

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

### **Question 1 – Are there other areas you think the Partnership Agreement should address?**

Yes. Children in Scotland submitted written evidence to the Scottish Parliament's European and External Relations Committee enquiry into the use of the EU structural funds in April 2012. The submission is attached. In the submission we urged that, in line with the European Commission communication of 2011 (COM 66) the structural funds could be applied to developing early childhood education and care services. We highlighted how this would contribute to progress in achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and the Scottish Government's own policy commitments.

### **Question 2 – Do you think these thematic objectives will best address Scotland's short-term and long-term challenges?**

Not sufficiently. We believe that use of the structural funds to support children's early learning and development (as set out in our attached written evidence) would reduce inequality, increase parental labour market participation, and contribute in a major way to delivering a preventative approach to service delivery and to public service reform.

### **Question 3 – Do you think there are any other thematic objectives which should be addressed?**

Yes, a practical commitment to preventive use of resources.

### **Question 4 – Do you think the Scottish Themed Funds will address Scotland's key challenges?**

Not sufficiently, for the reasons outlined above and in the attached evidence.

**Question 5 – How do you think the governance and delivery arrangements will impact on your sector?**

Children in Scotland is the national network body for the children’s sector, with over 400 member organisations. As our membership includes public, voluntary, professional and independent sector agencies we do not speak for a ‘sector’ as such but promote the rights and best interests of children and young people. We believe that these best interests would be better protected by allowing the funds to be deployed to support ECEC development. Otherwise we do not have a strong view on governance and delivery issues.

**Question 6 – How do you think the governance and delivery arrangements will impact on your organisation?**

**Question 7 – Are there any unidentified governance or delivery arrangements that could aid simplification of the future programmes and ensure that the Structural Funds complement each other?**

**Question 8 – What other delivery options do you think would be feasible for delivering youth employment initiatives?**

**Question 9 – What other measures could be taken to reduce the audit and control pressures?**

**Question 10 – Do you have any further comments on the proposals?**