

- ♦ Be placed at the centre of any decisions that are made on their behalf, with the young person's best interests always placed first; (Article 3)
- ♦ Live with their parents in their own community unless this is not possible; (Article 9)
- ♦ If separated from either or both parents, be supported in maintaining contact when appropriate; (Article 9)
- ♦ Express an opinion on matters that affect them and have their opinion listened to and taken into account; (Article 12)
- ♦ Be able to access information which will allow them to form and express opinions; (Articles 13 and 17)
- ♦ Stay at home with their family whenever this is possible. East Ayrshire Council should provide support to families to allow this to happen; (Article 18)
- ♦ Be properly looked after and feel safe in another family or suitable place, if it is not possible to live with their own parents; (Article 20)
- ♦ Leisure rest and play, having opportunities to participate in a varied range of recreational pursuits; (Article 31)

### Children's Service Plan

East Ayrshire Council's Children's Service Plan, is the driving force shaping children and families services in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Implementation of the Service Plan, including regular progress checks, will be carried out in partnership with children, young people and their families.

If you wish to obtain further information concerning the Children's Service Plan, or any of the topics contained within this Charter please telephone or write to:

**John D Butler**  
**Service Officer (Planning)**  
**Educational and Social Services**  
**Children and Families**  
**Civic Centre**  
**John Dickie Street**  
**Kilmarnock**  
**KA1 1BY**

Telephone: 01563 554891



East Ayrshire  
COUNCIL

# East Ayrshire Council



East Ayrshire



CHILD & YOUNG PERSONS  
CHARTER

### CHARTER OF RIGHTS

This Charter outlines East Ayrshire Council's commitment to safeguarding and working in partnership with its young citizens. East Ayrshire's future is closely linked with that of our children and young people.

In 1991, the government agreed to meet most of the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. "Our Children", the Council's Children's Service Plan 1998 - 2001, promised wide consultation on the development of a Children and Young Person's Charter of Rights. This has involved listening to the views of just under 1000 young people over the last three years.

The Charter is based on the main Articles of the United Nations Convention. It also seeks to safeguard personal and citizenship rights guaranteed by the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, Human Rights Act 1998 and European Convention on Human Rights.

#### WHY DO WE HAVE A CHARTER ?

East Ayrshire Council's vision has developed from our discussion with young people. The vision is of a socially inclusive community, where each child and young person:

- Freedom from Harm, Abuse and Exploitation.

- ♦ Lives in good quality housing, enjoys a good standard of basic care and grows up in a healthy environment;
- ♦ Has the opportunity to reach their full potential, with no child, young person, or family excluded, for reasons of race, religion, language or disability;
- ♦ Has access to good health care;
- ♦ Is offered school education as a basic right, if of school age. This education should be directed to helping them achieve their full potential, regarding personality, talents, mental and physical abilities;
- ♦ Has their education, training, employment and social needs advanced, with a view to achieving the greatest possible level of independence.
- ♦ Is helped to be an active and responsible member of their community.

This Charter is an important step in working towards these goals.

#### PLEDGES

The council undertakes to :

- ♦ Treat children and young people with respect;
- ♦ Ensure that children and young people are consulted when planning services.

- ♦ Empower young people to use East Ayrshire's suggestion and complaints procedures where appropriate.
- ♦ Encourage active citizenship.
- ♦ Work in partnership with our young citizens.

#### United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child

(The following summary of the Articles on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was written by young people in East Ayrshire)

Each child and young person living in East Ayrshire, or looked after by East Ayrshire Council, has the right to :

- ♦ Feel safe and protected from harm; (Article 19)
- ♦ Have their religion, culture and language respected; (Articles 14 and 30)
- ♦ Be cared for and have an adequate standard of living; (Article 27)
- ♦ Grow up in an environment that is supportive, encouraging and does not discriminate; (Article 2)
- ♦ Receive the proper support and encouragement to allow them to thrive and develop as an individual; (Article 8)