



Bairns' Hoose Newsletter



Celebrating Highland Affiliate Launch

Scottish Government Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd visited Inverness on Friday 24th May 2024 to launch the Bairns' Hoose programme for Highland.

The Minister addressed around 70 members of staff, managers and leaders from across the Highland partnership at the Highland Council Chambers before heading to a private visit at the Inverness Bairns' Hoose to meet staff involved in the Scottish Child Interview Model for Joint Investigative Interviews and Bairns' Hoose locally.

The Minister said: "It is the Scottish Government's ultimate ambition that every child and young person who have witnessed or experienced harm, can access Bairns' Hoose services to support their wellbeing.

Implementing the Scottish Child Interview Model is a key step towards delivering a child-centred approach to justice, care and recovery for children and young people who have experienced trauma."

She added: "I am pleased that the programme has now been launched in Highland, bringing us towards our aim of Bairns' Hoose happening wherever the child is."

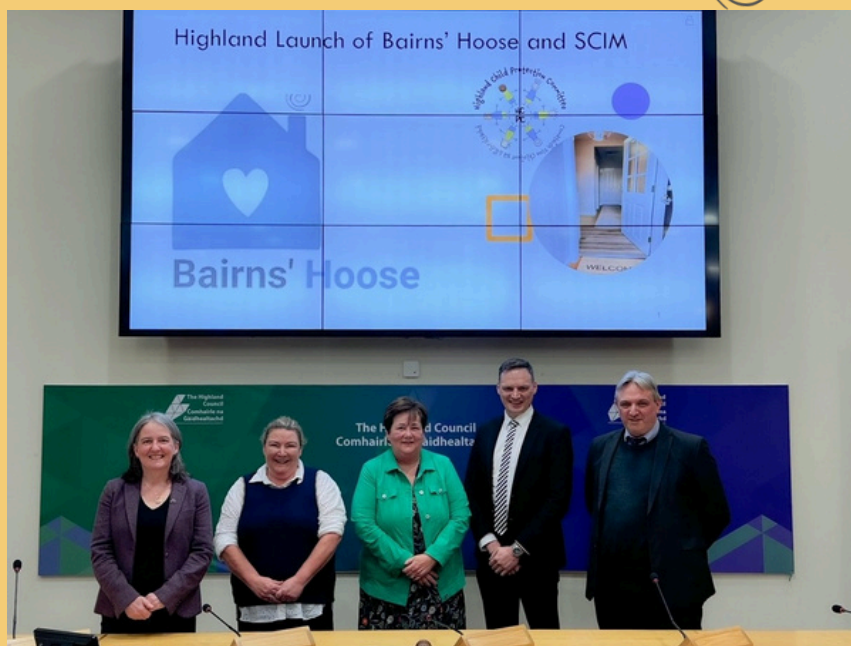
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Bairns' Hoose Funding Update

Pathfinders and Affiliates are progressing with their Bairns' Hoose projects. Impact Funding Partners' reports indicate that each partnership is collecting rich learning and valuable insights.

The Thematic Fund is now closed and applicants have been notified of their award outcome. This phase of funding runs to the 31st of March 2025 and is aimed to support short-life, project-based, thematic test of change activities.



Bairns' Hoose Analysis Update

Literature Review

The Bairns' Hoose project research team is working on a literature review on existing national-level guidance and good practices, and evidence from international Barnahus model applications or similar multi-agency settings.



Development of Bairns' Hoose Indicators – setting up a working group

Scottish Government analysts are setting up a working group to co-design a set of indicators initially for all Pathfinder/ Affiliate areas, and, longer-term for all Bairns' Hoose partnerships. The aim of the working group will be to establish a core indicator set which provides a holistic overview of Bairns' Hooses at local and national level, engage with children and young people, and agree on a recording template to facilitate data collection. The indicators will be used during the Bairns' Hoose evaluation and beyond that, can be used as a tool for partnerships to assess their strengths and areas where more support is needed.

The working group, alongside Scottish Government officials and stakeholders, will include someone with knowledge and understanding of data nominated by each Pathfinder and Affiliate partnership. The working group is anticipated to run from summer 2024 until approximately the end of 2025.

Bairns' Hoose Knowledge Exchange

Bairns' Hoose Event Programme

We recently launched a new knowledge exchange event programme for Pathfinder and Affiliate partnerships.

Our event programme is made up of the following series:

1. International webinar series: international researchers and practitioners reflect on their Barnahus journey and present their learning and examples of good practice.
2. Insights series: a virtual space for Pathfinders to engage in active discussion with others. The Insights series will focus on structured learning from the StART and analytical work.
3. Data and evaluation series: aims to coordinate and align existing improvement and service design work across Scotland. Guest speakers will communicate findings and research from other projects or evaluations related to Pathfinders and Affiliates.
4. General series: this is will be scheduled based on specifically-requested topics or need for peer support.

Affiliate Forum

Our Affiliate partnerships continue to have forum meetings facilitated by Impact Funding Partners.

We look forward to the next Affiliate forum on Monday 2nd September which will provide Affiliates with further opportunities to share learning and access support.

Anniversary Event

We are hosting an event to celebrate the 1 year anniversary of the Pathfinder Phase of the Bairns' Hoose programme on 24th October. We are delighted to be welcoming Bragi Gudbrandsson, founder of the Barnahus model to our event in Aberdeen. There we will bring together our partners and celebrate our progress so far in implementing Bairns' Hoose in Scotland.



Spotlight on the Bairns' Hoose Research Team

The Bairns' Hoose research team comprises analysts from Scottish Government and the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ).

Scottish Government analysts Dafni Dima and Franca MacLeod are leading on the analysis part of the Bairns' Hoose project and have oversight of the analytical workplan. Dafni, with oversight from Franca, lead on the co-development of a set of core indicators on Bairns' Hoose and will plan, commission and project manage a contract for Year 2 and 3 of the Pathfinder analysis phase and the production of a Pathfinder Analytical Report, as well as the evaluation which will start after the end of the Pathfinders phase. Dafni and Franca are here to support Pathfinders with any questions on data and evidence, data sharing, research and evaluation.

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) is based within the University of Strathclyde and brings together a breadth of evidence and expertise in children and young people's participation, research evidence, practice wisdom and system know-how to operate as a leader for child and youth justice thinking in Scotland and beyond.

CYCJ is grant funded by the Scottish Government for Year 1 of the Pathfinder phase to undertake an analytical workplan for Bairns' Hoose. CYCJ researchers, Viki Sebhelyi and Marianiki Vlachou, are providing analytical support focused on implementation and processes, in order to document the journey to becoming a Bairns' Hoose and inform the development of a Bairns' Hoose blueprint. CYCJ researchers will deliver a literature review and analysis of the StART tool submissions, as well as additional outputs to be agreed, to support policy development and Pathfinder delivery.

Marianiki is an international human rights researcher, specialising in children rights. Previous projects include research on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, and children and young people's participation in the Scottish Government's strategic decision-making in implementing the UNCRC in Scotland.

Viki is a child trafficking professional who has supported the establishment of Hungarian Child Hearing Centers through research. She facilitated child participation in Barnahuses by establishing a Child Advisory Board, organising roundtable discussions for multi-agency professionals, and conducting analysis on Child Advocacy Centers in the USA. She contributed to the work of the Promise network through a trafficking publication, facilitated child participation projects for the Barnahus forum, and organised Barnahus webinars both in-person and online.



Spotlight on the Bairns' Hoose Research Team- SCIM

Lucy Holland is leading the evaluation of the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) for Joint Investigative Interviews (JIIs). This is a research project to explore SCIM's implementation across Scotland, exploring the experiences of professionals implementing SCIM in practice, and those utilising the outputs of SCIM JIIs as evidence in justice proceedings. The research is also investigating the use and efficacy of SCIM JIIs as Evidence in Chief in criminal proceedings, hearsay in civil proceedings, as well as in Children's Hearings, and the resulting impact on children and families regarding further evidence requirements. Finally, the research seeks to ascertain SCIM's efficacy in providing children and young people with an interview process that is trauma-informed, rights-respecting and appropriate to their needs. Lucy and her colleague Erin Hastings are currently carrying out fieldwork with participants across Scotland, collecting data on their experiences and perceptions of SCIM.



Lucy has a background in child rights, holding a Master's with Distinction in Child Rights from Queen's University Belfast, where she is currently completing her PhD. Her research skills involve using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, combined with a rights-based approach to research design, implementation, governance and dissemination. Her research interests lie in migration – particularly the experiences of refugee and asylum-seeking children in the UK – as well as justice, gender and LGBTQIA+ rights.

After graduating from the University of the West of Scotland with a BA (Hons) in Social Work, Erin joined the Who Cares? Scotland 1000 Voices team. Over two years, Erin supported Care Experienced people across Scotland to participate in the Independent Care Review. Erin then spent three years in Aotearoa, New Zealand as a Kaiwhakamana (advocate) and Kaiarahi (team leader) at the independent advocacy organisation for Care Experienced people, VOYCE Whakarongo Mai. On returning to Scotland, Erin worked for Guardianship Scotland, supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people to navigate the complex asylum system and advocating to ensure their needs were being met.

