

# Open public consultation - EU guidance on integrated Child Protection Systems

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## 1 Context

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### 1.1 Aim of the public consultation

In 2012 and 2013 the European Forum on the rights of the child looked at the role of integrated child protection systems across a range of situations that children encounter, with a view to developing EU guidance on where and when the EU can support the EU countries and where individual EU countries can contribute to EU activities. The importance of developing such guidance was also reflected in the [EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016](#). The aim of this consultation is to allow as wide a range of stakeholders and organisations as possible to contribute to the development of guidance on integrated child protection systems.

### 1.2 Target audience of this public consultation

The public consultation is targeted primarily at those who have a role in the protection of children, including: child protection workers, social workers, guardians or guardians ad litem, police, prison staff, border guards, judges, prosecutors, children's lawyers, children's ombudspersons, academics, journalists and reporters, health practitioners, education professionals, Ministries of Social Affairs, Justice, Health, Education, Finance, Interior, Agencies and departments responsible for child protection, NGOs actively involved in protecting children or advocating for the rights of the child, international organisations, EU institutions and agencies, family organisations, media, etc.

### 1.3. Integrated child protection systems

For this consultation and the future guidance, we define an **integrated child protection system** as the way in which all actors, stakeholders and system components work together across sectors to form a protective and empowering environment for all children. Formal and informal structures, functions and capacities are assembled to **prevent and respond** to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, as set out in [Article 19 of the UN Convention on the rights of the child and in General Comment No 13 \(2011\) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence](#). It generally comprises the following components: human resources, finance, laws and policies, governance, monitoring and data collection as well as protection and response services and care management and includes the following actors: children, families, communities, those working at subnational or national level and those working internationally. Most important are the relationships and interactions between and among those components and those actors within the system. The outcomes of these interactions comprise the system. (For additional information on child protection systems see the [UNICEF 2012 Delhi conference report](#) under background documents).

Within the EU, child protection systems are primarily the responsibility of individual EU countries. However, in the light of the EU's general objective to promote protection of the rights of the child, the EU also has a role to play. The EU has a mandate to establish uniform, common or minimum rules, depending on the context, in the area of external borders, free movement within the EU, asylum, trafficking and other issues. The EU can also play a role when a child's safety involves more than one country, for example when an unaccompanied child moves from one country to another, or when a child goes missing.

#### 1.4 Aim of EU guidance on integrated child protection systems

- a) To provide information on EU legislation and policies relevant to integrated child protection systems
- b) To clarify where the EU can support national child protection systems
- c) To illustrate good practice on integrated child protection systems and to promote means of exchange of good practice in crossborder/transnational as well as national contexts

#### 1.5 Languages

You may submit your contribution in any official EU language. However, to facilitate our analysis and allow easy access to the information published, contributions in English would be welcome.

#### 1.6 Length of contribution

Completing the survey may take up to 30 minutes depending on the length of your replies to the open questions. To facilitate analysis of your replies we would kindly ask you to keep your answers concise and to the point. You may include URLs for relevant online content in your replies, in particular for the good practice examples that you wish to share.

#### 1.7 Confidentiality

Incoming contributions will be published on the website of DG Justice. (See also the [Privacy statement](#) )

#### 1.8 Deadline

The consultation will run over 12 weeks and close on 03/07/2014. No contributions will be accepted after the deadline.

## 2 Your role and the context in which you work

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2.0 Are you replying to this consultation:\*

- in a professional capacity and/or on behalf of an organisation
- as a private person

2.1 Organisation name\*

CHILDREN 1ST

2.2 What type of organisation do you work for?\*

- Child protection service
- Social services
- Police
- Prison
- Border guards
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Providers of legal services for children
- Guardian or guardian ad litem organisation
- Children's ombudsperson
- Health sector
- Education sector
- Academic institution
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Finance
- National, regional or local child protection agency
- NGOs actively involved in protecting children or advocating for the rights of the child
- Media
- International organisation
- EU institution or EU agency
- Other (please specify)

2.3 Function / Position\*

Policy Officer

2.4 Which country do you work in?\*

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

Scotland

### 3 Contact details

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3.1 Full Name\*

Sarah Vernon

### 3.2 Postal address (optional)

### 3.3 E-mail address\*

sarah.vernon@children1st.org.uk

## 4 National context

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Q1: Which group(s) of children do you work with most? (you may tick several boxes)

- Child victims of sexual abuse/exploitation
- Child victims of neglect or abuse
- Child victims of trafficking
- Children with disabilities
- Children in a situation of migration
- Unaccompanied children in a situation of migration
- Children without parental care/in alternative care
- Children in police custody or detention
- Street children
- Children of parents in prison or custody
- Children in judicial proceedings
- Children in or at risk of poverty
- Missing children (e.g. runaways, abducted children, unaccompanied children going missing)
- Children affected by custody disputes, including parental child abduction
- Children left behind (by parents who move to another EU country for work)
- Children belonging to minority ethnic groups, e.g. Roma
- Child victims of female genital mutilation or forced marriage
- Children who are not in compulsory education or training or working children below the legal age for work
- Child victims of bullying or cyberbullying
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

Young Carers, children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse

Q2: Please select which actors you work with the most (you may tick several boxes):

- Child protection service
- Social services
- Police
- Prison
- Border guards
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Providers of legal services for children
- Guardian or guardian ad litem organisation
- Children's ombudsperson
- Health sector
- Education sector
- Academic institution
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Finance
- National, regional or local child protection agency
- NGOs actively involved in protecting children or advocating for the rights of the child
- Media
- International organisation
- EU institution or EU agency
- Other (please specify)

Q3: In your opinion, which of the following common challenges for an integrated child protection system are the most important to address? (You may tick several boxes)

- Inadequate legal and policy framework
- Lack of quality data and knowledge
- Lack of resources (staff, financial, infrastructure)
- Lack of prevention and response services
- Lack of coordination
- Lack of oversight and accountability
- Lack of respect of the child's right to be heard (UNCRC Article 12)
- Lack of family and community involvement
- Other (please specify)

Q4: Can you share any examples of effective measures to prevent violence against children? Good practice examples should meet one or more of these criteria: promote child participation (UNCRC Article 12), make children and their families more resilient, raise awareness, promote and facilitate coordination among actors. Please focus on examples that could be of interest or relevance to other countries, explain the practice and why you think it is good.

- Yes  
 No

Please specify

CHILDREN 1ST Community engagement programme: CHILDREN 1ST believe it is everyone's responsibility to keep children safe. Through our "Communities putting Children First" programme, we work with local communities and groups to help raise the understanding and confidence of local people of the part they can play in supporting safe and nurturing communities in which children can grow, thrive and be protected from harm, through the provision of information and access to advice, training and support. We want to encourage changes in actions and behaviour, not just attitudes and beliefs. We recognise that while taking social responsibility is a matter of personal choice, it should be the norm of accepted and expected behaviour across a community – we are all responsible for supporting children's wellbeing. CHILDREN 1ST abuse and trauma recovery services: The children experiencing domestic abuse recovery (CEDAR) project is a therapeutic group work programme for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse. Mothers have the opportunity to attend a women's group to support their children. CHILDREN 1ST provides a CEDAR project in Moray and in the Scottish Borders in Scotland. The project is for children and young people aged four to 16 years who have been impacted by domestic abuse and violence in the home. The group work programme is designed to support children and young people to consider their feelings about the violence they have experienced and to provide them with the emotional literacy to discuss this with their mothers and others. The groups are designed to allow the children and young people the opportunity to:

- better understand and come to terms with their experiences of domestic abuse
- develop safety and problem solving skills
- feel able to express and understand their feelings

The project is effective in helping children become more resilient as it helps them to identify and create a safety plan, so the child knows what to do to be safe, and protected from violence in the home. For example, the child's safety plan may include, going to a neighbour, or knowing to call emergency services. CHILDREN 1ST Supporting Children and Families services: Our CHILDREN 1ST Supporting Children and Families services in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Midlothian support children and young people between five and 18 years who have been affected by either domestic abuse or sexual abuse. These services are funded by the STV (Scottish Television) Appeal and charitable trust. Through these services we:

- raise awareness of domestic abuse by working with Primary 6 and 7 children (children aged 10 to 12) in schools linked to high levels of domestic abuse in these local authority areas. The intention of this work is to reduce the children's likelihood of becoming impacted by domestic abuse by raising awareness of healthy relationships.
- use our longstanding expertise and experience in supporting children and young people to recover from abuse and trauma to support and enhance this work in schools.
- offer one-to-one and group therapeutic sessions to aid the recovery process for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse.
- increase awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children, even where they themselves have not been directly harmed
- educate and inform children and young people to help them make informed relationship choices through awareness raising sessions in targeted schools.
- deliver participative sessions in schools to establish positive gender roles, increase self esteem and raise awareness on how to be safe and seek help.

## 5 Crossborder or transnational context

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Q5: Have you carried out any work related to cross-border cases of child protection?

- Yes
- No

## 6 Coordination and cooperation mechanisms

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Q8: Can you provide an example of good coordination/cooperation with other actors at national level in preventing and/or responding to violence against children and outline the formal mechanisms behind this cooperation?

- Yes
- No



If yes, please specify:

One of the national services CHILDREN 1ST provides is Safeguarding in Sport. Safeguarding in Sport is a partnership between CHILDREN 1ST and sportscotland, (the national agency for sport). The service also works closely with governing bodies of sport, local authority sports/leisure departments, leisure trusts and sports clubs, the Scottish Sports Association and Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Scheme with the aim of helping children stay safe and have fun while taking part in sport. Safeguarding in Sport provide advice, consultancy, resources and training for sports organisations, coaches, volunteers, child protection officers – anyone who provides sport to children and young people. Safeguarding in Sport works with a variety of sports related and child protection agencies to ensure procedure is in place to prevent violence against children. Safeguarding in sport supports sport organisations put in place Minimum Operating Requirements (MORs). These are a set of eight operational standards that sports organisations should have in place, as a minimum to keep children safe, and promote consistency in the area of child protection in sport across Scottish governing bodies of sport, local authority sport and leisure departments and leisure trusts. The MORs are 1. A named contact for the co-ordination of child protection, with a role description, who has attended recommended training 2. A Child Protection Policy which reflects national guidelines, adopted by the Board / Executive / Management Committee. 3. A Code of Conduct for working with children and young people. 4. A variety of child protection training offered at appropriate levels for those working or volunteering with children and young people in sport. 5. A procedure for the recruitment and selection of those who work with children and young people, including access to PVG Scheme Membership checks. 6. A procedure for responding to concerns about the welfare or abuse of a child- within or out with sport. 7. A disciplinary procedure for managing concerns and allegations of poor practice, misconduct and child abuse and includes provision for referrals to the Children's List. 8. A procedure for reviewing the management of concerns about poor practice, misconduct and / or child abuse. Common Core of Skills, Knowledge & Understanding and Values for the "Children's Workforce" in Scotland: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/06/5565> The Common Core describes the skills, knowledge and understanding, and values that everyone should have if they work with children, young people and their families, whether they are paid or unpaid. This has been developed by the Scottish Government and other organisations through public consultation, and was further developed by a multi-disciplinary Working Group and in workshops by workers from a diverse range of roles, organisations and parts of the children's sector. They are also explicitly cross-referenced to the guiding principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the values are taken from the Getting It Right For Every Child approach employed in Scotland. The Common Core is advised for use by all those who employ or train employees who work with children, and individuals who work with children. It is vital for the protection of children to adopt the Common Core as a minimum standard - from the perspective of children, young people and their families, the Common Core forms the minimum expectations they will have of anyone who works with them because it reflects areas that are important to them. The Common Core has not been fully implemented at a national level in Scotland, but is recommended for use by employers, professionals, and other relevant organisations. More needs to be done to ensure that the Common Core is implemented throughout national actions such as National Occupational Standards, competency frameworks, and qualifications; through all relevant employer actions including in recruitment and induction, and job descriptions; and through professionals' individual actions.

Q9: Do you have any examples of the impact that policies in another EU country may have on child protection in your country?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify:

• The age to be legally competent to consent to sexual intercourse differs between different EU countries from 13 years old to 18 years old. In Scotland the age of consent is 16 years old. These differing EU member states policies on the age of consent means that there are inconsistencies between countries on what age a person having sexual intercourse with a young person would constitute child abuse. This is especially complicated with relationships between young people, for example between a 14 year old and 17 year old within a cross border context. • If we are to develop consistent approaches to child protection across the EU, we first need to consider stipulating a shared, consistent definition of the term “child”. • Scotland’s children still do not have equal protection from assault. CHILDREN 1ST, a founding member of Children Are Unbeatable (Scotland) notes that the UN has delivered reports to the UK, including Scotland, urging legal reform to give children equal protection. In the European Union, just four states have yet to commit to law reform: the UK, Belgium, France, and Ireland. This knowledge of the international policy landscape will help us to push for law reform in Scotland.

Q10: Can you provide an example of good coordination/cooperation with actors in another EU country in a cross-border context?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify:

The 2013 case of an English teacher who abducted a school girl taking her to France involved good coordination and cooperation between two EU countries, in this case Britain and France. This was a positive example of the use of the EU arrest warrant to extradite Forest and return the school girl home safely. CHILDREN 1ST has participated to the development of knowledge and practice across the EU on kinship care, on Family Group Conferences and on child victims and Witnesses through the EU Directive.

## 7 EU Legislation and policy and international standards

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Q11: Are you aware of any EU legislation or policy documents that address violence against children?

- Yes  
 No

Please specify which pieces of EU legislation or policy documents are most useful in addressing violence against children and briefly describe how they are useful? (Use legislation title and/or number e.g. Victims' Directive or Directive 2012/29/EU)

CHILDREN 1ST is aware of: • the EU Directive on Victims and Witnesses – This directive is useful to highlight where Scotland can do better and was used by MSPs, and campaigning organisations to promote and argue for new measures and standards for victims which are now outlined in the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2013. • Violence against women and children Directive – the Daphne Toolkit • The Council of Europe Campaign to stop sexual violence against children policy documentation and the One in five (“Underwear Rule”) campaign toolkit are useful for organisations like ours to use for campaigns highlighting child sexual abuse, and violence against children and young people.

Q12: Can you provide one or more examples of how implementation of international standards has contributed to better protection of children in cross-border situations?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify:

In 2012 an EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights and protection of victims of crime (2012/29/EU) was finalised. This gave impetus for the Scottish Government to act on Victims issues, and to make sure that Scotland is in line with the Directive. To make sure Scotland is in line with this Directive, the Scottish Government brought in the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill in 2013 for consultation, which was passed as an Act later that year. The Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act means that children will get better information about their case in a way they understand, and that they are better protected during the police investigation and court proceedings.

## 8 EU Funding

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Q13: Do you consider EU funding useful for improving child protection systems?

- Yes  
 No

What should EU funding best be used for?

EU funding should be used to ensure that good practice in effective child protection mechanisms can be used by other countries, and shared to increase learning across the EU. EU funding will be useful to ensure that countries can embark on campaigns that are “joined up” and use other countries’ toolkits to help realise the UNCRC and to protect children and young people from violence. Campaigns to ban the physical punishment of children are a good example of the use of possible EU funding. In the Scottish “Children are Unbeatable” coalition, chaired by CHILDREN 1ST, has learnt from other EU countries’ campaigns and has applied for Daphne funding to expand the campaign. EU funding would be useful for more trans-national and cross-border engagement, facilitating NGOs to meet and share and collaborate.

## 9 Data collection and research

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Q14: Can you provide examples of how you use available data and figures to inform your work (policy, legislative, funding, awareness-raising)?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify:

CHILDREN 1ST uses a variety of different data sources to inform our policy and influencing of the Scottish Parliament, UK Parliament and Scottish Government. We refer to the European Union Centre for Fundamental Rights research reports, we use Scottish Government data and statistics on “looked after children” and use Scottish crime statistics when campaigning about issues relating to child victims of abuse and violent crime. However, there is a distinct lack of data in Scotland on civil and criminal justice relating to children which is something that needs to be addressed. CHILDREN 1ST also uses an Integrated Information Management System (IIMS) to collect data from our individual services and people we support. We record and monitor the number of people we support, and also record and monitor their “outcomes”. These outcomes are measured against the SHANARRI (Safe, Happy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, respected, included) well-being indicators that are used by professionals in Scotland as part of the “Getting it Right for Every Child” practice model. We measure their outcomes to help us monitor and evaluate their progress and improvement, and to help tailor the approach for the family if necessary.  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

Q15: Can you provide examples of available Europe-wide information about the situation of children that is useful for your work in addressing violence against children?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify:

We are aware of the European Union Centre for Fundamental Rights and its reports, however would like to know about other resources and research available in this area.

Q16: Can you give one or more examples of research or benchmarking which has been particularly helpful in your work to address violence against children?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify:

• Domestic Abuse delivery plan for children and Young People  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/228073/0061720.pdf> • Scotland is currently updating its violence against women and girls strategy.  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women> • The Centre for Fundamental Rights reports • Child Rights International Network (CRIN)

## 10 Child participation

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Q17: In the context of preventing and/or responding to violence against children, can you give a good practice example of how children's views were solicited or heard (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12) and how they influenced a decision-making process?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify:

• Scottish Government “Voices against Violence” is a group of eight young experts who have first hand experience of domestic abuse and different services. These young people, alongside the Scottish Government and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) work to tackle domestic abuse and improve the lives of children. <http://www.voiceagainstvviolence.org.uk/> • The joint CHILDREN 1ST and Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) campaign – “Letter to Santa” in 2011 raised awareness of domestic abuse and published the abuse and trauma recover services CHILDREN 1ST provides <http://www.children1st.org.uk/what-we-do/our-services/search-our-services/recovery-from-abuse-and-trauma/> The campaign used therapeutic artwork and statements by the children to give them their own voice in a campaign. Using the Letter to Santa written by children the campaign raised the profile of both the terrible impact that domestic abuse has on children and how it robs them of normal childhood experiences, such as a peaceful Christmas surrounded by a loving family. It also highlighted that children can overcome some of the issues domestic abuse causes if they are given help to recover. • CHILDREN 1ST actively ensure that our policy work is influenced by the children and young people who use our services. In our recent policy work, campaigning to influence the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill 2013 (now Act) we used children’s experiences of their interaction with the justice system in Scotland to highlight the need for change, and to support our policy briefings. We used these case examples to inform our policy briefings about the bill, our amendments that we lodged through MSPs for the bill, and our briefings to inform the Scottish Parliament during Stage 2 and 3 of the Bill process. • The Children’s Parliament is a Scottish charity that gives children the opportunity to voice their ideas, thoughts and feelings so that their concerns and opinions can be listened to and included in our social and political landscape. Children’s Parliament gives ideas a voice. Children’s Parliament works with children from birth to 14 years old. They engage with their families, schools and communities and use the creative arts to help children express their ideas and opinions and they use a thematic and holistic approach. <http://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/> The work of the Children’s Parliament has been used to help influence Scottish Government policy. The Children’s Parliament submitted a response to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill consultation in 2013 (now Act), highlighting what children thought of some of the issues including the “Named Person”, Children’s Rights, and the sharing of their personal information.

## 11 Capacity building/Training

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Q18: Can you give examples of any multidisciplinary or interagency training programmes in your country or in a cross-border context?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please describe briefly these training programmes and their benefits:

In Scotland, all regional child protection committees are multi agency committees which provide multidisciplinary and interagency training programmes on specific aspects of child protection. In Scotland, some training courses are provided via third sector organisations working in partnership with the local authority. In its work with professionals, CHILDREN 1ST has found that professionals very often feel inexperienced, ill-equipped, and often not sufficiently supported by colleagues or managers to adapt the process accordingly. This can mean that child protection processes are not as child centred as they should be. A range of potential solutions exist for making Scotland's child protection system more effective from a child's perspective. These include -

- Granting children greater control over the process, including how much time they can take disclosing and who children can have around to support them during the process;
- Promoting professional confidence and skills so that people feel informed, trained and supported by their managers to respond to abuse allegations in a child-centred rather than process-focused manner.
- Involving adult survivors in the ongoing development of child protection processes, including the development of training for professionals. Their input can be instrumental in identifying barriers to children disclosing abuse, and ways to overcome these, as well as helping to gather examples of good and bad practice within child protection responses.
- More identification and promotion of examples of good practice are needed. Whilst most professionals can easily identify instances of effective collaboration or rapid response, it is more difficult to cite examples of child protection processes that were a success from the child's perspective.
- Promoting child protection amongst professionals and lay people requires the ability to listen to children.
- The media has a role in shifting public attitudes and supporting the work of professionals to protect children.
- Guidance should not be interpreted as inflexible regulations or rules. Professionals need to become more open to adapting guidance to fit individual cases.

Q19: Is there a need for more training?

- Yes  
 No

## 12 Awareness

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Q20: Can you give examples of any campaigns held in your country on the prevention of violence against children within the last three years?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify and provide relevant hyperlinks:

In 2011 CHILDREN 1ST worked with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Scotland to raise awareness of violence in the home and its impact on children and to publicise the work the charity does with children who have been affected by it. The campaign used therapeutic artwork and statements by the children to give them their own voice in a campaign with great emotional impact on readers. Using a Letter to Santa written by one of the children the campaign raised the profile of both the terrible impact that domestic abuse has on children and how it robs them of normal childhood experiences, such as a peaceful Christmas surrounded by a loving family. It also highlighted that children can overcome the trauma caused by a poor start in life if they are given the right support at the right time. In 2013/ 2014 CHILDREN 1ST launched our campaign See. Hear. Speak. Act on child sexual abuse. The campaign is keeping the spotlight on child sexual abuse, encouraging everyone to see, hear, speak and act when a child has been sexually abused. When young people are vulnerable we must see them. When they ask for support we must hear them. When they are not able to we must speak on their behalf. Everyone needs to Act today to put Scotland's children first. Last year we undertook an extensive consultation with staff, volunteers and survivors of child sexual abuse which has enabled us to plan meaningful activity. The three key aims of the campaign are: • Raising awareness of impact of trauma with professionals and public • Awareness raising • Education for children and young people We are currently working on the first of these and have teamed up with one of Scotland's leading marketing agencies to create a range of posters, accompanied by a resource pack, specifically aimed at adults who work with children – teachers, doctors, social workers and others. The posters will encourage people to consider how well they really listen to children. At CHILDREN 1ST we know that timing is key to helping children who have been sexually abused. The sooner they are listened to and taken seriously, the sooner they can be supported to recover. We know that it can be incredibly difficult for children to disclose sexual abuse, so by encouraging those working with children to listen more carefully, to behaviour as well as words, we hope to remove some of the barriers to disclosure. You can find out more about the campaign here: <http://www.children1st.org.uk/campaigns/see-hear-speak-act/>

Q21: Can you give examples of how the media in your country have reported on violence against children?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please specify and provide hyperlinks if relevant:

The media coverage received for the "letter to Santa" campaign is one example of how the media in Scotland reports on violence against children. The campaign reached newspapers with a combined circulation above 600,000. Daily Record 2011:  
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/boys-heartbreaking-letter-to-santa-is-focus-1088864>  
The Daily Record 2011 : "Children's pictures that paint hundreds of painful, sad words"  
<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Children's+pictures+that+paint+hundreds+of+painful,+sad+words%3B...-a0274743742> This article reports on domestic violence experienced by children, and highlights CHILDREN 1ST service LetsBSafe 2, which is a service supporting children impacted by Domestic violence in the Scottish Borders.



Q22: Can you give examples of how you worked with the media to influence policy or practice changes?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please specify:

CHILDREN 1ST worked with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Scotland, to produce the “The letter to Santa campaign” which highlighted the impact of violence in the home and its impact on children. We were able to place a number of media articles which highlighted the issue, and the importance of abuse and trauma recovery services. Through our See. Hear. Speak. Act on child sexual abuse campaign we have worked closely with the media to raise the issue of child sexual abuse. We launched this campaign because it’s everybody’s responsibility to protect children. We need to open our eyes, listen to children and help them speak up when things are wrong. And we also need to act. More needs to be done to protect children and to help them recover from sexual abuse and harm. Examples of media work are: Daily record media release featuring Jess Ryan, one of our ambassadors for the See. Hear. Speak. Act campaign. Jess spoke out against the abuse she endured as a child, to help raise awareness of the issue and the need for more abuse and trauma recovery services. You can read more of Jess’s story here: <http://www.children1st.org.uk/what-we-do/personal-stories/jesss-story/> An MSP backed our campaign, and declared that he would push for more abuse and trauma recovery services to help those affected by sexual abuse. In an article by the Ross-shire journal, The MSP expressed his support for our campaign, calling on the need for more abuse and trauma recovery services and his efforts to help with this policy change. We have also worked with the media on various newspaper articles, highlighting our campaign and the need for policy and practice change – for more abuse and trauma recover services. In 2012 for example – A newspaper ran a story “75 kids on waiting list to be saved from abuse” highlighting our See. Hear. Speak. Act campaign, and highlighted the importance of our abuse and trauma recovery services; how they can help children and the urgent need for more across Scotland.

## 13 Accountability

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Q23: How should the performance of integrated child protection systems be appropriately monitored and supervised?

Single agencies should ensure that they have a skilled workforce at their disposal that can be used to full capacity. Key and senior people should have responsibility of auditing single-agency. There should also be a senior owner tasked with ensuring that agencies are integrated and taking collective responsibility for integrated systems. Systems should not be merely a deposit for information. Vital that robust mechanisms are in place to ensure proper input of information, and that workforce can use information analytically. Single-agency and multi-agency collective should not be a barrier to information, but also not contain an overwhelming amount of information that is impossible to use productively. There should be rigorous reviews of the system to ensure that it is a practical working tool, and not an end in itself.

## 14 EU support

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Q24: In which of these areas could the EU support national child protection systems and cross-border cooperation? (Please rank: 1 = most importance -> 6 = least importance).

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Coordination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EU legislation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
EU funding	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capacity building	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Awareness-raising	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q24.1 Are there any other areas where the Eu could support national child protection systems and cross-border cooperation? Please specify:

Explanation for q24 (above) 1. EU Funding (set-up costs involved, lots of resources needed at front end) 2. Capacity building (vital that there is enough staff at disposal) 3. Awareness-raising (important that data can be collected from people in an informed position) 4. Data collection (see above) 5. Coordination 6. EU legislation (can only be most effective if each of the 5 areas above are in place)

## Follow-up to this public consultation

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Contributions received in the course of this online public consultation will be posted on the [DG Justice website](#) and taken into account during elaboration of the guidance on integrated child protection systems. It is expected that the guidance will be adopted in the last quarter of 2014.