

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014
PART 1 SECTION 2 DUTIES ON PUBLIC AUTHORITIES
REPORTING PERIOD 1 APRIL 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2020**

BACKGROUND

The State Hospital is one of four high secure hospitals in the UK. Located in South Lanarkshire in central Scotland, it is a national service for Scotland and Northern Ireland and one part of the pathway of care that should be available for those with secure care needs. The principal aim is to rehabilitate patients, ensuring safe transfer to appropriate lower levels of security.

Within The State Hospital we primarily fulfil our commitments to children and young people through our Keeping Children Safe and Corporate Parenting responsibilities. These align with local and national commitments to promoting the wellbeing and rights of children and young people who come into contact with our service. These areas of work are reported on annually to The State Hospitals Board which provides governance and oversight of practice.

Additionally, we prepare a Corporate Parenting Plan every three years to outline our progress and improvements in this area. The Social Work Manager attends the Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee and engages with local partners in the development and review of policies related to children and young people.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014 – PART 1 SECTION 2

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is one of the core international human rights treaties. It is a holistic framework for the rights of all children and a universally agreed set of minimum child rights standards. Governments are expected to do all they can to implement the UNCRC - to make sure all law, policy and decisions which impact on children from birth to 18 comply with their human rights. The UNCRC articles are interdependent - the mutually-reinforcing nature of children's rights means that civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights all have equal status and are indivisible.

Part 1 (section 2) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ("the Act") places a duty on a range of public authorities (including all local authorities and health boards) to report, "as soon as practicable" after the end of each 3 year period, on the steps they have taken to secure better or further effect of the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

PROGRESS WITHIN THE STATE HOSPITAL

Our service is committed to the process of incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law which we hope will help children and young people to access their rights more readily. Recognising, respecting and promoting the rights of children and young people is crucial to improving outcomes and increasing life chances. A rights based approach can make a significant difference to the lives of children and young people and can help to improve the quality of services.

In reviewing and reflecting upon our services it is noted that we can demonstrate our commitment to meeting our responsibilities under the Act in the following ways:

- We proactively consider children's rights in service planning, engaging with and undertaking consultation with relevant stakeholders (including children and young people and parents/carers) (Article 4).

- We ensure that the services we provide for children and young people conform to established national standards and provide high quality services and staffing (Article 4).
- We have a skilled and competent workforce committed to upholding children's rights. Training on children's rights, encompassing GIRFEC and SHANARRI, is available to our staff and is provided for those in senior, managerial and practitioner roles (Article 4)
- With reference to policy and service delivery, we take our commitment to children's rights into account in decisions on resource allocation (Article 4).
- We use a range of measures to seek children and young people's views about matters that affect them and always consider the child's views in determining what is in the child's best interests (Articles 3 and 12).
- We signpost children and young people who want to make a complaint, and/or those acting on their behalf, to clear and transparent complaints processes (Article 3 and 12).
- Information sharing is proportionate and appropriate and complies with the Data Protection Act while recognising a child's right to privacy (Article 16).
- We seek and take account of children and young people's views prior to making decisions in child protection and other processes (Article 12).
- We take measures to ensure that no form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment to children is tolerated in our services (Article 37 (a)).
- We seek and take account of children and young people's views prior to making decisions that affect them (Article 12).
- We provide support to children and young people who experience complex family circumstances (e.g. young carers; children who have a parent in prison / hospital) (Article 18).
- Our management team is informed of their duties and fulfils their responsibilities as corporate parents (Article 18).

PLAN OF ACTION

In progressing the children's rights agenda, The State Hospital will seek to deliver on the following commitments as part of our plan of action to further improve and develop children's rights based practice as key feature of our work:

- Develop the use of the Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) in relation to our Corporate Parenting Strategy, Keeping Children Safe Policy and Procedures and any other areas of policy and strategy affecting children and young people.
- Further develop awareness of Children's Rights into workforce learning and development.
- Be imaginative in engaging with children and young people who are less likely to engage in traditional processes.
- Work with parents and carers to raise their awareness of children's rights and promote their understanding of these rights.
- Further develop reporting on children's rights into our Child and Adult Protection Forum Annual Report and Corporate Parenting Plan. These can then be utilised to inform and develop future goals and actions and form the basis for our reporting under Part 1 (section 2) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- Produce child friendly versions of our activities relating to children and young people.