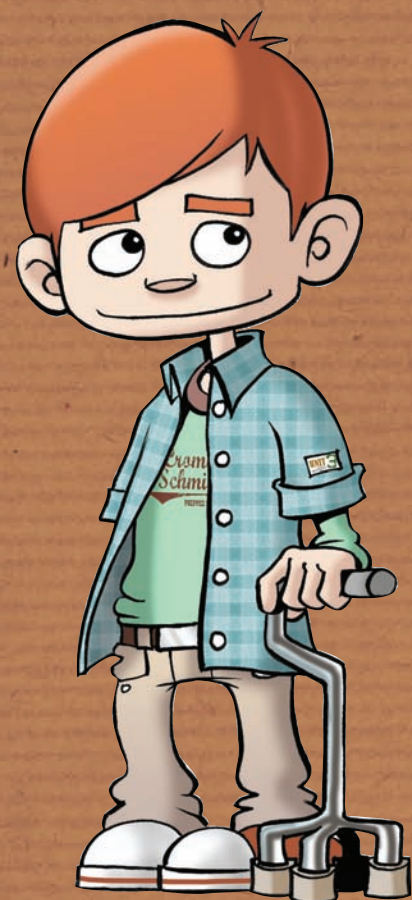


A REPORT ON
THE MOVING AND
HANDLING OF
CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES



Scotland's
Commissioner
for Children and
Young People

HANDLE WITH CARE



Young Person's Summary Report

Summary of a report laid before the Scottish Parliament by
Kathleen Marshall, Scotland's Commissioner for Children
and Young People, on 27 February 2008.

HANDLE WITH CARE

What is SCCYP?

SCCYP is the office of Kathleen Marshall, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People. Kathleen's job is to make sure children and young people's rights are respected in Scotland. To find out more, visit:

www.sccyp.org.uk

“ WE ARE PEOPLE, AND NOT JUST THINGS TO BE HANDLED. ”



What is moving and handling?

When we say 'moving and handling', we mean any activity that involves supporting, lifting, pushing, pulling, carrying or moving children or young people with disabilities. These activities may be carried out by hand or by using equipment (such as a hoist). Examples of moving and handling activities include:

- transferring a child from a wheelchair to bed; or
- hoisting a child into the bath.

Children and young people can receive moving and handling assistance from a variety of people, including learning assistants, social care workers or nurses.

What's the issue?

The Commissioner has heard from a number of children and young people with disabilities and their parents about the negative impact moving and handling can have on their day to day lives. The children and young people describe feeling embarrassed, humiliated, undignified and excluded because of moving and handling difficulties. They say they can't take part fully in school and are unable to enjoy after school or other leisure activities.

What did SCCYP do?

To find out more about the effect moving and handling has on children's lives, SCCYP met up with groups of children and young people and parents, as well as workers who provide moving and handling assistance. SCCYP also looked at the law on moving and handling, and asked all 32 local authorities in Scotland how they put this law into practice.

What did children and young people say?

Many of the children and young people who spoke to us said that moving and handling makes them feel undignified and dependent on the people around them. They said that people don't listen to what they have to say and don't treat them as individuals.

What did parents and carers say?

The parents and carers who spoke to us thought that problems were caused by organisations which provide services to children focusing too much on the health and safety of their workers, rather than the rights and welfare of the child or young person.

What did workers say?

On the other hand, workers providing moving and handling assistance tell us that they feel unable to deliver the service they would like. They feel held back by what they see as inflexible rules and a lack of support and resources.

What did SCCYP find out?

Our research has shown that moving and handling issues can cause significant disruption to the lives of children and young people and their families. Poor ways of working may result in breaches of children's rights, are harmful to children's welfare and limit their enjoyment of life.

It's not all bad though...

Our research also shows that good ways of working are possible and are already happening in some areas. Where this is the case, workers providing moving and handling assistance contribute to children's physical and emotional welfare, helping to maximise their mobility and independence.

What happens next?

SCCYP is making recommendations to the people who make decisions on moving and handling issues including the Government, the Parliament and organisations that provide services to children and young people. Our recommendations are designed to encourage better ways of working for all children and young people with disabilities in Scotland.

What else will SCCYP do?

Children and young people and their parents told us how difficult it is to find out about moving and handling. We've decided to create a leaflet that will give information about moving and handling and which will describe the kind of good service that children and young people are entitled to.

What do you think?

We would love to hear what you think about this issue. Please email us at:

info@sccyp.org.uk

If you want to read our full report on moving and handling, visit our website at:

www.sccyp.org.uk

If you would like a hard copy of the report, you can phone our Young Person's Freephone on:

0800 019 1179

and we will post you a copy.





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