

OFFICIAL



# North Strathclyde Bairns Hoose Partnership

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May 2026

# North Strathclyde Bairns Hoose Partnership



- 4 Local Authorities-
- East Renfrewshire
- Renfrewshire
- Inverclyde and
- East Dunbartonshire
- Police Scotland K and G Division
- **Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board**
- Children First
- SCRA
- COPFS
- SCTS
- Governance Group Reports into CPC's and COG's

# What is Bairns Hoose ?

- A **child-centred service** in Scotland supporting children who have experienced significant harm and are part of the child protection process.
- Based on the **Barnahus (“Children’s House”)** model from Iceland
- 4 room model
  - Protection
  - Justice
  - Recovery
  - Health
- All support is delivered **under one roof**
- Aim: reduce trauma and improve outcomes for children

# North Strathclyde Bairns Hoose

- NS BH partnership since 2019
- Co-located Police, SW and Recovery teams since 2020
- 10 police and SW interviewers & 1 manager
- 5 recovery staff & 1 manager
- Bairns Hoose opened in 2023
- Court suite opened in August 2024
- 1 Bairns Hoose Procurator Fiscal
- 1 Health Senior Nurse post
- Participation of children in design and development of Hoose and model

# Children's Involvement

- Condition of our grant this year 26/27 - Lundy Model of participation
- Children are voices shaping the system
- Children's involvement / participation is central, not optional

# North Strathclyde Bairns Hoose: Participation and Voice Work

*our journey so far*



May 2026

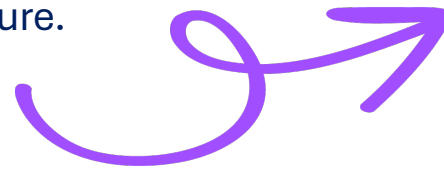
# Children First

Children First is Scotland's national children's charity. We stand up for every child because all children should have a safe childhood.

We protect children from harm and support them to recover from trauma and abuse through our national and local services.

We help children, their families and the people that care for them by offering emotional, practical, and financial support.

We give children hope and a safer, brighter future.



# CHILDREN FIRST IS SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY.

## OUR PURPOSE

To protect  
Scotland's  
children.

## OUR VISION

A Scotland  
where every  
child is safe.

## OUR MISSION

We stand up for every child because all children should have a safe childhood.

We **protect** children from harm and support them to **recover** from trauma and abuse through our national and local services.

We help children, their families and the people that care for them by offering emotional, practical, and financial support.

We give children hope and a **safer, brighter** future.

## OUR VALUES

With **love**,  
we put  
children first.

With **purpose**, we  
transform children's  
lives together.

With **strength**, we do  
whatever it takes to protect  
Scotland's children.

# Let's start with voice...



# Theoretical framework: Lundy Model of Child Participation

We strive to respect, protect, and fulfil children's human rights, and we prioritise children's human rights in all aspects of our work - Listening to the voices of children, young people and families ensures that families are at the heart of everything we do.

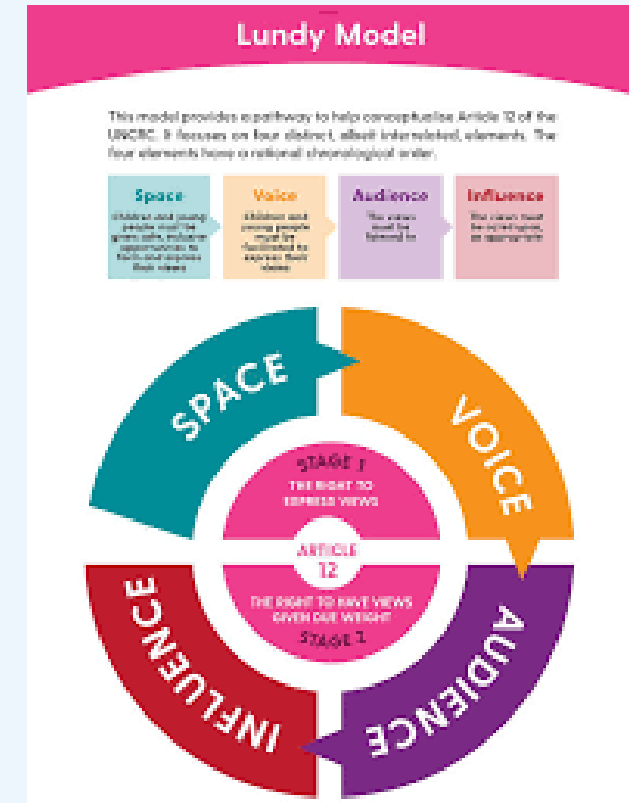
**Article 12 states that every child have a human right to participate in all matters affecting them, which are given due weight.**

**SPACE:** Children must be given the opportunity to express a view.

**VOICE:** Children must be supported to express their views.

**AUDIENCE:** Children's views must be listened to, and given due weight.

**INFLUENCE:** Children's views must be acted upon, as appropriate.



# North Strathclyde Changemakers

*our journey so far*

2020-2026



# Setting the scene: 'Changemakers'

## **Changemakers: An umbrella term for individual and group participation**

Changemakers exists to help us learn directly from children and young people whose views and opinions will inform our work and support to improve system change for child protection, justice, health and recovery.

### **Purpose of Changemakers**



- **Advocate** for change.
- **Raise awareness** of lived/living experiences of the care, justice and protection systems.
- **Inform and shape** the design of the Bairns Hoose service.
- **Challenge** existing systems by highlighting areas to change and improve.



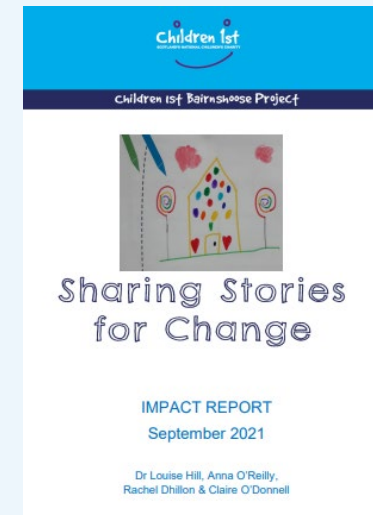
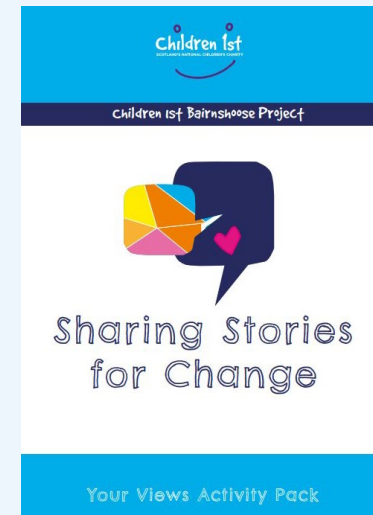
# 2020: Sharing Stories for Change

28 children and young people

6 to 20 years old

7 parents and carers

The Children and family's voices directly influenced the need for systematic Change for child victims and witnesses in Scotland.



# Key themes and learning from Sharing Stories for Change

The Right People

The Right Place

The Right Support

Sharing Stories for Change - 2020, demonstrated the impact of the current care, protection and justice system, families shared that it often involved retelling their story many times, to different professionals and in different places. We have advocated for children, and their families to be respected and supported at all stages, their rights are upheld, and they can recover from hurt and harm with dignity and respect.

*'Just because we're children, doesn't mean we don't have strong feelings and don't understand things.'*

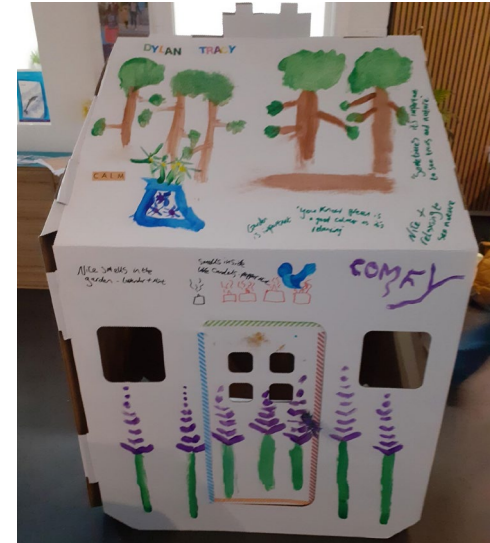
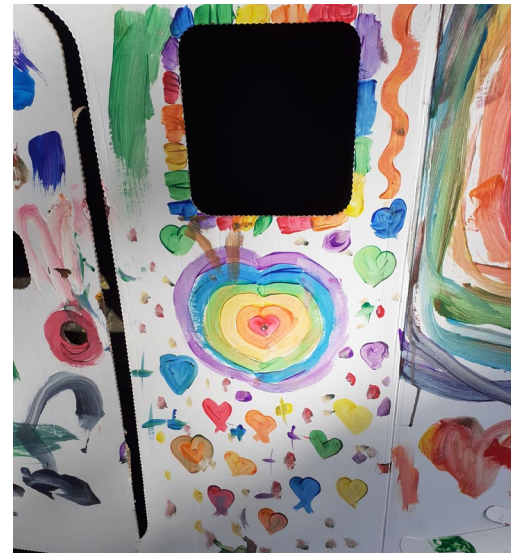
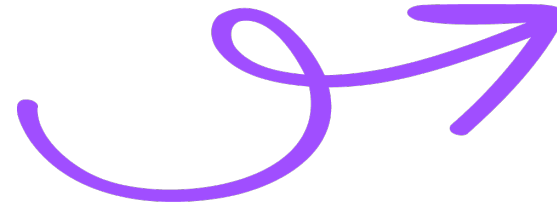
*Girl, aged 8*

# 2021 – 2023:

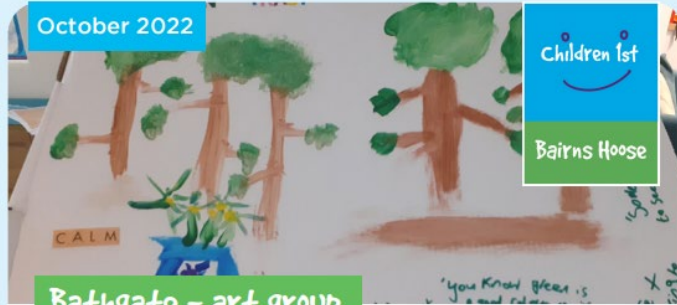
Worked alongside around **100 children, young people, parents and carers** across Scotland.

Developed and delivered creative workshops

Developed our individual participation



Newsletters were shared with Leadership and Property Manager which **informed the design** and development of North Strathclyde Bairns Hoose.



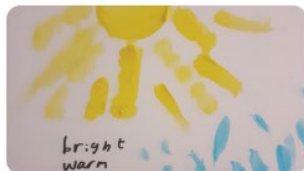
Bathgate - art group

What have we been up to?

We met with 6 young people at the Friday art group in our Children 1st Bathgate service. The young people had lots of ideas about what the Bairns Hoose might look and feel like. The group explored what makes a place feel safe, comfortable and cozy. This session focused on 'right place and space'.

The right place and space

The young people shared their ideas of what the Bairns Hoose might look and feel like. They reflected on in the inside of the house and shared lots of thoughts about the outside of the house.



North Ayrshire - family fun day

What have we been up to?

We met with 30 children aged between 2 - 12 years old at North Ayrshire's family fun day. The afternoon was filled with lots of lovely conversations about what the Bairns Hoose might look and feel like. The children explored what makes a place feel safe, comfortable and cozy. This session focused on 'right place and space'.

The right place and space

Children shared the importance of yummy (healthy) food, kind staff and the look and feel of the house being just right.

All of these things can help children feel better, safer and more at ease.



North Strathclyde - Summer Programme

What have we been up to?

We met up with 5 young people that attended the Bairns Hoose summer programme. The group were from the North Strathclyde area. We connected over food, lots of lovely chitchat and creativity. This session focused on the 'Right to be heard' & 'Right place and space'.

The right to be heard

The young people decorated figures using colour, shapes and words to help them to express what makes a 'good' and 'rubbish' listener.

They talked through their designs with workers and unpicked what



# 2022: Establishing North Strathclyde Changemakers Group



# Journey of North Strathclyde Changemakers group

## February 2022: 8 young people

- Informed design of house - working with Property Manager
- Scottish Bairns Hoose Standards
- Children First Bairns Hoose branding.

## October 2023: 9 young people

- Letters to professionals
- Scottish Bairns Hoose Standards.

## October 2023: 6 young people

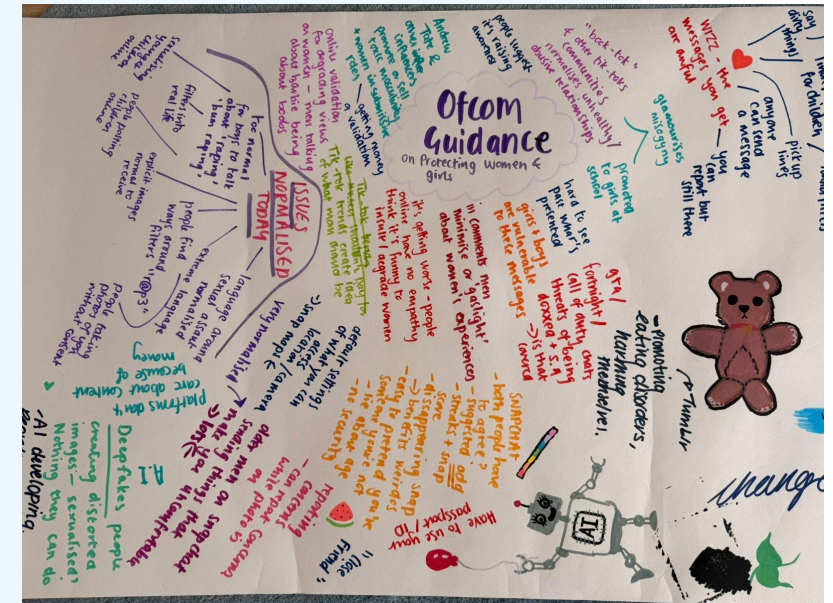
- Consulting with COPFS on Child Friendly letters
- Working with team to redesign leaflets given to young people attending interview
- Consulting with the Sycamore Research project
- Changemakers supported with young volunteers pathway within Children First
- Involved in the European ELPIS Project.



# Journey of North Strathclyde Changemakers group

## August 2024: 6 young people

- Shared views on the Ofcom Online Harm consultation
- Involved in the developments of Children First Strategic Priorities
- Changemakers involved in recruitment for Bairns Hoose Coordinator 2024
- Prepared interview questions for interview with recovery worker (three changemakers interviewed applicant) September 2025
- Request regarding Scottish Government – Health Improvement Scotland Bairns Hoose Blue-Print – Changemakers shared their views and answered HIS questions for YP. August 2025
- The Brilliant Bairns tea towel – fundraiser – designed and worked alongside Fundraising/C&M/ finance teams.

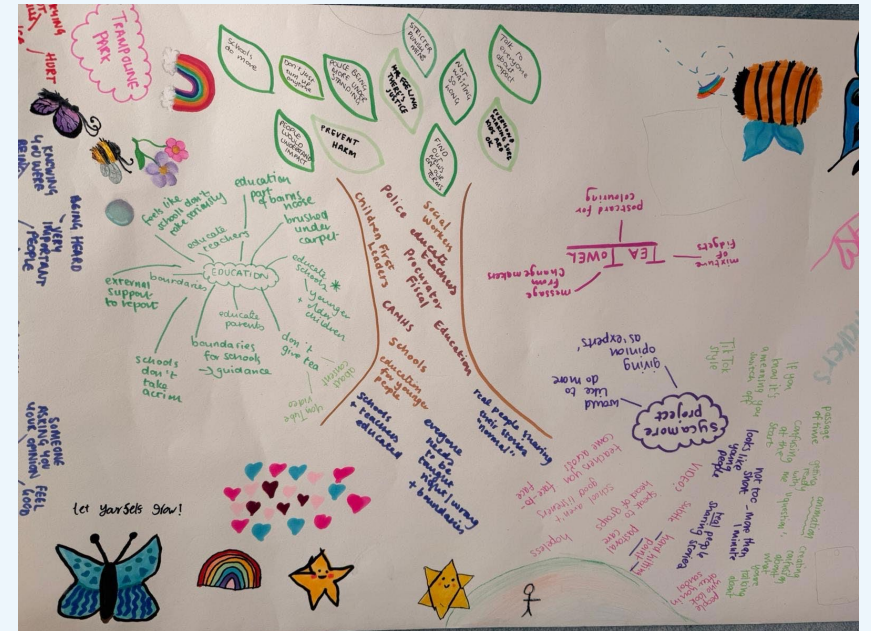




# Where are the Changemakers Group at today?

## Fifth cohort of North Strathclyde Changemakers

- Continued work on Brilliant Bairns tea towel.
- On mute May - working in partnership with Comms and Fundraising team to shine light on use of Social Media.
- Changemaker attended Edinburgh round table event about tackling online harm and spoke as a young campaigner (personal participation project) March 2026.
- Changemaker completed essay about tackling online harm, this was shared with Comms and policy (personal project) March 2026.



## Strategic Leadership & Governance

- Delivering the Vision Group.
- Bairns Hoose Oversight and Implementation Groups.
  - Scottish Government.
  - Link Worker Group.
- Senior Officers Groups.



## Standards, Quality & Design

- Health Improvement Scotland.
- Scottish Bairns Hoose Standards Development Group.
- Design Group (architects and interior designers).



## Audience & Influence

## Operational Practice & Justice Partners

- Team Managers of JII.
- Detective Inspector and Viper Unit.

## Events, Networks & External Engagement

- North Strathclyde Bairns Hoose launch events – PPL Head Office & Scottish Parliament.
- European Promise Network – Barnahus Network Forum.



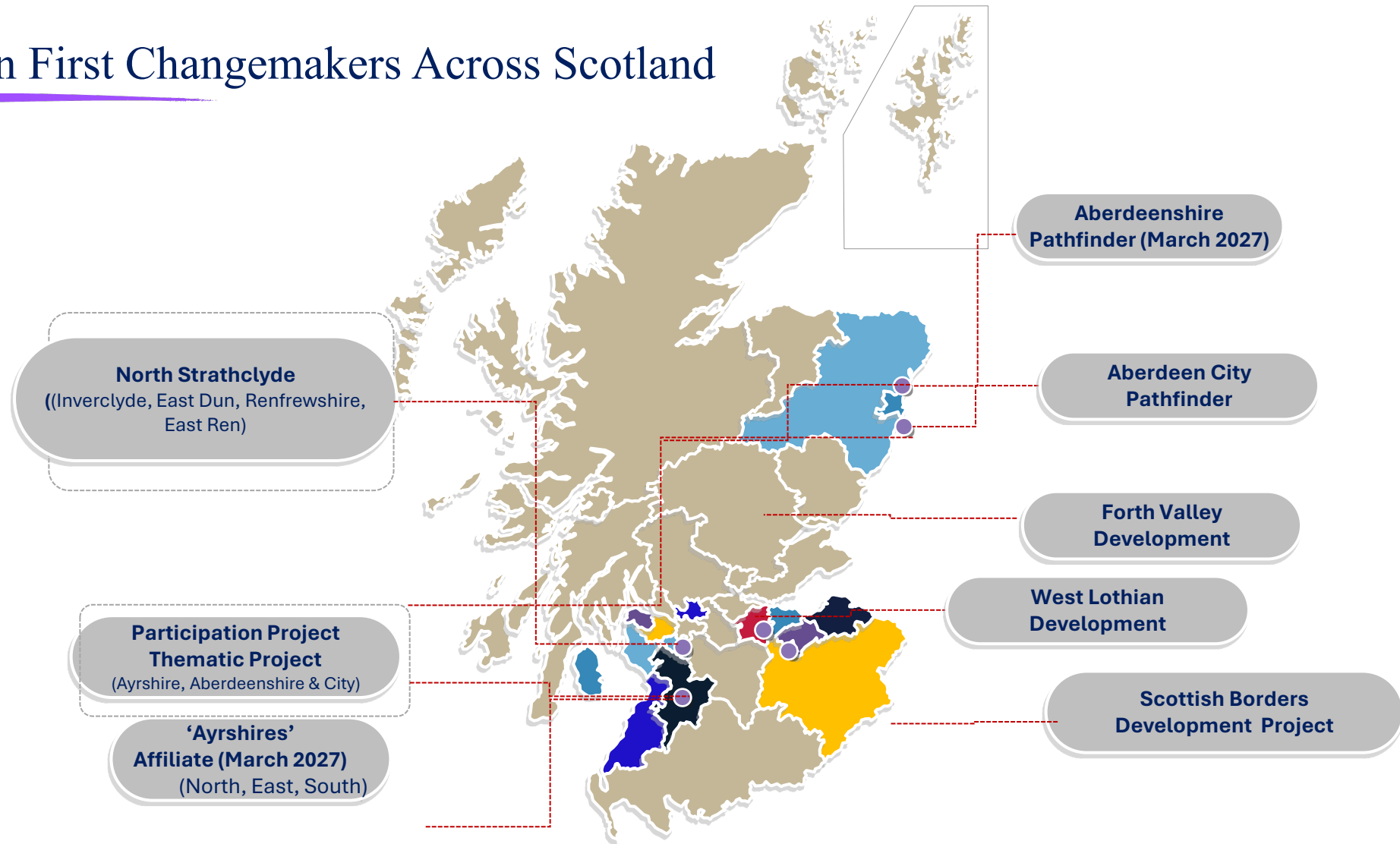
# Video of our Bairns Hoose



# Growing and developing

*Establishing our 'network' of Changemakers across Scotland*

# Children First Changers Across Scotland



### JOSIE'S STORY

When something terrible happened to us the police had to come and see me, my dad and grandma at our house. One of the things I keep remembering is **the way the police were standing**, looking like with their hands tucked only their pants, it's not something anyone else does. It felt quite **scary and strange**. I sat on the sofa, while they were standing asking me the questions, I didn't like this... Especially as they had down to speak to my dad! I would have liked to have known beforehand who was going to come and hear me and maybe what their gender was.

The nice thing that happened was when I was in assembly and someone from the office came to get me to see a social worker. I was in Primary 7 so that meant I was sitting on the benches at the back. Everyone turned around when I was called. It was **really embarrassing**. I wasn't expecting anyone to come and see me so this was a total shock. Everyone was wondering where I was going - and so was I! When I think about it, it's quite funny that the assembly was about our rights. **They didn't think about my rights** as a young person.

She went to one of the classrooms that girls used for music. There was a table in the middle of the room. The social worker sat down and asked me questions. She didn't make eye contact with me, which made me feel **really nervous**. She kept asking the same questions about my family. I answered clearly the first time around. **She made me feel unsafe**. The whole time she was with me she kept taking notes. Why couldn't she just talk to me? It was really awkward and helpful.

#### Josie's advice to adults

If you work with children or young people when things are difficult, make sure we know you are coming and when. This is helpful for us to understand why and what you might want to know.

If you're coming into our homes, sit down next to us so you're at the same height. We're not the same size, so please remember that.

When you visit, do you really need to wear a uniform? Also, for police officers - try and keep your hands out of your waist.

Please don't pull us out of an assembly or class, in front of others.

And when we do meet, take time to get to know us, look into our eyes and don't take notes the whole time.

If you take any of this advice, it will help make children & young people **feel safe, seen and heard!**

CHILDREN FIRST

Bairns  
★  
hoose

To learn more about our work



♥ CHANGE  
MAKERS ♥



### THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

CHILDREN FIRST Protecting Scotland's Children

"Children have no right to an opinion".

...CHANGE!

My children heard the average to speak up about bad things their dad did. Things I didn't even know about. When asked why they hadn't told me, they said it was to keep me safe.

It is one of the bravest things they will ever do. I think of them as my brave warriors.

In that terrible moment of shock their voice was heard and they were protected, before any harm was done with both bodies and minds and an 18 call.

My children were frightened and their experience has had a lasting impact on them. They have no faith in protection.

I felt broken and threatened. I could no longer be their safe. It shouldn't be this way.

The bottom line is, every child has a right to have their voice heard.

If only everyone thought this way.

Telling my children they have to go to their dad, after the court granted unsupervised access, despite them saying they didn't want to, is something that will haunt me for the rest of my life.

Weighting being expected to witness different events, go against your own parental instincts and have your back on your children's wishes and safety, whilst they cling harder to you for protection.

The court has failed to protect my children and uphold their rights and as a result suffered further pain and trauma.

1st

That's why Justice House is so important, for every child that needs it.

My children are no longer frightened. My child should never be.

### Letters from Once it's Over

hi, its Zack and caitin! We are happy that everything is sorted we are back at school! every one is being so kind it almost feels normal - but better/safe!

from zack + caitin

hi its lucy! I have finished court Everything went great! I still live at grans with mum and Tom Everything feels good again!

from lucy

Thank you to all of the children,  
young people and families who have  
been involved and bravely shared so  
much with us!

# Thank you

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