

3 September 2026

Sent by email to: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Ms McAllan and Ms Brown,

Thank you for your update letter of 2 September 2026. The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) is pleased to see such a strong emphasis being placed on school age childcare within the Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2026-31. The commitment to develop a new after school and holiday childcare offer represents a significant opportunity to build a system that works better for children, families and providers.

We appreciate the recognition of the challenges facing providers too. The issues of recruitment and retention and sustainability of services are particularly important within school age childcare, where services operate in a complex and varied regulatory environment.

We would encourage Government to engage fully with the sector in order to make full use of the expertise within the existing school age childcare sector when drafting a blueprint, as well as seeking the views of children and families that use these services.

As the sector's representative organisation, we believe consideration should be given to the following key areas when developing the system:

- The sustainability of existing provision
- Clear career pathways and appropriate funding to ensure a well-trained workforce with good pay and conditions
- A variety of service delivery models used for what works best for the people and area it is being provided in
- High quality, freely chosen and intrinsically motivational play opportunities for children and young people
- Greater clarity around the regulatory landscape for care providers and organised activity clubs
- Affordability and accessibility for all families that need support, including those experiencing or at risk of poverty

Scottish Out of School Care Network

Registered Office: 4th floor, 41 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2ER
Scottish Charity Number: SC020520
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As always, SOSCN is keen to work constructively with the Scottish Government throughout this process. We can provide access to the practical experience of services across Scotland, gather and analyse sector intelligence, facilitate engagement with practitioners and providers, and help identify both opportunities and potential challenges at an early stage.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet at an early date to discuss how we can work together to support the school age childcare sector at this pivotal time.

Yours sincerely



Audrey M Anderson
Chief Executive Officer

Scottish Out of School Care Network

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