



## **Briefing Sheet – September 2015**

### **An introduction to the Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership (CHIP)**

The Children's Hearings System is Scotland's unique approach to legal decision making for children and young people. Its ethos and values are fundamental to how we see, and how we work with children and young people in this country – within the context of family and community, with fundamental rights to be protected, cared for, nurtured and developed.

The Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership is a dynamic approach to improving the experience and outcomes for children and young people involved in Children's Hearings.

The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 provides a platform for delivery and improvement, transparency and upholding children and young people's rights. But these changes and improvements will not happen unless we make them happen – together.

To deliver the change and improvement implicit within the 2011 Act, the Hearings System relies on many organisations contributing to decision making for children and young people and delivering the interventions and support which children and young people need.

By its very nature, the Hearing is built on partnership and co-operation – within a defined set of roles, duties and obligations. Bringing these key interests together – with a focus on delivering change and improvement is core to Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership (CHIP).

To make the Hearings System successful – all of its constituent parts and supporting arrangements need to be properly aligned and understood. Respect for each other's role and contribution and our determined commitment to work together to further the best interests of children and young people, through sharing ideas and co-ordinating our efforts is what the CHIP is all about.

We have brought together a range of people from across agencies in Scotland who have a common interest in developing and improving the Children's Hearings System – we have agreed key programmes for 2015/16:

- Getting it Right in the Hearings System
- Generating evidence and promoting improvement
- Learning and Development in the Hearings System
- A Digital Strategy for the Hearings System

