



**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01440**

### **Name of petitioner**

Sharon McCluskie on behalf of Play Scotland

### **Petition title**

Plans for new Children and Young People Bill

### **Petition summary**

Play Scotland, the National organisation for Play works to promote the Importance of Play for all children and young people, and campaigns to create play opportunities in the community. We are underpinned by Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 31 states that "all children have the right to play".

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on - A Scotland for Children: A Consultation on the Children and Young People Bill which will incorporate Children's Rights into the Bill.

Play Scotland is calling on the Scottish Government to include a Statutory Duty for Play in this new Bill. This could place a Duty on local authorities to provide sufficient and satisfying play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.

This would help the Scottish Government delivery on their commitment to improve children's outcomes and quality of life through play.

### **Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

We have been campaigning for a Statutory Duty for Play for many years. In 2008 we launched the Scottish Play Commission where this was one of key recommendations to the Scottish Government. A Statutory Duty for Play was also one of the key messages in our Manifesto for Play 2011.

### **Petition background information**

The reason we are asking for a Statutory Duty for Play is to ensure that Local Authorities are committed to providing sufficient and satisfying play opportunities for children and young people of all ages and abilities.

If Local Authorities committed to quality play spaces which were accessible to all children and young people this could remove the barriers to access and increase quality play opportunities throughout all of Scotland.

This could also help with the creation of child-friendly communities which would deliver on the UNCRC Article 31 on the Child's Right to Play.

This would also allow children and young people in Scotland to increase their physical activity and improve their health and wellbeing.

Child friendly spaces can also promote social interaction and strengthen community spirit between children and adults, while making areas more desirable to live.

#### Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PlayScotland>

#### Related information for petition

[www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org)

#### Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

#### How many signatures have you collected so far?

550

#### Closing date for collecting signatures online

31 / 08 / 2012

#### Comments to stimulate online discussion

We are asking for MSPs and people with an interest in play to support this call by signing our petition.

Thank you.

Play Scotland