

YOUNG SCOTLAND IN MIND

MANIFESTO

March 2007

Young Scotland in Mind is a network of voluntary sector organisations which fosters a culture of working and learning together, in order to promote the rights of Children and Young People to positive mental health and wellbeing in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The voluntary sector already makes a considerable contribution to the positive mental health and wellbeing of thousands of children and young people across Scotland through the provision of a wide range of services. Through the work of highly skilled paid staff and volunteers we are able to reach children and young people in a variety of settings, often where statutory services are unable to.

Young Scotland in Mind fully endorses the principles that underpin the National Programme for Mental Health and Wellbeing and HeadsUp Scotland.

Furthermore, Young Scotland in Mind believes children and young people have the right to live in a family, community and society that nurtures them and promotes a positive sense of mental health and wellbeing. The Scottish Executive has done much to address this; however Young Scotland in Mind believes that more still needs to be done. Unfortunately, for too many children and young people, the reality they face is of a life lived in poverty and exclusion where abuse and trauma are commonplace.

Young Scotland in Mind calls on the Scottish Executive to prioritise the following issues:

- **Address the particular needs of children and young people in terms of promoting and developing their positive mental health and wellbeing.**
- **Challenge the emerging ASBO culture, which discriminates against children and young people and generates negative stereotypes.**
- **Develop a sustainable funding framework for the voluntary sector that enables them to further develop creative solutions to engage with children and young people when they need support the most.**
- **Actively engage with parents and other significant adults to ensure that they are supported in promoting the positive mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.**
- **Support Young Scotland in Mind to promote the right of children and young people to positive mental health.**

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