



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

## **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

### **Consultation Response Questionnaire**

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE

You can respond to the consultation document by email or letter.

Before you submit your response, please read Appendix 1 about the effect of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, on the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

Responses should be sent to:

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**Responses must be received no later than Wednesday 11 March 2015.**

I am responding: as an individual  *(Please tick a box)*  
on behalf of an organisation

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## Background

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) was established by the Police and Fire Reform Act (Scotland) 2012 (the Act) and came into being on 1st April 2013. The main purpose of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is to work in partnership with communities, the public and private sectors and other agencies on fire safety, prevention, protection and emergency response to improve the safety and wellbeing of people throughout Scotland.

SFRS are developing a range of service frameworks which set out explicit standards for prevention and protection that are evidence based and capable of being measured. The *Youth Engagement Framework* is designed around lifelong learning and sets key ambitions in respect of activities intended to improve outcomes for children and young people in Scotland.

## Purpose

This questionnaire seeks your views on the *Youth Engagement Framework*, and should be read in conjunction with the document which includes the key objectives for delivery. It is particularly important to know whether the proposed objectives are effective and person-centred in order to establish the direction for SFRS personnel to support, engage and educate children and young people in Scotland.

## The Consultation Questionnaire

The questionnaire can be completed by an individual, stakeholder or member of the public or it can be completed on behalf of a group or organisation.

**Part A:** provides an opportunity to provide some general feedback on the Service Framework document and should be completed by all respondents.

**Part B:** provides an opportunity for respondents to give additional feedback relating to specific objectives and/or sections of the Service Framework.

Please indicate which section(s) you are providing feedback on:

I am providing general feedback on the document and will complete Part A.

I am providing general feedback on the document with a focus on the specific section(s) indicated in the table below and will complete Part A and Part B.

Please tick which sections or subsections you are providing feedback on		
<b>Part 1 - Background and Rational</b>		
1.1	Introduction	X
1.2	Key Drivers	X
1.3	Our Youth Engagement Framework	X
1.4	Personnel and Supporting Structures	-
<b>Part 2 - Our Key Actions</b>		
2.1	Promoting Wellbeing	X
2.2	School and Community Based Learning	-
2.3	Core Programmes	-
2.4	Reducing Deliberate Fire Setting	-
2.5	Partnership Working	-
2.6	Community Engagement	-
2.7	Our Heritage	X
2.8	Developing our Prevention and Protection Workforce	-
2.9	Recording and Reporting	-
<b>Part 3 - Contact</b>		
3.1	Contact	-

**PART A - General feedback on the document (all respondents please complete this part).**

**Q1** Please indicate your views on the following statement (please circle response)  
How easy was the document to read and understand?

Low

High

1

2

3

4

**Comments:**

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the SFRS Youth Engagement Framework. Please note that the numerical grading system has not been completed in preference to using the more formative method of detailed comments. This question, regarding the ease of reading and comprehension, depends on the intended audience and the purpose of the document. You state that it 'is designed around lifelong learning' and it 'sets key ambitions in respect of activities intended to improve outcomes for children and young people in Scotland'. If this is the case, then the suggestions below might provide ways in which the document could be more widely understood, and its aims more clearly stated.

1. The introduction could include a definition of youth engagement and lifelong learning as understood by SFRS. Much of what is described are the education programmes and the methods through which SFRS work with children and young people. In this reading of the document, engagement is not about how children and young people are included to support decisions being made; nor is it about feedback from young people about the issues in the community which lead to firesetting and how these might be tackled; nor is it about how SFRS's aims could be communicated better to young people or what opportunities SFRS could have to work with different groups of young people, such as looked after children. A broader description of engagement at the start of this document would be beneficial, if these are some of the purposes of the engagement framework. This overview could then signpost the reader

into the different sections that follow, providing a link forward to specific programmes and a link back to how these programmes support the purpose of the strategy.

2. It would be helpful to state SFRS's specific duties regarding children and young people very clearly at the start. SFRS's specific duties regarding children from the Children and young people (Scotland) Act 2014 - Part 1 (UNCRC), Children's Services Plan (Part 3), Part 4 (named person), Part 5 (child's plan) and Part 9 (corporate parent). How does SFRS understand these? It would be helpful to have these duties, alongside other key legislation duties, as this supports; the framing of the engagement framework, the services provided, how these services are fit for purpose, what outcomes are expected from them and the impact of these on children and young people.
3. It would be beneficial to state how these strands from the framework feed into the expected outcomes and how the impact of these will be evaluated and reported.
4. It would be helpful to see specific reference to looked after children as SFRS has a particular duty to this group.
5. How will SFRS deal with issues of inclusion in terms of specific groups, looked after children, looked after children with disabilities etc?

The above points could provide more clarity regarding the aims of the youth engagement aspect of SFRS, and the drivers which are shaping it. At the same time providing some background context regarding, the known impact of engaging with young people in this setting (SFRS), and acknowledging some of the issues and opportunities that engaging with young people presents could provide a comprehensive picture of purpose and a framing for the whole document.

**Q2** Please indicate your views on the following statement (please circle response)

How aware are you of SFRS engagement with children and young people?

Low

High

1

2

3

4

**Comments:**

SFRS were understood to be involved in the activities mentioned below:

1. Children visiting fire stations
2. Fire safety talks in schools
3. Firemen visiting youth groups to talk about their job, the benefits of it etc.
4. House risk experiences - looking at fire risks in houses etc.
5. Children putting themselves at risk (the rescue service provided).
6. Young people considered to be at risk (working with partners).

**Q3** Please indicate your views on the following statement (please circle response)

Did the document help you understand SFRS engagement with children and young people?

Low

High

1

2

3

4

**Comments:**

There are a number of different, and interesting, strands in this document. As mentioned in question 1, a definition at the start of how SFRS understands youth engagement would be beneficial. The introduction, in which the information regarding engagement is considered, would then be clearer.

The Youth Engagement Framework 3 year timespan is helpful is considering different milestones. These would benefit from being more tightly constructed so there are clear outputs and an evaluation which illustrates

how youth engagement has improved over the three year period.

Establishing three levels of service delivery is useful. However, where these refer to the term 'exploring' it would be helpful to know in concrete terms what the plans are. Moreover, in defining the plans more specificity could be given to the activity of 'exploring'. For example it might be reviewing what other services do, or establishing a twitter account. This would also provide an account of more tangible outputs.

The framework hopes to support local services through youth engagement. It needs to incorporate detail about how it can show that it has promoted positive development in children and young people. Equally, youth engagement should be understood as a process, whereas programmes may be connected with delivery. The document would benefit from clarity around these terms.

It would be helpful to clearly state, for each programme - its activities, its reach (and here looked after children as a specific group to which SFRS has a duty could be mentioned), the outcomes and how these contribute to the SFRS's main purposes of prevention and protection (through emergency response). From this effective monitoring and evaluation could be included. This would allow SFRS understand how effective its engagement is, and for whom. It would also enable SFRS to track how it is ensuring that its duties towards looked after children are met. For example, in *2.4 REDUCING DELIBERATE FIRE SETTING*, it would be helpful to detail some key statistics (How many fires are set annually by young people? How many injuries could be attributed to these? Or how many young people are injured in fires, whether started intentionally or not, or started by them or not?). This would help understand the need of the population and support the creation of a standardised approach. SFRS's Corporate Parent duties might involve greater flexibility in dealing with Looked After Children and Care Leavers. It would be beneficial to understand if this programme will be developed through engagement with children and young people (including Looked After



children).

SFRC's duties to Looked After children and young people and care leavers include Corporate Parent (CP) duties. There are a number of comments in the second section which consider other public bodies. Here SFRC's Corporate Parent duty to collaborate could be detailed. Moreover, in your Core Programme targets it would be helpful to draw attention to Corporate Parent duties again. The framework states: *Create a standardised approach for Core Programmes by providing a comprehensive suite of materials including operating procedure, modules, lesson plans, risk assessments and training.* What about allowing for flexibility to engage with more at risk populations? The Corporate Parent role might involve greater flexibility in dealing with Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

**PART B - Feedback relating to specific objectives and/or sections of the Framework.**

Qi Which of the key actions to you think will have the greatest impact on the wellbeing and/or development of children and young people, and why?

Key Action	Explanation
Promoting Wellbeing	<p>Child protection training, and other training regarding vulnerable children and young people, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol misuse, will provide your staff with a basis to understand the different contexts within which children live. This training will enable them to notice when there are concerns about a child’s wellbeing so that they can take appropriate actions. It will also enable staff to make sense of the meaning of wellbeing as espoused by the Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 2014.</p> <p>Equally in this action you consider the Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 2014, where if the staff are enabled to consider the implications for their practice, this could impact greatly on the wellbeing of children and young people. It should also provide the context within which actions are taken which through children’s rights and corporate parent responsibilities can be enacted.</p>
Our Heritage	<p>This particular section could be particularly valuable to looked after children and young people. This section considers how activities relate to the young person’s locality. In SFRS’s Corporate Parent role you could have a key role in instilling a sense of pride in Looked After Children, for whom the label ‘looked after’ has been traditionally associated with stigma.</p>

	<p>Equally, where this section looks at involvement in participatory programmes, this could be beneficial to looked after children. However you need to attend to how you would ensure that looked after children will be able to access these and indeed how the service will go to places where looked after children are (rather than expecting them to be part of the mainstream - which they might be - but equally they could be placed elsewhere).</p> <p>.</p>

**Qii** Which of the key actions link to the services provided by your organisation?

Key Action	Explanation
Training	<p>CELCIS could provide support for SFRS in regarding its Corporate Parent duties as set out in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.</p>

**Qiii** Does the document cover key drivers relevant to your own organisation?

Yes  No

*If not please provide details of documents that have not been considered.*  
 As Scotland's centre for excellence for looked after children, we work with service providers across the country to improve the experiences and life

outcomes of children and young people who are “looked after” by a local authority. Your framework does mention some of the key legislation regarding looked after children. It would be helpful to see these foregrounded and considered in more detail.

**Qiv** Would you be prepared to attend an event to explore SFRS Youth Engagement and links to wider work with children and young people?

Yes  No

**Qv** Would you be interested to meet with a member of SFRS to discuss a specific piece of partnership working?

Yes  No

**Qvi** Please use the box below to insert any further comments, recommendation or suggestions you would like in relation to this particular section or action.

**Comments:**

The framework provides an understanding regarding the programmes and way of working that will enable SFRS to ensure that children and young people are educated about fire and rescue, in terms of prevention and protection.

Overall it would be helpful to tighten up, in all sections, exactly what should be expected in your next three years. Alongside this then, the terms of success, could be more specific. This would allow children and young people and other adults to understand what, how, when, where and for whom improvement has occurred and the impact it has had and for whom (staff, children and young people, specific groups of children etc.).

It would be helpful to see more specific mention of looked after children. Corporate Parent duties are detailed in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

*Under section 58 the corporate parenting responsibilities are set out as:*

*(1) It is the duty of every corporate parent, in so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its other functions -*

*(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,*

*(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,*

*(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,*

*(d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,*

*(e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people-*

*(i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d),*

*(ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides, and*

*(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those*

*children and young people.*

It would be helpful, whether it is throughout the document or as a separate section, to detail how you will carry out these duties towards looked after children to illustrate your commitments to them. SFRS could consider, employment opportunities, modern apprenticeships and/or work experience as part of the package it provides for looked after children.

**Please return your response questionnaire.**

**Responses must be received no later than Wednesday 11 March 2015**

**Thank you for your comments**

## APPENDIX 1

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (SCOTLAND) 2002 - CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is committed to promoting and actively developing a culture of openness, transparency and accountability embodied in the Access to Information legislation. This right of access comes from:

- The Data Protection Act 1998
- The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
- The Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004

SFRS may publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all others responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. SFRS can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances.

**Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraph below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) provides you with a general right of access to recorded information. Subject to certain conditions and exemptions, if you make a request to us for recorded information you will be entitled to receive it. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation.

However, it should be noted that SFRS has a statutory responsibility within the Data Protection Act 1998 to ensure that any personal information we hold is accurate, up to date, used only for the purposes intended and is securely protected from inappropriate access.

This means that personal information provided by you in response to the consultation will only be used for the purpose of collating your response, and for any subsequent feedback to you. All personal data will be anonymised, should the consultation data be published.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please visit [www.firescotland.gov.uk/access-to-information.aspx](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/access-to-information.aspx)