

MANIFESTO FOR OUT OF SCHOOL CARE IN SCOTLAND – 2019

#isupportOSC

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) believes that out of school care in Scotland requires greater recognition from all political parties in terms of the vital role out of school care plays in supporting school-age children's development and positive outcomes for families. We would ask that all political parties sign-up to the following:

1. Ensure that out of school care services such as breakfast clubs, after school care clubs and holiday childcare services are supported financially and by "in kind" support such as free or low-cost lets and secure tenancy agreements within local authority premises.
2. Ensure the inclusion of out of school care services within national policy and local community planning to ensure the best possible wellbeing outcomes for children and families.
3. Through increased resources, enable wider access during term-time and holidays to out of school care services across Scotland for children in need, especially children with disabilities and families in poverty.
4. Support the maintenance and where required, further development, of the current level of out of school care provision in Scotland- out of school care services are key to parents and carers of school-age children either remaining in, or accessing, employment and education opportunities.
5. Ensure ongoing financial commitment to support the continued development of the out of school care workforce including funding to pay for required qualifications and essential training.
6. Include the out of school care workforce within the Scottish Government's commitment to provide additional financial resources ensuring early learning and childcare staff are paid the living wage as a minimum.
7. Continued, and increased, support for families (especially those working and in poverty) through childcare vouchers and tax credits operated by the UK government.



About the Scottish Out of School Care Network

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN), is Scotland's national charity (Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC020520) providing support, mentoring, training, quality assurance, information and resources to school-aged childcare and holiday services in Scotland. The work of SOSCN is underpinned by a strong commitment to ensuring the delivery of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Getting It Right For Every Child.

About Out of School Care

There are 1014 Out of School Care services in Scotland, for 748 this is their main service. There are 661 breakfast clubs and 472 holiday services. In total the sector provides childcare places for over 50,000 children; this makes it the largest provider of play and leisure opportunities for primary school-age children in Scotland. Out of school care services are registered with, and regulated by, the Care Inspectorate against the same national care standards as other daycare of children services such as nurseries.

Out of school care staff are registered with, and regulated by, the Scottish Social Services Council and in accordance with legislation, managers of out of school care services must either be qualified to, or working towards a degree level qualification in Childhood Practice, the same as managers of other daycare of children services.

Supporting families, communities and the economy

Although out of school care has a key role in supporting parents and carers access employment and training opportunities, thus benefiting communities and the wider economy, we fundamentally believe that out of school care should be based upon children's rights to access play, care, leisure and informal learning opportunities.

The children who potentially benefit most from accessing OSC services, especially during the holidays, are vulnerable children living in poverty- SOSCN believes that additional funding should be made available to support these children to access services.

How Out of School Care Supports the Wellbeing of Children

Out of school care services are child-centred services operating with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of their work- out of school care ensures that all children have their rights to be consulted and listened to; to access play, leisure, rest and cultural activities, and for disabled children to be supported by appropriate services. Out of school care services should meet the individual needs of the children in their care and support the children's wellbeing and development.