

# Strategic Summary Plan 2017–2018

## Our Vision

Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) promotes childminding as a quality childcare service, through its Vision for childminding. This was developed by the Association's Elected Members, who are all current active childminders. Our Vision is:

*“Quality Childminding... building confident children within a family childcare experience”*

The Scottish Government's aspiration is for “Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow up and the best place in the world to bring up children”.

Our Strategic Plan is designed to support the achievement of this high-level aspiration, focussing on how childminders fit within current national policy and strategic developments such as:

- the Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative including Raising Attainment for All;
- the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC](#) emphasising children's rights;
- the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act](#) with particular reference to the delivery of the funded hours of ELC and [Building the Ambition](#) practice guidance;
- the implementation of the Early Years Framework and the National Performance Framework <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/purposestratobj> which includes support and development of small businesses like childminding;
- the intended extension to [1140 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare](#) (ELC) including full engagement with our members;
- the outcomes of the [Child Poverty Strategy](#) including the importance of community childminding to improving child and family outcomes;
- and is underpinned by [Getting it Right for Every Child](#) (GIRFEC).

In order to achieve our Vision we focus on the following areas...

## Strong Foundations

The emphasis here is on the childminder's journey through the registration process, on to their first inspection and developing their service to build a resilient business for the future. Strong Foundations provides all the products and services childminders need to make sure they can provide a high quality service for children and families. It includes:

- Materials and support to assist childminders on their childminding journey
- Induction Training including access to further relevant workshops and e-Learning opportunities.
- Access to a complete Business Starter Pack.
- Tailored insurance policies covering all aspects of a childminders business.
- Confidential SCMA Helpline and legal advice service.
- Provision of after-care and website support.

## Support

As childminders progress in their career SCMA is on hand to provide services when and where they are needed from experienced staff who understand childminding in Scotland. The range of support services include:

- SCMA Helpline providing information and advice to potential and active childminders.
- Online Membership Dashboard which personalises your visits to our website.
- Local staff providing information, advice, training and support to all in their area.
- Quality Improvement Officer travelling across Scotland to ensure SCMA members are aware of what we provide, and your feedback helps us develop services that meet your needs.
- Membership Support Officer, helping our newest members to be business-ready and providing guidance to those members who need it on an individual basis.
- Individual and group support which is provided by phone, email and face to face contact.

## A Voice

It is important that childminding is recognised as a key part of the professional workforce, providing care for 32,660<sup>1</sup> children mostly between 0 – 12 years in Scotland. Significantly this includes a quality flexible service to preschool children and a large proportion of year round out of school care.

As all childminders are running independent businesses within their own communities, our role is to ensure that representation is made at the highest levels of government and with other national bodies, including the Care Inspectorate, influencing policy around childminding.

Particular focus at the moment is on the inclusion of childminding services in the delivery of the funded hours of ELC. Our strong member base of 4,500 childminders throughout Scotland - and the ease with which we can communicate with them - provides the opportunity for their voices to be heard convincingly.

## Professional Growth

All businesses need to grow and develop to ensure sustainability and continuous quality improvement. SCMA provides a range of learning opportunities and materials for our members which supports their learning pathway by:

- Delivering a range of workshops and e-Learning programmes designed to meet childminders learning and training requirements.
- Materials and support tools to assist childminders on their learning pathway.
- Networking opportunities across Scotland for childminders to gain relevant information and share best practice.

SCMA provides development opportunities to support and encourage diversity in childminding settings. We promote childminding as an invaluable community resource:

- Securing contracts to deliver specialist services such as Community Childminding.
- Further developing out of school care.
- Ensuring parents can access 1140 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare with a childminding service anywhere in Scotland.

Our focus is our Vision and our ultimate goal is to **Make a Difference** to the wellbeing and development of Scotland's children. This overarching objective guides us and ensures that children's wellbeing is always at the core of our activities.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/2722/Childcare%20Statistics%202015.pdf>