



Standards Scoping Report

Bairns' Hoose (Scottish Barnahus)

19 November 2021

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Published November 2021

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Introduction

This report outlines the scope of the Bairns' Hoose (Scottish Barnahus) Standards.

Bairns' Hoose – based on an Icelandic model 'Barnahus' - will bring together services in a 'four rooms' approach with child protection, health, justice and recovery services all made available in one setting. Bairns' Hoose aims to ensure that every child victim or witness has consistent and holistic support, accesses specialist services and receives ongoing therapeutic care from services coordinated under one roof. In line with the [Bairns' Hoose—Scottish Barnahus visions, values and approach](#) the overall vision of a Bairns' Hoose (Barnahus) in Scotland is that:

All children in Scotland who have been victims or witnesses to abuse or violence, as well as children under the age of criminal responsibility whose behaviour has caused significant harm or abuse will have access to trauma informed recovery, support and justice.

The key values through which this vision will be achieved are that:

- we are child centered, trauma informed and respect the rights and wellbeing of the child at all times
- we provide consistent and holistic support, which enables children to have their voices heard, access specialist services and recover from their experiences
- we aim to prevent children being re-traumatised and to improve the experience of the criminal justice process for children and families, and
- we demonstrate connectedness and national leadership to uphold children's rights to protection, support, participation and recovery.

The scope of the standards

Population that will be covered

The standards will be for everyone who is eligible to be referred into a Bairns' Hoose in line with nationally-agreed eligibility criteria and mechanisms. For some standards, this may include family members or carers of children who have been referred where appropriate. In line with the scope outlined in the [Bairns' Hoose—Scottish Barnahus visions, values and approach](#) the standards will primarily be for:

- all children under the age of 18 in Scotland who have been victims or witnesses to abuse or violence which has caused or is likely to cause significant harm, and
- all children under the age of criminal responsibility whose behaviour has caused significant harm or abuse.

Setting that the standards will apply to

The standards apply in all nationally-designated Bairns' Hooses¹.

Areas for standards development

The standards will build on the [PROMISE2 European Barnahus Quality Standards](#). The following areas are the proposed themes that the standards will cover, in line with the key principles of the PROMISE standards.

- Key principles and the rights of the child
- Collaborative leadership and governance
- Inclusive access
- Design and environment
- Coordinated planning process
- Investigative interview
- Involvement in the court and legal processes
- Health assessment and medical examination
- Wrap-around care and access to therapeutic support and recovery services
- Multidisciplinary staff training and support
- Outreach, sharing knowledge and learning from good practice

¹ As defined by [Bairns' Hoose—Scottish Barnahus visions, values and approach](#).

Working in collaboration

Throughout the duration of the project, the project team will work in partnership with the Scottish Government to share learning and support quality and performance monitoring. To fulfil the ambition of transformational change, the Bairns' Hoose standards project will provide evidence, learning, collaboration and support to the Scottish Government and across the whole system to identify the best approach to implementing these proposed standards.

Key sources

- [Bairns' Hoose – Scottish Barnahus: vision, values and approach](#)
- [Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse \(Lanzarote Convention\)](#)
- [GIFT Research Report](#)
- [Healthcare and forensic medical services for people who have experienced rape, sexual assault or child sexual abuse \(children, young people and adults\)— standards](#)
- [Healthcare and forensic medical services for people who have experienced rape, sexual assault or child sexual abuse— indicators](#)
- [Home Office Child House Local Partnerships Guidance](#)
- [National Children's Alliance Standards for Accredited Members \(Child Advocacy Centres\)](#)
- [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#)
- [PROMISE2 European Barnahus Quality Standards](#)
- [Supporting children and young people who may have experienced child sexual abuse: clinical pathway for healthcare professionals \(2020\)](#)
- [The Foundations for Bairns' Hoose \(Scottish Barnahus\) report](#)
- [University of Edinburgh's Research](#)

Developing the standards

Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate will jointly facilitate the development of the Bairns' Hoose (Scottish Barnahus) standards. A multiagency Standards Development Group will use their expertise and technical knowledge to draft the standards according to the agreed scope. A Rights and Participation Group will sit within the Standards Development Group to ensure children's voices are heard and their rights upheld throughout the process.

Proposed Standards Development Group

Statutory organisations will be key to the delivery of Bairns' Hoose and are essential members of the Bairns' Hoose Standards Development Group. Other organisations which have relevant and specific knowledge of national Bairns' Hoose policy and practice will provide essential expertise and evidence.

The following organisations will be approached to join the Standards Development Group:

- Child Protection Committees Scotland
- Children 1st
- Coalition of Care and Support Providers Scotland
- Coalition of Scottish Local Authorities
- Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service
- Law Society of Scotland
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- NHS Education Scotland
- Police Scotland
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service
- Scottish Social Services Council
- Social Work Scotland
- Victim Support Scotland

Through these organisations, the Standards Development Group will benefit from the expertise of the following specialties:

- Chief Social Work Officer
- Child Psychologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Consultant Paediatrician
- Crown Office Prosecutor
- Defence Solicitor
- Family and Child Support Worker
- Participation Worker
- Police Scotland Child Protection Lead
- Senior Researcher
- Sexual Offences Examiner
- Social Work Child Protection Lead

Specialist or technical input in addition to this will be sought where necessary as the work develops. Where a specialist cannot be represented on the development group, there will be opportunities for engagement through consultation or peer review.

Engagement with children and young people

As part of a wider participation and engagement strategy, the project team will recruit and support a Rights and Participation Group. This group will consist of participation and engagement workers from a range of organisations in different sectors. The group will support children and young people across Scotland to influence the standards in a way that is trauma informed, meaningful, connected and right for them. We will ask children and young people what this looks like.

The Rights and Participation Group will:

- facilitate direct engagement with children and young people
- uphold children's rights to be heard and participate actively in decisions
- work with children to codesign the standards in a way that is right for them
- share learning from previous engagement events and sessions to reduce the number of times children tell their stories to policy makers
- carry out activity in a way that is trauma informed
- be representative and inclusive, and
- recognise the child's pace and support needs during participation.

The Rights and Participation Group will publish a statement of commitment in December 2021 outlining how it will work towards these aims.

Bairns' Hoose (Scottish Barnahus) Standards project team

- Fiona Wardell, Standards and Indicators Team Lead, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Henry Mathias, Head of Professional Standards and Practice, Care Inspectorate
- Rachel Hewitt, Programme Manager, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Carol Ann Mulgrew, Project Officer, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Christine Stuart, Administrative Officer, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Belinda McEwan, Strategic Inspector, Care Inspectorate

To get in touch with the project team, please contact: his.barnahusstandards@nhs.scot.

Timelines

Scoping: October 2021 – December 2021

During this phase, the project team will work with the Scottish Government to ensure the standards reflect the nationally-agreed scope for Bairns' Hoose. Following the publication of this scoping report, we invite people to comment on the proposed scope of the standards. To feed back on this report, please visit our [online survey](#). If you require the survey in another format, please get in touch with the project team by email at his.barnahusstandards@nhs.scot.

The engagement period will close on **10 December 2021**.

During this time, we will hold inaugural meetings of the Standards Development Group and the Rights and Participation Group. Through these groups, children and young people, families, stakeholders and the Scottish Government will have the opportunity to input into the scope of the standards.

Development: December 2021 – August 2022

During this phase, the Standards Development Group will meet to draft the content of the standards. The standards will be drafted and reviewed at a series of virtual meetings of both the wider group and any identified technical subgroups. The Rights and Participation Group will work closely with the Standards Development Group to ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard throughout this process.

Consultation: August 2022 - September 2022

Meaningful engagement, participation and consultation is essential to our standards development methodology. We will publish a draft set of standards in the summer of 2022 to gather feedback from across Scotland. Using social research methods such as surveys, focus groups and tailored sessions, we will support staff, service planners and people who experience services to tell us what is important to them. We will plan consultation events in partnership with the Rights and Participation Group from the beginning of the project.

Finalisation: September 2022 - December 2022

All feedback will be reviewed by the Standards Development Group. During the finalisation phase, the Standards Development Group will discuss and make changes to the document before final publication.

The final standards will be published in December 2022.

Published November 2021

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