

How to contact your local ChIS

There are 30 local Childcare Information Services in Scotland, one in each local authority area (the Ayrshire authorities operate a joint ChIS). Each ChIS can be accessed through the national site www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk and their own telephone helpline.



CHILDCARE INFORMATION SERVICE (ChIS)

LOCAL ChIS CONTACT DETAILS

Aberdeen City 01224 443 344	East Renfrewshire 0141 577 3990	Orkney Islands 01856 873535
Aberdeenshire 0800 298 3330	Edinburgh City 0800 032 0323	Perth and Kinross 0845 601 4477
Angus 08452 777 778	Falkirk 01324 506 632	Renfrewshire 0141 840 3853
Argyll and Bute 01369 708 504	Fife 01592 414 838	Scottish Borders 01896 758186
Ayrshire 0845 351 3000	Glasgow City 0141 287 5223	Shetland Islands 01595 697460
Clackmannanshire 01259 452 453	Highland 0845 601 1345	South Lanarkshire 01698 727939
Dumfries and Galloway 0845 601 0191	Inverclyde 0800 052 9126	Stirling 01786 442 626
Dundee City 01382 433 900	Midlothian 0131 271 3754	West Dunbartonshire 0800 980 4683
East Dunbartonshire 0141 570 0091	Moray 0845 6011302	West Lothian 01506 776 660
East Lothian 0800 0288 629	North Lanarkshire 01236 812281	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar 01851 822282

Since their establishment in 1999 as part of the Scottish Childcare Strategy, Childcare Information Services (ChIS) have been providing information and guidance on a full range of services for children including options and availability on

- Nurseries;
- Pre-School Education;
- Playgroups;
- Childminders;
- Crèches;
- Out of school childcare;
- Counselling Services for children and families;
- Additional Support Needs contact agencies;
- Childcare Training.

Based in and operated by each local authority the ChIS provides parents/carers with high-quality information about childcare in their area. If you want to know more about services for children and families in your area, you should contact your local Childcare Information Service -Details are given on the back of this leaflet

All Enquiries Are Confidential

www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk

Information can also be accessed on the website www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk which provides internet access to local information on the availability of childcare and more general information on childcare issues on both a local and national basis. The website is updated from local information held by ChISs and contains details about providers (but only where they have given their permission to be included on the site). The site provides information for parents on issues like funded pre-school education places, choosing childcare providers, financial support and family support services.

What is the purpose of ChIS?

The purpose of ChISs is primarily to provide information to parents and carers to help them meet their childcare needs, often to support them in accessing employment, training or education. ChISs also:

- Provide professionals such as Social Workers and Health Visitors with up-to-date information on services available for children and families
- Provide childcare providers, Childcare Partnerships and employers with information such as gaps in provision, childcare training and employment

What can ChIS offer?

- Comprehensive details about all types of registered childcare in a particular area e.g.
 - opening times including evenings, weekends etc
 - vacancy information
 - support for additional needs

Information on other care not subject to regulation such as parent and toddler groups

- Signposting to other services such as employment, health, counselling, family mediation etc
- Guidance on negotiating contracts of care
- Information on childcare support costs e.g Tax Credits
- Details of local training programmes available for various levels of childcare qualifications

Link with Childcare Partnerships

Childcare Partnerships are multi-agency groups set up by local authorities to work collaboratively to promote, support and develop affordable, accessible, quality childcare services for 0-16 year olds to meet local need. Each local authority has a Childcare Partnership (or equivalent). ChISs are expected to work closely with their local Childcare Partnership.