



Shaping the Framework Events

Since our last update, the Out of School Care policy team have been running a series of regional events across Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish Out of School Care Network. These workshops were designed to give staff working in the OSC sector the opportunity to share their views and give them a chance to input ideas to help develop the upcoming framework. The events took place in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Inverness and we were delighted to have great attendance, and to hear from so many practitioners working in different parts of the country.

While there are some issues and ideas that are particular to local areas, there was a clear consensus around the aims, ambitions and the challenges facing the Out of School Care sector in Scotland.



All of the information gathered from the regional events has now been collated and will be used to inform the framework as it develops. Some of the key issues are highlighted here:

Accessibility It was noted at all events that the OSC sector provides a valuable service supporting children, families and the wider community, particularly in

supporting children's outcomes through play and being a vital service supporting parental employability. But it was recognised that OSC could provide more, for a wider group of people, if it were more affordable and accessible particularly for those on low incomes. It was also felt there was opportunity to support those children and families who may experience food insecurity and poverty.

Workforce were recognised as key to the quality of OSC services and attendees pointed out that action is needed to increase access to training that is relevant, affordable and flexible for staff in this sector.

Spaces and Facilities were identified as important issues for the sector. Attendees at events expressed a desire for dedicated spaces where they could feel a sense of ownership and security.

Joined-up Services and better communication between OSC, schools, local authorities and parents are deemed an important next step for the sector. Improving and building on links with local communities was also viewed as a way to strengthen the sector and improve opportunities for children.

Recognition of the value and importance of OSC and the qualifications and skills of OSC staff could be improved according to attendees. Attitudes and perceptions of OSC need to be challenged in order to promote a wider appreciation for the role of OSC practitioners in the lives of children and families and the impact the services make to society as a whole.

Reference Group and Engagement

Members of our OSC reference group, who first met in October 2018, have also been working hard over the past few months. Following the first meeting, we identified three key areas of focus for Out of School Care and split the stakeholders into smaller working groups to consider these areas in more depth. The 3 focus areas are:

Accessibility & Affordability

Quality & Workforce

Spaces & Community

The working groups produced some really rich discussion and lots of ideas were generated about Out of School Care.

We are now beginning engagement work with parents and have organised events across Scotland listening to families from a wide range of circumstances including those whose children have additional support needs, one parent families, families with lived experience of poverty, and parents representing parent forums across Scotland.

Over the next few months we will also be engaging with children directly. It's crucial that we hear children and young people's voices and enable them to shape the framework too. We want to find out what's important to children when it comes to Out of School Care, and what we can do to better meet their needs in future.

All of the information gathered at these engagement events, and the information provided by the sector

and the reference group, is invaluable and will all contribute to our developing framework. We will keep you updated on our progress through social media and via SOSCN.

Team Changes

We've had some changes to our team recently. Kate and Eilidh are now joined by Claire McGrath and Heather Morris. It's great to have a growing team as we have lots of work to do as we begin to draft our framework in time for summer!



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Contact Us

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