

TIMET  
SHINE

**Creative Scotland  
Children's Rights Report  
2017-2020**

# Part 1: Background

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## What is a children's rights report?

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A children's rights report is a document which sets out all the things an organisation has done over the last few years to help protect children's rights under the UNCRC.

## What is the UNCRC?

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The UNCRC stands for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It's a legal document written by human rights lawyers from all over the world which lists all the rights you have as a child. Human rights help make sure we live a safe, happy, healthy life. Everyone has human rights, no matter where they live, what they believe or how they choose to live their lives. Children and young people aged 0-18 have 42 special rights which provide some extra protection to make sure you have the best childhood possible. You can see a poster of these rights [here](#).

## Why do we have to do this report?

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Creative Scotland is a public body which supports the arts and creativity. That means we give out money from the Scottish Government to people and organisations who want to make art or help others enjoy watching, doing and making creative things. We also use our experience and knowledge to help grow arts and creativity in Scotland.

We have a duty to uphold children and young people's rights in our work, and every three years we have to show what we are doing to achieve this.

## How we have written this report

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To make it easier to understand we have grouped the rights into four themes (instead of listing them all):

- **Survival:** your right to life, good food, water, and to grow up healthy and cared for
- **Protection:** your right to be treated well and not be hurt by anyone
- **Development:** your right to an education and time to relax and play
- **Participation:** your right to say how you feel, be listened to and help make decisions

## Part 2: Where are we up to?

Since this is our first report, we'll be looking at where we are now and what areas need more work to make sure we're doing the best job we can to uphold children's rights in what we do as an organisation.

### Survival

**You have the right to health, wellbeing and a caring environment. What has Creative Scotland done to help make sure that all children in Scotland can enjoy these things?**

In 2014 the Scottish Parliament passed a law called the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act. Under this law several organisations in Scotland became **Corporate Parents** to care experienced children and young people. These include the NHS, emergency services, colleges and universities, and Creative Scotland. Being a Corporate Parent means we help provide all the things children need when they cannot live with their parents or have experience of being in different types of care.

For Creative Scotland that means giving children encouragement and opportunities to enjoy creative things, to feel good through expressing yourself, and to develop your skills and interests. We do this by working with other Corporate Parents to make sure we understand what care experienced children and young people need.

You can read more about how Articulate Cultural Trust's Young Researcher's Team explored the specific challenges faced by care experienced young people in accessing arts here:

**Articulate Young Researchers**

### Safety

**You have the right to be treated well and to live free from harm, violence and discrimination. How has Creative Scotland's work over the last three years helped achieve this?**

You should feel safe when you are taking part in any activity. Nobody should cause you physical or mental harm, abuse, neglect, exploit or discriminate against you. We published the guide **Creating Safety** for anyone who works with children and young people to do artistic and creative things. This is to make sure that they know how to keep you safe, what to do if there are any problems, and how to support children who have experienced harm. We updated this in 2019 and we've also added some information on how to keep children and young people safe when working together online.

When we provide funding for people who work with children and young people we ask them to tell us how they will keep you safe. They must have what is called a child protection policy. Here at Creative Scotland we are creating our own child protection policy to make sure that we are doing everything we should be across every part of our work to keep children safe.

You can see how organisations have been working to keep children and young people safe when working with them online during the COVID-19 pandemic here:

**Digital safety examples**

## Development

**You have the right to education, time to relax and play, and to take part in cultural activities and the arts – things that contribute to your development. How has Creative Scotland’s work over the last three years helped protect these rights?**

### Time to Shine

In 2013 we published Time to Shine, Scotland’s first **National Youth Arts Strategy**. This document set out what we want to achieve for youth arts in Scotland over the next ten years and how we will do it. Our aim is to support all children and young people in Scotland aged 0-25 to flourish and achieve in and through the arts and creativity. Young people helped to write the strategy, and they expressed three important demands:

- **Let Me In** – Build a Scotland where children and young people can develop their creative ideas and skills in the ways that suit them best
- **Help Me Shine** – Support what children and young people are already doing, encourage them and showcase their work and achievements
- **Take Me There** – Listen to what children and young people need; build the support systems that help the youth arts sector to keep doing things better

## Let Me In

### Youth Music Initiative

Making music is fun, it helps us relax, helps us express ourselves and learn about other things like languages and cultures. The Scottish Government wants to make sure that every child in Scotland has the chance to do this before they leave primary school, and the chance to develop this outside school if they want to. They set up the **Youth Music Initiative** (YMI), which Creative Scotland manages on their behalf, to help schools, musicians and music organisations offer children and young people opportunities to make music in and out of school.

From 2017-2020 roughly 732,000 children and young people took part in YMI – that’s 244,000 each year – and all Scotland’s local authorities achieved the Scottish Government commitment of offering all primary school pupils the chance to make music.

### CashBack for Creativity

CashBack for Creativity was a programme funded by the Scottish Government’s **CashBack for Communities** programme. It offered young people aged 10-24 across Scotland the chance to take part in creative activities like filmmaking, theatre and dance in their local area.

Some children and young people experience challenges that make it difficult for them to enjoy their right to learn, play and take part in creative and cultural activities. One of the main aims of CashBack for Creativity was to give those children and young people the support they needed to get the most out of these rights. For some young people this meant that extra bit of time and encouragement to feel confident to try new things, and for others it meant help with practical things like travel, food or childcare.

From 2017-2020 CashBack for Creativity funded 141 projects in 25 local authorities. 14,272 young people took part, and we know that 5,638 of those went on to get a job or continue their learning.

## Other programmes

- We work with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) to provide funding to help children and young people develop skills in traditional music and dance.
- Screen Scotland is the part of Creative Scotland that focuses on film and television. It has provided just under £3 million to support film education to school, cinemas and film festivals since 2017.
- Creative Scotland supports a wide range of artists and organisations through our Open Project Funding. Lots of these are focused on working with children and young people. Between 2017 and 2019, 138,500 children and young people experienced work and projects designed especially for them through Open Fund support.

Shema Abdullah talks about how taking part in a CashBack for Creativity project helped her develop her skills as a leader:

**Sheema Abdullah; Art has made me brave**

## Help Me Shine

### Nurturing Talent Fund

The Nurturing Talent fund is an example of youth-led funding, supporting young people's creative ambitions. Managed by the National Youth Arts Advisory Group, it awards up to £1000 to young people aged 11-25 to support them to develop their creative ideas, skill, interests and ambitions. Since 2017, we've awarded over £85,000 to over 100 projects. This has been successful, because it's helped young people overcome barriers and succeed in what they are interested in.

### UNCON

UNCON is an event designed to showcase and celebrate the best of youth arts and creativity in Scotland. Since 2016, it's been held every two years. What makes UNCON special is that it is an event designed by young people, for young people, that showcases and celebrates some of the amazing young talent here in Scotland.

## Take Me There

### National Youth Arts Advisory Group

The National Youth Arts Advisory Group (NYAAG) ensures young people are heard in planning and delivering our work. The group was founded in 2014 and is made up of around 30 young people aged between 14 and 24.

The NYAAG have been involved since the beginning and help shape the direction of the programme. In 2019, we recruited new members, so that they could bring their ideas and experiences to the group. Having young people help deliver the work has been important for us in making sure we listen to the needs and interests of those the programme is designed for.

### Time to Shine Sector Working Group

The Time to Shine Working Group work with us to identify where we need to work. It's made up of organisations who work in the sector, such as theatres, performing arts companies and galleries. Since 2019, the working group has identified some of the important things that we need to work on together, including:

- Getting better at working with the youth arts sector and children and young people together
- Developing better relationships between youth arts organisations and schools
- Making sure people know how important it is for children and young people to take part in the arts and
- Making sure that children and young people get more information on the different kinds of jobs that you can do in the arts

## Edinburgh International Culture Summit

In 2018, the NYAAG was chosen by the **Edinburgh International Culture Summit** to lead the youth delegation. They spoke to an audience of international policy makers on the need for young people to be more involved in decision making in the arts. This was an amazing opportunity to put young people at the heart of international policy about youth arts.

## Other partnerships

We work with lots of different of organisations

- We work with Education Scotland to ensure that creativity remains part of the education system, and that everyone understands its importance to children and young people's wellbeing. To support this, we developed a **Creative Learning Plan** to embed a child's right to an education which develops their personality, talents and abilities.
- Supporting the artists to train and develop skills in working with children and young people through a programme called **ArtWorks Scotland**.
- In 2018, we funded 10 organisations to support a **Creative Traineeship**, giving a young person aged 16-24 a chance to receive a real chance to further their own skills and find work in the sector.

## What it's like to work as part of the NYAAG

## Participation

**You have the right to say how you feel, be listened to, and help make decisions. How has Creative Scotland's work over the last three years helped protect these rights?**

## Transposition

In 2018, NYAAG went on an Erasmus+ exchange to Denmark to meet their Danish counterparts, Tænketank for Ungelkultur (TUK). The **Transposition** project was a great chance to learn more about how young people can influence culture and the arts.

## Culture and Connection

In 2019 NYAAG launched their **Culture and Connection report**, based on findings from a national survey of 617 young people. They worked with the Time to Shine Sector Working Group to understand more about what was important to children, young people and the organisations working with them in the arts. This report made recommendations to Creative Scotland and the youth arts sector on how to better support participation, recognition of youth arts and improving access.

## Media Education programme

Media Education worked with the NYAAG for two years to help them to develop their media skills, advocate for their views and opinions on the arts in Scotland. They worked with the group to develop their skills to deliver a series of workshops and video interviews across Scotland. The goal was to reach young people who, due to their circumstances, may not ordinarily have the opportunity to have their say.

In two years, the group produced over 30 films and created podcasts which have played on eight community radio stations across Scotland. The statements from young people in the workshops show how important the arts are to children and young people's mental health and personal development.

You can watch the statements [here](#).

## Part 3: What next?

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**2020 has been challenging for everyone, and the coronavirus pandemic has had an enormous impact on everyone's lives. We think that it's important to understand the impact that it has had on children and young people's cultural and artistic rights and to understand what is important to them in the recovery period.**

- In August 2020, the Scottish Government announced that the culture and heritage sectors in Scotland were to benefit from a £59 million funding package to protect jobs and help the organisations and artists who have felt the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As part of this announcement £3m was allocated to support youth arts and ensure creative opportunities for children and young people continue to exist across Scotland despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Creative Scotland have been working with Scottish Government to make sure that this funding will reach as many children and young people as possible.
- UNCON is an event designed to showcase and celebrate the best of youth arts and creativity in Scotland. Since 2016, it's been held every two years. What makes UNCON special is that it is an event designed by young people, for children and young people, that showcases and celebrate some of the amazing young talent here in Scotland.

We've had to do things a little differently for this edition. We'll be holding an UNCON in January 2021 where we'll be inviting groups of children, young people and artists to reflect on the recent impacts on children and young people and ensure that their voices, experiences and aspirations are heard and understood within the recovery process. As we look at the coming decade, we look forward to a youth arts sector that meets these challenges head-on and continues to support Scotland's children and young people to flourish and achieve in and through the arts and creativity.

- Another big change in 2021 will be that the UNCRC has been made part of the law Scotland. We're looking forward to working with more children, young people and other partners to understand what this means for us and the work that we do. A big part of that will be to understand how we can better include children's voices in the work that we do.



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