

# Celebrating, challenging and awakening the new in residential child care

Tuesday 4 & Wednesday 5 June 2019 | Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow

## Call for Workshops | Apply to present

### About the conference

There could not be a more perfect time to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scotland's flagship residential child care conference. SIRCC is a standout, annual event in the calendar for those working with looked after children in Scotland. Since our launch in 2000, we have explored some big themes, including the power of relationships, culture, aspiration, the care journey, and pushing the boundaries of the system we exist within. We are in a unique place in Scotland, buoyed by the political and societal commitment to children, where we can reflect, challenge the existing system, plan for the future and awaken new and lasting possibilities in residential child care. It's all of us who have been and will be the driving force for change.

### Theme

As a residential child care community we've faced strong headlines, inquiries, reviews, policy and legal changes, qualification processes and our wrangle with risk. The language we use may have evolved through the decades, and relationships tested, however, we continue to remain hopeful, enquiring and passionate about our work.

In 2019, we encourage you to be part of our programme, sharing your stories and wisdom, as well as envisioning endless possibilities. Your applications should span past, present and future, truly encompassing the 20 years of the conference. This is YOUR conference and a place to share your practice, challenges and successes. We encourage you to dig deep and dream big across residential child care in Scotland – the floor is yours!

### Is it for me?

We welcome applications from a range of residential practitioners, at all levels, young people and adults with care experience, academics and researchers, and partners working alongside the residential community. We encourage a co-production approach to workshop preparation and delivery with care experienced young people and / or in partnership with another service provider or corporate parenting organisation.

If you're not sure but have a potential idea, please get in touch. If you've never applied or delivered a workshop before, don't be deterred – we're here to help and support.

### Guidance:

- Please return your workshop application form to [celcis.learning@strath.ac.uk](mailto:celcis.learning@strath.ac.uk) by Wednesday 9 January 2019
- If you have any enquiries about the application process or would like support to fill in the form, please contact Michelle McCue at [celcis.learning@strath.ac.uk](mailto:celcis.learning@strath.ac.uk) or on 0141 444 8529.
- Social media – we may ask you to work with us to produce a short video or blog in the lead up to, during, or after the conference, to allow us to share conference resources.

## Further information

The following themes have been explored, challenged and highlighted as important during the life of the SIRCC conference. They continue to remain true today – please consider these when writing your application:

- How we can continue to promote children's rights and advocacy
- Relationships with staff, children and young people, families, and beyond
- Touch, love and compassion
- Why creativity, stories, imagination, play and fun are important
- The whole journey for children and young people – before, during and after residential child care, including education and employability
- Permanence and residential child care
- Inquiries over the years and their impact
- The realities of working and living within a risk-averse environment
- Policy, regulation and legislation
- Paperwork, procedures and rules – having courageous conversations
- Workforce development and qualifications: is 'ordinary' parenting enough?
- Culture changes across the years
- Supporting residential staff and young people within the LGBTQ+ community
- Decision-making, finance frameworks and commissioning
- Services for disabled children and young people
- Working with trauma, including adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Provision of effective and supportive spaces for practitioners

## Conference aim

Our main aim for the conference is to provide an inspiring space for those working and living with and within the residential child care community. The conference delivers two days to get together, learn and develop, share experiences, good practice and challenges. Across the programme we'll hear from inspiring keynotes, debate and develop ideas within plenary sessions, advancing and integrating the policy and practice agenda, being led by children and young people and providing a range of practice, academic and research based speakers.

We want to deliver a conference that belongs to the residential community, where we can come together for two days and be challenged, inspired, fired up and proud.