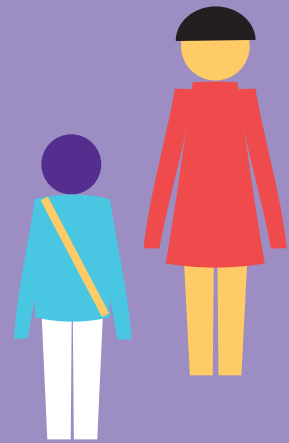


# Parenting across Scotland 2018 conference

## Supporting Families



**26 April 2018, West Park conference centre, Dundee**

This major conference run by Parenting across Scotland looks at the impact of austerity and welfare reform on families using the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a framework for supporting families.

Many families in Scotland are struggling because of austerity. Finances, housing and health are all under pressure. For families to thrive, parenting or family support alone are not enough: parents need sufficient income, adequate housing and good health care.

The UNCRC states that the family is the most appropriate place for children, that parents hold rights on behalf of their children, and that the state has the duty to support parents in delivering these rights.



**#supportingfamilies18**

# Conference programme

Chair – Sally Ann Kelly, Aberlour

**9.30am**      **Registration**

**10.00am**      **Welcome and introduction to conference**  
**Chair**

**10.15am**      **Minister for Childcare and Early Years**  
**Maree Todd**

**10.35am**      **How the UNCRC supports parents and families**  
**Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People’s Commissioner Scotland**  
Hear from Bruce Adamson, the Commissioner for Children and Young People Scotland, about how the UNCRC is a vehicle for supporting the whole family so that they can in turn support children.

**11.05am**      **Families under austerity**  
**Dr Morag Treanor, University of Stirling**  
Learn about Dr Morag Treanor’s current research which uses birth cohort data, mainly the Growing Up in Scotland study, to explore the impacts of longitudinal poverty and persistently low and high incomes on children’s outcomes and educational transitions.

**11.35am**      **Tea & coffee**

**12.00pm**      **GPs in at the Deep End - supporting Scotland’s families: rights, respect, relationships**  
**Dr Anne Mullin, GPs at the Deep End**  
The role of General Practice as family doctors with our unique role in providing unconditional, continuous care to all within the family unit and focusing on parental and child unmet needs. The context is a Deep End practice but the application of learning is universal.

**12.30pm**      **Ask the panel – questions and answer**

**12.45pm**      **Lunch**

**1.30pm**      **Workshops**

**2.30pm**      **Supporting families: towards a new model of family support**  
**Professor Brid Featherstone, University of Huddersfield**  
The Child Welfare Inequalities Project research conducted by Professor Brid Featherstone and others looked at how children from poor neighbourhoods are significantly more likely to face child protection measures. Learn about the implications for addressing family poverty in child protection and supporting families living in deprived neighbourhoods.

**3.00pm**      **Tea & coffee**

**3.30pm**      **Foundations First: housing as the bedrock of family wellbeing**  
**Alison Watson, Shelter Scotland**

Shelter Scotland works with vulnerable families experiencing the crisis of homelessness across Scotland – we see first-hand every day how critically important it is that all families have a safe, secure and affordable home, providing the foundations for wellbeing and the opportunity to thrive.

This presentation will share the experience of Shelter Scotland in supporting families to find and keep a home, towards deepening our shared understanding of how to ensure those foundations are in place for every family.

**4.00pm**      **Round table discussions – reflections and actions**

**4.20pm**      **Summing up**  
**Chair**

**4.30pm**      **Close**

## Workshops

### Workshop 1: Money

**Kerry McKenzie, NHS Health Scotland**  
**TBC, Income maximisation**

Not having enough money to purchase the basic necessities is the main cause of poverty, and having more money the route out of poverty. This workshop looks at projects that maximise income and ensure families are getting what they are entitled to.

- NHS Health Scotland will discuss the drivers behind child poverty, health consequences and effective interventions.
- Income maximisation projects ensure that families receive all the benefits which they are entitled to. Learn more about approaches to ensuring that families receive this critical help.

### Workshop 2: Supporting families

**Eliza Waye, Midlothian Surestart**  
**Jillian Dowds, North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership**

Services need to ensure that services are joined up to meet the needs of the whole family rather than providing entirely separate services for adults and children. This workshop looks at two approaches to putting this into practice.

- Midlothian Surestart family learning centres provide inclusive support to the whole family; learn about the approaches Midlothian Surestart use to engage parents and provide support to families.
- North Ayrshire Health and Social Partnership Council is taking an innovative multidisciplinary approach to family support, combining non-statutory social workers, health visitors, family support workers and others in one team. Hear about how their model works in practice.

## Workshop 3: Housing

**Sharon McIntyre, Wheatley group**  
**TBC, Milnbank housing association**

Wider role is the term given to the ways in which housing associations help to tackle the problems affecting their communities that go beyond immediate housing need. Hear from two housing organisations about how they deliver on this.

- The Wheatley Foundation was set up in 2016 with the aim of supporting 10,000 people each year, who may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, within Wheatley communities across Scotland.
- Milnbank housing association will discuss how setting up a local, carbon neutral nursery has significantly improved families opportunities to pursue further education and employment.

## Workshop 4: Health

**Ingrid Drever, Scottish Government**  
**TBC**

While overall Scotland's health is improving, the gap in health outcomes between the most and least disadvantaged groups in society is widening. This workshop looks at ways of tackling health inequalities.

- The new Best Start Grant will be the first measure introduced under the Scottish Government's new social security powers. Find out how the new grant will operate, who will be eligible, how to access the grant and how it can be used to support low-income parents.

## Workshop 5: Child poverty

**Kathryn Chisholm, Scottish Government**  
**Mark Willis, CPAG Scotland**

One in four children live in poverty in Scotland with this number predicted to rise. This workshop will look at the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act and how it will be delivered nationally and locally.

- The Scottish Government recently launched its first Child Poverty Delivery Plan. Learn more about the contents of the Plan and discuss how it can be delivered in local areas.
- CPAG will highlight good practice examples of initiatives that can be built into local child poverty action delivery plans.

  
**Parenting**  
across Scotland

