"I think SOSCN does a fantastic job! The website is very informative, and you all go the extra mile in terms of supporting out of school care. I believe that many OOSC services would not exist/thrive if it were not for your continued support."*

*"Recently taken over as manager and as each day is a learning curve for me, I have been grateful for the support of this network and access to online documents, guidance etc."*

*"A great source of advice."*

89% of members agreed that  
"SOSCN is a valuable resource  
to me and my work in running  
an out of school care service"





From April 2019 to mid-March 2020 we have delivered a total of 46 training sessions across the country generating over £15,000 in income.

Overall, this reached more than 550 staff, and potential reach of over 18,900 children and 15,400 families. All training received around 90% excellent or good feedback with no negative feedback.

## Training

### Seeing the Potential: Supporting Children with Autism led by Jim Taylor

*"I will discuss ways to implement strategies specific to the child whilst working with parents."*

*"Continue to broaden my horizons of the needs and requirements of autistic children and pass knowledge gained today on to colleagues for a more focused approach."*

### SOSCN Adverse Childhood Experiences Training

*"Thanks so much to you both for delivering the training on Wednesday. I have already been on ACE training but thought yours was far superior, everyone came away inspired which is great!"*

*"Gave you a lot to think about."*

*"Continue with supporting not only our children but our families."*

### SOSCN Getting it Right for Every Child Training

*"I really enjoyed it!"*

*"I thought the session was very informative."*

*"I learned a lot of interesting points to improve my setting."*

### SOSCN Physical Activity Training

For October week, we introduced a direct training play session with children and feedback was positive.

*"The children really enjoyed the play session and I took a lot of tips for myself on play and games while watching."*

Children were asked for their views on the 2-hour activity session at the end.

*"It was really fun, and I jumped really high over the ladder"*


*"I liked showing everyone my favourite games"*

*"Thank you, are you coming back to play more games with us?"*

### New Physical Activity training online module

We completed, in partnership with CALA, an e-module on our physical activity training which was launched on the 7th January 2020. Participants taking this short online course grew to over 300 by March 2020. This was, in hindsight, a timely launch, as many of the March participants got involved at the beginning of the lockdown in the country due to COVID-19.



A photograph of two children playing in a large puddle. One child is wearing a yellow rain suit and blue boots, and the other is wearing a red rain suit and red boots. They are both splashing water. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a paved area and some foliage.

Nearly 200 participants from 130+ services in 26 different local authority areas attended our events this year. This represents a potential reach of 9,000 children and 7,400 families.

## Events, networking, development, and consultation

### Regional Engagement events

We delivered 5 regional consultation events on the draft framework, in partnership with the OSC team at the Scottish Government. This was compressed over and intense two weeks to engage with the sector in advance of the closing date for responses. We would like to thank COSLA, Glasgow City Council, and Aberdeen City Council for their support with these events.

*"Excellent delivery of the event. Hope to see far more of these. Can't wait to see where this framework leads!"*

*"Interesting and valuable discussions. Felt like our thoughts were listened to."*

*"Great discussions and opportunities to give views."*

*"Interesting, relaxed atmosphere. Lots of input."*

*"really good to see so much focus and priority placed on OOSC."*

*"Very informative and good to have the opportunity to discuss the future of out of school care sector."*

*"Well delivered and informative. Covered most of the main concerns and it feels like there is a real desire to make changes to the current situation."*

### International Work

We continue to liaise with international contacts in our field and to share international research on our website and with colleagues. We also re-established our connections with the American National After School Association and met with them in Scotland in June as part of a study visit.

### Achieving Quality Scotland (AQS)

In 2019 to 2020 there have been 10 AQS awards. We delivered 12 mentoring sessions, 10 to Glasgow services and 2 to Scottish Borders services.

Most services which have been inspected whilst undertaking, or having completed the process, have had their grades either go up or be maintained at 'very good' or 'excellent' levels.

Find out more about Achieving Quality Scotland:  
[soscn.org/quality](https://soscn.org/quality)



## Communications

We have produced 8 newsletters, 11 blog posts, responded to 4 consultations, and placed 36 recruitment adverts on our website.

We also sent out 12 membership email updates in between newsletters for important information sharing. For the last two weeks in March 2020 there was a daily email update covering COVID-19 and lockdown issues.

We also offered advice and support via email, telephone and in person to staff from services on a range of issues, including management issues, child protection, employment law and inclusive practice.

## Social Media and Website

We had 2016 Twitter followers; 509 Tweets; 4,480 Profile views; 175 New Followers; 279,177 Total Impressions; and 392 Mentions.

We also had nearly 1,000 followers on Facebook.

We had 7,370 users visit our website and 20,903 page views.



## 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

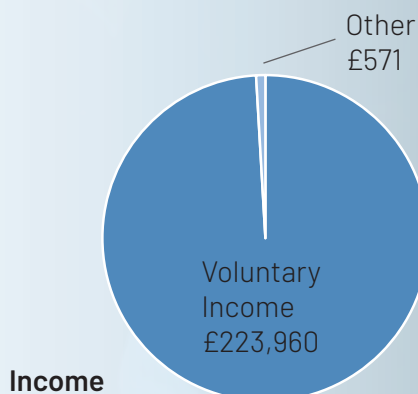
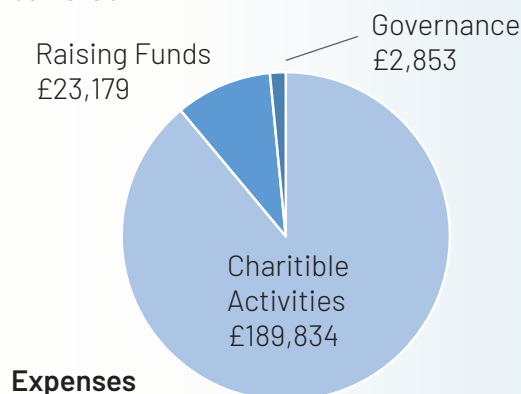
## Professional Advisors

Independent Examiner: Alexander Sloan & Co., 180 St Vincent Street, Glasgow

Bank: Bank of Scotland, Argyle Street, Glasgow

## Financial Report

Extracted from examined accounts 2019-2020, prepared by Alexander Sloan & Co.





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: [soscn.org](http://soscn.org) | Email: [info@soscn.org](mailto:info@soscn.org)

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