

Today's speakers

Anne Houston, Chief Executive, CHILDREN 1ST (Chair)

Anne Houston is Chief Executive of CHILDREN 1ST, one of Scotland's leading child welfare charities which works to give every child in Scotland a safe and secure childhood. CHILDREN 1ST supports families under stress, protects children from harm and neglect, helps them recover from abuse and promotes children's rights and interests. Prior to her appointment to CHILDREN 1ST in 2007, Anne was Director of ChildLine for many years, leading significant expansion of the ChildLine service and 'speaking with the voice of children and young people' to influence those responsible for policy and practice. She has also worked in the voluntary and statutory sectors in Scotland and England, managing young offenders, children and families and mental health teams.

Angela Constance MSP, Minister for Children and Young People

Angela Constance has been the Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Livingston Constituency since May 2007. Born, raised and educated in West Lothian, prior to 2007 she worked as a social worker and mental health officer and was a local councillor in Livingston.

Paul Bradshaw, Scottish Centre for Social Research

Paul Bradshaw is a Research Director at the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen). Paul has been managing the Growing Up in Scotland study since its launch in 2005. He is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of the project as well as undertaking key survey activities for each wave of data collection including questionnaire design, fieldwork management and analysis and reporting of findings. Having also worked as a researcher for the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime in the School of Law at Edinburgh University, Paul has been involved in a range of research studies in Scotland particularly in the areas of families, children and young people.

Louise Marryat, Scottish Centre for Social Research

Louise Marryat is a Senior Researcher at ScotCen. Louise has worked as a researcher on the Growing Up in Scotland Study since Sweep 1. She also works on a range of other projects around children and families including the Scottish Children's Diet Study 2010 and the Evaluation of the Family Nurse Partnership Pilot in Edinburgh. Louise holds a degree in Politics and Sociology and a Masters in Research Methods, both from the University of Durham.

Dr Rosemary Geddes, Scottish Collaboration for Public Health Research and Policy

Dr Rosemary Geddes is the research fellow for the SCPHRP's Early Years Working Group. Her research focuses on reducing health inequalities through early childhood interventions to promote cognitive-language and social-emotional development. Rosemary trained in medicine at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, completed her general practice training in south east Scotland and specialised in public health through the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. She is a Fellow of the College of Public Health Medicine in South Africa. Her varied clinical experience includes working as a junior doctor in Namibia to GP work in Fife and Edinburgh.

Dr John O'Dowd, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

John O'Dowd is a Consultant Public Health Physician (Child Health) working as part of a multidisciplinary Maternal and Child Public Health Team. The team is embedded within services for children and provides strategic and operational support to improve health outcomes for children across the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area. John originally trained and practised as a GP before undertaking higher specialist training in public health medicine. His research interests include population-based planning for children and models of service delivery within primary care.