



After School and Holiday Childcare Strategic Framework

The Scottish Government's Out of School Care (OSC) policy dates back to 2003 when *School's Out* was published. This has provided the underpinning policy framework and guidance for OSC for the last 15 years. But in that time, policies relating to early learning and childcare, school education, child poverty and inequality have changed hugely.

More recently, the Poverty and Inequality Commission made a recommendation that the Scottish Government should be developing a strategic framework for after school and holiday childcare as a priority. This built on a recommendation from the First Minister's Independent Advisor on Poverty and Inequality, Naomi Eisenstadt, who argued in her 2016 report, *Shifting the Curve*, that there was potential for using school buildings to provide out of school care.



Out of School Care Policy Update October 2018

This year, the [Government's Programme for Scotland 2018-19](#) reaffirmed the commitment to develop a strategic framework for after-school and holiday childcare over the course of this Parliament. We will publish a consultation asking for views on that draft framework in Summer 2019.

The Scottish Government's [Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22](#) also highlights the importance of OSC and states that we will assess the availability of existing OSC provision in Scotland and will set out what we will do to better meet the needs of families.

OSC Reference Group

As part of the work to develop a strategic framework on Out of School Care we will also convene a reference group made up of a wide range of key stakeholders from across the sector as well as colleagues from across Scottish Government. We want to develop the framework using a truly collaborative approach, assessing what is currently available and setting out what more needs to be done to ensure accessible and affordable OSC and holiday childcare is available for all children, particularly those who stand to benefit most.

The first meeting of the Reference Group will take place on Wednesday 31st October in Edinburgh.

Shaping the Framework events

Over the next few months the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) will be holding a series of regional events in partnership with Scottish Government. These free events will provide an opportunity for those working in the OSC sector to hear more about the framework, ask questions and share their views. We look forward to engaging directly with the sector and the opportunity to work collaboratively in shaping a vision for the framework before consultation in Summer 2019.

The events are scheduled to run in the morning (approximately 09:30am—1:00pm) on the following dates:

Aberdeen, 21st November 2018

Glasgow, 29th November 2018

Edinburgh, 6th February 2019

Dundee, 26th February 2019

Inverness, 6th March 2019

For more information and booking details visit: <https://soscn.org/participate/shaping-the-framework>

Meet the Team

As of September 2018, Scottish Government has a dedicated Out of School Care Policy Team. The team is led by Kate Smith, who is supported by two policy officers, Christian Barry and Eilidh Henry.

The team have experience of working in Early Learning and Childcare policy (ELC) and also have responsibility for Outdoor Learning policy as part of the ELC expansion.



Kate, Christian and Eilidh
Scottish Government Out of School Care Policy Team

Contact Us

As a new team, we are interested to hear views on Out of School Care from across the country and are planning to come out and visit services ourselves, as well as finding opportunities for Ministerial visits in the Out of School Care sector.

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please get in touch:



kate.smith@gov.scot

christian.barry@gov.scot

eilidh.henry@gov.scot



0131 244 2924



@OSCSotGov



Images courtesy of Highland Fling, Portobello