

UNCRC Report Summary

2026 to 2029

Welcome

At ILF Scotland, we believe that all children and young people should be treated fairly, listened to and given the support they need to live happy and independent lives.



This is a shorter version - or summary - of our first Children's Rights Report using plain language to make it easier to read. It explains what we are doing to protect children's rights and what we plan to do next. We will check our progress every year and share this on our website.

About ILF Scotland



ILF Scotland is a public organisation. We provide funding to disabled people in Scotland and Northern Ireland to help them to live independently. We believe disabled people should have the same rights and freedoms as other people.



ILF Scotland is also a Corporate Parent. A Corporate Parent is an organisation that helps support care experienced children and young people.

What is UNCRC?

UNCRC stands for the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**. A convention is an agreement between countries.



The UNCRC explains the rights of all children and young people and applies to everyone under 18 years old. Children's rights are the things every child and young person should have and enjoy and include:

- being treated fairly
- being safe
- being heard
- getting an education
- having healthcare
- being included
- getting support if you have a disability

Children's Rights and ILF Scotland

The UNCRC became law in Scotland in 2024. This means that ILF Scotland must:

- help children and young people understand what their rights are and how to use them
- listen to children and young people and take their views seriously
- make sure we treat children and young people fairly and equally in our work
- think about children's rights when making plans or taking decisions
- work with children and young people to understand how our services affect them
- explain the decisions we make to children and young people

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- publish reports about new things we are doing to improve children's rights
- train staff and Board members about children's rights

Important UNCRC Rights for our Work

All the rights in the UNCRC are important but we will pay special attention to:



Article 2: Non-Discrimination

This means nobody should be treated unfairly.



Article 3: Best Interests of the Child

This means decisions should help children and young people.



Article 23: Children with Disabilities

This means disabled children should receive support to succeed.

How ILF Scotland Supports Young People

Transition Fund

The Transition Fund gives grants to young disabled people aged 16 to 25 to help them to:

- try new things
- take part in their community
- build confidence
- become more independent
- spend time with other people



Independent Living Fund

The Independent Living Fund re-opened in 2024. It supports disabled people with complex support needs to live independently.

Supporting Young People into Work



ILF Scotland supports the Career Ready Scotland internship programme. Young people aged 16 and 17 have spent four weeks working with ILF Scotland to learn about the different jobs we do.

One intern now works at ILF Scotland as a Modern Apprentice.

Listening to Young People

We make sure we listen to:

- young people living in disadvantaged areas
- young people who are care experienced
- young people who are leaving school
- young people who are becoming adults
- young people at schools for children and young people with additional needs



We also go to meetings with organisations like schools and meet with groups including parents and listen to what they tell us about young people.

Young Ambassadors

ILF Scotland has a group called Young Ambassadors. These are young people who received funding from the Transition Fund. They meet a few times each year and share their experiences to help other young people.

They tell us:

- what works well
- what could work better and how we might improve

They have helped us improve:

- our website information
- how people apply to our Transition Fund
- what we share on social media
- how we make things easier to access and understand



Supporting Equality

Equality is important to ILF Scotland. We want everyone to feel:

- welcome
- included
- respected
- valued



Our staff receive training to help them understand:

- disabilities
- neurodiversity
- trauma
- care experience
- child protection
- safeguarding

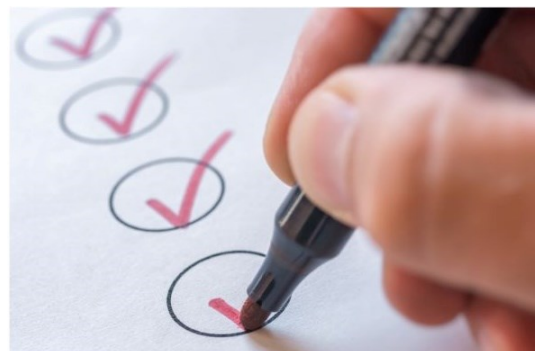


This helps us provide better support for young people.

What We Have Done Since July 2024

We have:

- asked young people for feedback about our services
- made our complaints process more child friendly
- offered more support to young people applying for and receiving funds
- published information about UNCRC and presented on UNCRC to our Advisory Groups

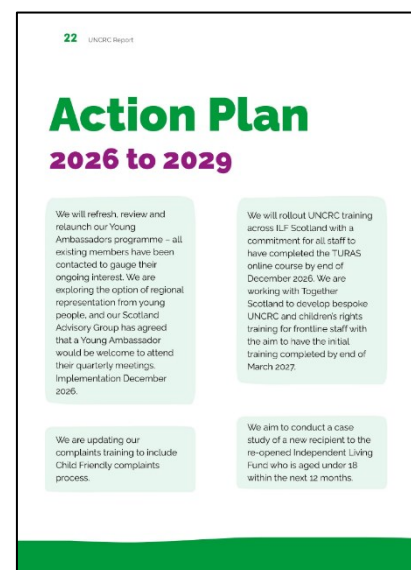


- worked with organisations supporting care experienced young people
- increased support for young people who are care experienced to apply for our funds
- planned for a separate organisation to test how well our Transition Fund is working
- met with other public organisations to share how we can best make UNCRC work for us and the people we support

Our Action Plan 2026 to 2029

We will:

- improve how we work with our Young Ambassadors
- invite a Young Ambassador to Scottish Advisory Group meetings
- train all staff in children's rights
- provide more detailed children's rights training for frontline staff
- publish a case study of someone under 18 who receives our funds
- learn from experiences of young people who have received our funding
- improve how we listen to people telling us about how things have worked for them
- make information easier to understand and make more of our documents child friendly
- keep working with other organisations to improve children's rights
- make sure children's rights are considered when we make plans and decisions



Checking Our Progress

We will:

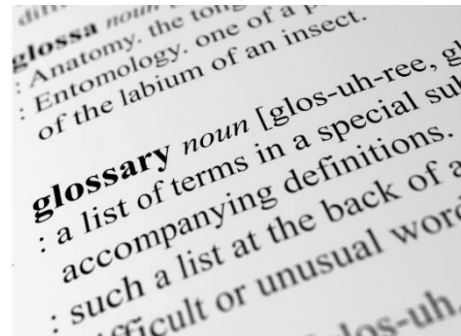
- check how we are doing and report to senior leaders
- update our Board, Advisory Groups and Young Ambassadors
- publish information on our website every year about what we have done



We are promising to work with young people to make sure we protect and respect their rights.

Glossary – what words mean

Advisory Group – a group of people who receive funding from us that help us deliver and improve our services



Board - A group of people who help make important decisions about how ILF Scotland works

Care Experienced - a person who is currently in care or has been in care at any point in their life

Case Study – a look in detail at how our funding has worked for a person

Complex Support Needs – someone's needs that require a lot of extra support to manage

Corporate Parent - an organisation with a legal duty to support care experienced children and young people

Disadvantaged Areas – a place where people may face challenges such as low income, poorer health or fewer opportunities

Equality - treating people fairly and giving equal opportunities no matter their background or circumstances

Funding - money provided to help people or organisations

Intern – someone who works on a temporary basis to learn new skills

Grant – money given for a specific thing that you do not need to pay back

Modern Apprenticeship – a job that pays people while they learn which helps young people to gain experience

Neurodiversity - different ways people think, learn and process information

Trauma-informed - understanding how difficult experiences may affect someone

UNCRC - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child