



## Supporting Parents: The Scottish Policy context

# Policy background to supporting parents and vulnerable children in Scotland

- Political will?
- New era of outcomes National/Local
- Early years framework
- Broad range of other strategies and policy

# Political will

- 2007 manifestos
- External influences
- The weight of evidence and reality-  
Antisocial behaviour policy
- Shifting rhetoric
- The problem of 4 year terms...

# The Concordat and National outcomes

- **4: Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.**
- **5: Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.**
- **7: We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.**



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# The Concordat and National outcomes cont.

- **8: We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.**
- **9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger**
- **11: We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.**



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# Single Outcome Agreements

- **SOA Project**
  - Undertaken by 8 vol sec organisation led to a digest broken down by theme.
- **What do SOAs say about children and families?**
  - Focussed on those at risk: where drugs/abuse is a factor
  - Some reference to corporate parent
  - A minority are developing parenting and family support packages. One LA referenced a parenting capacity assessment tool.



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# Early years Framework

## The new conceptualisation of Early years:

- children are valued and provided for within communities;
- the importance of strong, sensitive relationships with parents and carers;
- the right to a high quality of life and access to play;
- the need to put children at the centre of service delivery;
- to provide more support through universal services when children need it;
- children are able to achieve positive outcomes irrespective of race, disability or social background.

# Early years cont.

- 10 areas of transformational change
- Hypothecated outcomes for inclusion in SOAS
- What do SOAs actually say about Early Years after the framework
  - Very little reference to actual framework
  - Outcomes focussed on health and services
  - A degree of consistency

# Other Policy Drivers:

- Early years framework
- Equally well
- Hall4
- National Youth Work Strategy
- Antisocial behaviour strategy