

Rights Respecting? Scotland's approach to children in conflict with the law

Symposium speakers
Friday, January 31, 2020

Bruce Adamson, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People

Bruce is a lawyer who has over 20 years of experience in children's rights. A Member of the Children's Panel for 13 years, he worked directly with vulnerable children and their families, listening to their experiences and making decisions about their safety and wellbeing.

Mr Adamson has been on advisory boards for several public authorities and civil society organisations and is a former Chair of the Scottish Child Law Centre. While working for the Scottish Human Rights Commission, he was central to the development of law, policy and practice covering the broad spectrum of children's rights.

In 2013, he was the United Nations Representative for the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, representing institutions from over 100 countries to improve human rights in Scotland and across the world. Mr Adamson has acted as an international expert for the Council of Europe, the European Union and the OSCE. *Follow Bruce on Twitter @Bruce_Adamson*

Professor Jennifer Davidson, Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures

Jennifer is a Professor of Practice and the Executive Director of the [Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures](http://www.inspiringchildren.org.uk), a University network which also incorporates her role as Executive Director of the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS), promoting the highest aspirations for the quality of public care experiences for children and young people, and securing their improved outcomes through the development of well-informed policy and the effective implementation of best evidence.

Jennifer previously directed the University of Strathclyde's Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC) - the predecessor to CELCIS - which led the successful decade-long change programme across Scotland's residential child care services. *Follow Jennifer on Twitter @JenniferIICF*

DCC Malcom Graham, Police Scotland

DCC Malcom Graham is Deputy Chief Constable Crime and Operational Support, a role he has held since May 2019.

His previous roles have included Assistant Chief Constable as the executive lead for the newly created Partnership, Prevention and Community Wellbeing portfolio with responsibility for developing new approaches to working with other Scottish public services to achieve better outcomes for communities, including Safer Communities; ACC Strategy and Innovation; ACC Strategic Change with responsibility for Policing 2026, developing a long term strategy for policing in Scotland; and Assistant Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland with responsibility for major crime and public protection.

Dr Claire Lightowler, Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice

As Director of the Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ), Claire leads CYCJ in its work to improve children's lives through improving policy, practice and knowledge about the issues related to offending by children and young people. She has particular interest in co-production and what this means/can look like in a criminal and youth justice context. Claire is passionate about ensuring that practitioners and young people supported by the youth justice system have opportunities to share what they know and influence strategic and policy decisions. She has undertaken research about co-production and women's community justice; user engagement and community justice; practitioner research; and knowledge exchange. *Follow Claire on Twitter @C_Lightowler*

Kathleen Marshall, Chair

Kathleen Marshall is a retired child law consultant based in Scotland. From 1989 to 1994 she was Director of the Scottish Child Law Centre, and from 2004 to 2009, she served as Scotland's first Commissioner for Children and Young People. After stepping down from that post, she undertook a variety of research, consultancy and voluntary projects on issues such as historic abuse, youth justice, and the guardianship of separated children seeking asylum. She led an Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland (2014) and reviewed the Children's Law in the Channel Island of Guernsey (2015). She currently chairs the International Advisory Board of the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures (IICF) located within the University of Strathclyde.

Tom McNamara, Scottish Government

Tom is Unit Head for Youth Justice and Children's Hearings in the Scottish Government. After studying Law at Edinburgh University, and a number of 'character-building' jobs in both public and private sectors, he move to the then Scottish Executive in 2000. Tom's first Government post was in the children's hearings branch working on children's panel appointments advice, along with policy and practice matters. In the intervening years he has worked in other policy roles in youth justice, children's rights, community engagement in land use planning and children's hearings reform.

He has been in his current job since 2013, and has responsibility for the sponsorship of the two key national children's hearings bodies in SCRA and CHS, for overseeing the national implementation of the youth justice strategy, as well as supporting work on secure care, implementing the age of criminal responsibility act and for the children's hearings improvement programme.

Lynne McNiven, NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Lynne McNiven has worked in Public Health in both England and Scotland for the last 20 years. She has specialised in Children and Young People's Public Health as a Consultant in Public Health for nine years and also holds the position of Child Health Commissioner and Interim Director of Public Health (Joint) in NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

Lynne is passionate about improving children and young people's health, social outcomes and reducing health inequalities. Working across the whole system is central to achieving this.

Professor Manfred Nowak

Professor Nowak is an Austrian human rights lawyer, who served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture from 2004 to 2010. He is Secretary General of the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) in Venice, Italy; Professor of International Human Rights and Scientific Director of the Vienna Master of Arts in Human Rights and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights; and a former judge at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2016, he was appointed Independent Expert leading the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.

#RightsRespecting

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