



ScotCen
Social Research

Realigning 
Children's Services
Transforming Children's Futures

DEAR PARENT/CARER

The Council and its partners are currently working with Scottish Government through a programme called Realigning Children's Services to help to improve local services for children in your area. All primary schools in the area have been invited to take part and we are inviting all children in P5 to P7 to complete a short online questionnaire during school time on their lives and wellbeing.

The results of this survey will be used to understand the wellbeing needs of children in your area. This will improve the way children's services are planned and delivered by your local authority. The results will not look at children's responses on an individual basis. This ensures that all responses are unidentifiable.

This letter provides you with information about the programme, and contact details should you wish to learn more. It also explains what to do if you are happy for your child to participate, or if you do not want your child to take part in the survey. Your child will also receive a leaflet explaining about the survey.

In order that we get a picture of your child's life and wellbeing, the local authority and our partners are also interested in ensuring, as far as possible, that our services meet their needs. To do this, we would like your permission for your child not only to complete the survey but for us to link to information on your child from local records, known as administrative data. This is held by the local authority and will be added to the survey answers and is called data linkage. This is to look at how local services are meeting needs. There is a more detailed explanation of this in the 'What is data linkage?' section in the accompanying leaflet.

No names will be used when answering the survey or linking the local authority information- there is no way your child or family can be identified. For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions over the page.

More detailed information is at the end of this letter. You can also find out more about the survey and Realigning Children's Services by visiting the website: www.transformingchildrensfutures.scot. Alternatively you can contact ScotCen Social Research by calling our Freephone on 0800 652 9294 or by emailing rcs@scotcen.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Gerry McCormick,
Acting Head of Education (Standards and Inclusion) for North Lanarkshire

Matthew Davies,
Service Manager Children's Services for Falkirk



You do not have to do anything if you are happy for **both** of the following:

For your child to take part in the survey.

AND

For your children's answers to be linked with information held by your local authority (data linkage).

Your child will also be able to choose not to take part in the survey or to skip any questions they don't want to answer.

If you do not wish for your child to take part in this survey, please complete the tear-off slip below and return it to your school within the next 10 working days. Thank you for your help with this important programme.

.....

CHILDREN'S WELLBEING SURVEY

I do not wish (print name of child in capital letters) to take part in the Primary School Children's Wellbeing Survey, including data linkage.

Signed Date/...../.....

Name

Relationship to child Child's year group

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS REALIGNING CHILDREN'S SERVICES?

Realigning Children's Services is a programme which will help to improve local services for children in a number of local authority areas in Scotland. We would like to hear from children in P5 to P7 about their school, their family and their life. This is called the Children's Wellbeing Survey.

The findings of the programme will be used by the Scottish Government to understand the wellbeing and needs of children in your area. Your local authority will then use this information to help improve services for children and families.

WHO IS RUNNING THE SURVEY?

The Scottish Government, in collaboration with individual local authorities, have asked ScotCen, an independent, not for profit, social research organisation to run the wellbeing survey.

The National Records of Scotland Indexing team and electronic Data Research and Innovation Service will be responsible for the data linkage aspect of the programme.

WHAT IS MY CHILD BEING ASKED TO DO?

We are inviting all children in P5 to P7 in your area to fill in the Children's Wellbeing Survey. Your child will be asked to complete an online questionnaire during class time that will take around 15-20 minutes to complete. Your child's school will organise and arrange for children to take part.

The questions are all well-established items that have been ethically approved for surveys with children of this age and found to be associated with wellbeing. Some of topics include: local area and activities for children, health, life satisfaction, school enjoyment and relationships with family and friends.

Where possible, assistance will be provided to children who have Additional Support Needs such as extra time or help with completing the online survey. Guidance issued to teachers can be found on the Realigning Children's Services website.

If you would like more information or to receive a copy of the questionnaire before deciding whether or not you are happy with your child taking part you can contact the researchers by emailing rcs@scotcen.org.uk

WILL ANYONE SEE MY CHILD'S ANSWERS?

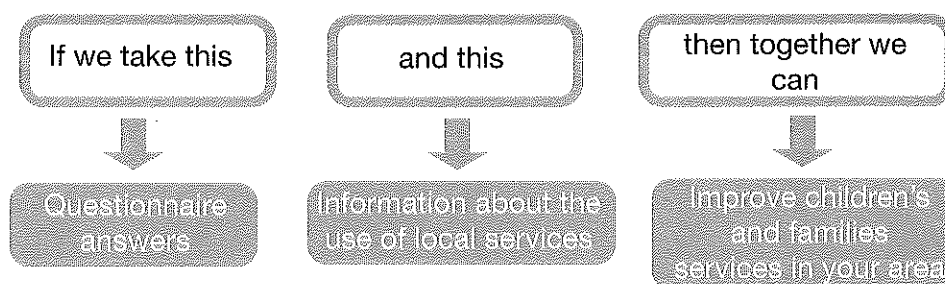
No one other than the team running the survey will see your child's answers. This team are trained to keep data safe, confidential and anonymous. Your child will not be asked to type in their name into the survey. The survey will be uploaded to the team running the survey immediately, and the school will not see or store any of the answers.

All information will be confidential and secure and no one will be able to recognise any child from the data. The findings will be shared more widely as general statistics on wellbeing across the local authority.

WHAT IS DATA LINKAGE?

We are also asking for permission to link to administrative data, this process is called data linkage. This includes data held by the local authority on accessing support from social work and schools.

Data linkage is the process of adding together different types of information about individuals from different sources, which in this case means that children's answers to the wellbeing survey will be linked to information from local authority administrative data such as their use of local services. This means we are able to see how well local children's services are meeting the specific needs of children and families in your area.



All the information and data will be kept safe and confidential. The Scottish Government is working closely with the National Records of Scotland indexing team, and the electronic Data Research and Innovation Service who will be responsible for the data linkage and for making sure all information remains anonymous. You can find out more information about these two services online.

WILL MY CHILD'S ANSWERS AFFECT THE SERVICES THEY RECEIVE?

Your child's answers will be combined with what other children have said in other schools in your local area, to help plan services. The survey will not follow up on particular responses or directly target services for individual children or their families. The overall findings of the survey will be used to improve services in your local area.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO TAKE PART?

No. It is up to you and your child to decide to take part. You can opt-out of taking part by completing and returning the slip enclosed in the letter to the school within the next 10 working days of receiving this. Your child can also say to their teacher that they do not want to take part or stop the survey at any point up until the survey is submitted. Whether or not your child takes part will have no impact on your child's schooling or any services used.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

You can find out more information such as the themes of the survey at www.transformingchildrensfutures.scot. If you have any further questions please contact ScotCen Social Research on our Freephone number 0800 652 9294 or email rcs@scotcen.org.uk