SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCRC IN NHS SCOTLAND

1 WHAT WE DID

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) led a national project to support the implementation of children's rights across NHS Scotland. This project brought children's rights leads from every health board together to build a shared understanding and practice. The project strengthened awareness, provided learning and guidance, and supported collaboration between children's and adult services. This helped health boards move from awareness to practical implementation so that children's rights are embedded in everyday decision-making and service design.

2 IMPACT



This work has strengthened national collaboration and created a shared approach to children's rights across NHS Scotland. Health boards were supported to understand their duties and to embed children's rights within policies, learning, and service improvement.

The project helped to ensure that babies, children and young people are considered in all healthcare settings, including adult services where children may be patients, family members, or carers.

3 UNCRC



This work supported all UNCRC articles throughout its implementation. Key UNCRC rights in the project approach are **Article 3** on the child's best interests, **Article 12** on participation and voice, **Article 24** on the right to the highest attainable standard of health, and **Article 2** on non-discrimination and equitable access.

4 GIRFEC

The project aligns with Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) wellbeing indicators, particularly:

Safe: stronger rights awareness and safeguarding.

Healthy: improved access and quality of services.

Respected: embedding participation and children's voices.

Included: ensuring children are considered across all services.

5 THE PROMISE



This work contributes to Scotland's commitment to The Promise by supporting a rights-based, trauma-informed, and relational health system. Embedding children's rights helps ensure services listen to children and families and provide the right support at the right time.

6 REFLECTIONS



Implementing children's rights at a national scale requires collaboration, leadership, and sustained support. By building shared learning and networks across health boards, NES is helped embed children's rights into everyday healthcare practice across Scotland.

Women, Children, Young People and Families Programme, NES NMAHP Directorate