

Trauma-Free Justice, Care and Protection for Scotland's Children: Learning from the Barnahus approach

Background

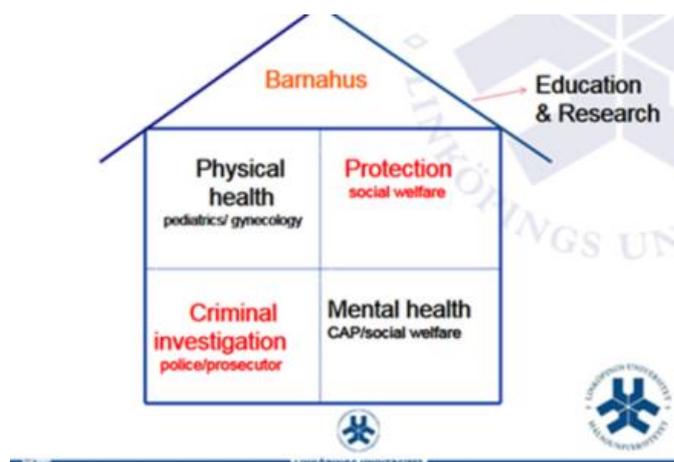
The first Barnahus or 'Child's House' was established in Iceland in 1998, as a response to child sexual abuse. Inspired by American Child Advocacy Centresⁱ the Barnahus is described by Bragi Guðbrandsson, Iceland's Director General of Child Protection as: "a conscious attempt to synthesize the sophisticated investigative tradition of the US and the Nordic welfare tradition, based on the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).ⁱⁱ At the heart of the Barnahus approach is a trauma-informed multi-disciplinary approach which unites services for child victims and witnesses and their families to ensure that all children who come to the Barnahus are better off when they leave, regardless of the judicial outcome in their case.

The Barnahus considers the journey from disclosure of violence to recovery through a child's eyes. Instead of going to multiple different services, in multiple locations, rarely designed with the child's needs or ease in mind, services (including justice, child protection, medical examination and trauma recovery and family support) come to the child at the Barnahus. A key role of the Barnahus is to help produce valid evidence for judicial proceedings by eliciting the child's disclosure in a way that means the child does not have to appear in court, should the case be prosecuted.ⁱⁱⁱ This reduces the risk of the child experiencing further trauma and enables them to start recovering from their experiences much more quickly.

Since 1998 the Barnahus approach has been adapted across Europe. It is widely recognised as an 'outstanding good practice' by the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union and other leading actors.^{iv} Today, there are more than 50 Barnahus in the Nordic countries and other multi-disciplinary child-friendly centres sharing the goal of reducing re-traumatisation of children are growing across Europe.^v Within the Nordic countries Iceland has one Barnahus, Sweden has 23, Denmark has five with three satellites and Norway (which has a similar population to Scotland but a much greater land mass) has 10.^{vi} In 2016 the Barnahus Iceland carried out a total of 235 investigative interviews and 13 medical examinations with children and provided follow up therapeutic support to 134 children.^{vii}

The key elements of the Barnahus approach align closely to the aims of Scottish Government policy including the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Justice’s commitment that “no child should go to court”^{viii}; the commitment to consider how lessons from the Barnahus could apply in the Scottish context contained in *Equally Safe – A Delivery Plan*, the furtherance of children’s rights under Part 1 of the Children and Young People’s Act 2014, the Christie Commission principles of providing multidisciplinary services and Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC). To inform the development of Barnahus within the Scottish context, this paper summarises the learning Children 1st, Scotland’s national children’s charity, has gathered through participation in Phase 1 of the Promise Project, the Justice for Children Conference we hosted in autumn 2016, the visit to Iceland Barnahus we facilitated for Scottish leaders, including Scottish Government Ministers in August 2017 and our representation in the Swedish Government’s Never Violence Visitors’ Programme.

What is the Barnahus?



In the simplest terms, the Barnahus is often described as a child-friendly house with four rooms. Together these rooms provide all of the services a child and family need to support them through their journey from disclosure to recovery: criminal investigation, child protection, physical health (including forensic examination), mental health and well-being and recovery and support needs including family support.

There is however, no one single model of Barnahus. As Barnahus have grown across Scandinavia and other parts of Europe, countries have taken different approaches. In some countries, for example, Iceland, the Government ensures funding, financial and staff management. The scope of child victims and witnesses who are included in the Barnahus approach also varies. In Iceland the Barnahus started by supporting child victims of sexual abuse only, then in 2015 this expanded to include all children who disclose physical abuse or violence whose cases are reported to the police by local child protection services as well as unaccompanied and asylum-seeking children. A secondary target group are the child’s non-offending parent (s)/caregiver(s).^{ix} In Norway, Barnahus has started to consider children and adolescents with problematic or harmful sexual behaviour as a new target group.^x

European Barnahus Quality Standards

Given the rapid growth and variation in what is being called a Barnahus across Europe the PROMISE Project was set up in 2015 to promote best practice in the development of Barnahus approaches across the continent. Children 1st, alongside the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service/Scottish Government, represent Scotland in the Project - now in its second phase. The first phase resulted in the development of ten European Barnahus Quality Standards for Multidisciplinary and Interagency responses to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence. Grounded in international European law and guidance, the Standards are a collection of cross-cutting principles, activities, core functions and institutional arrangements that can be put in place to prevent re-traumatisation of child victims and witnesses. The Standards have been drawn up to ensure they can be transferred and adapted across different justice systems, legislative and policy frameworks and social environments.

The Standards cover:

1. Key Principles and Cross-cutting activities incorporating: best-interests of the child, the right to be heard and receive information and avoiding undue delay.
2. Multidisciplinary and Interagency Collaboration in the Barnahus
3. Inclusive Target Group
4. Child Friendly Environment
5. Interagency case Management
6. The Forensic Interview
7. Medical Examination
8. Therapeutic Services
9. Capacity Building
10. Prevention incorporating: information sharing, awareness raising and external competence building.^{xi}

Considering the learning from Barnahus within a Scottish Context

In Scotland it is widely recognised that the justice system risks re-traumatising child victims and witnesses and that giving evidence in court long after events have taken place does not support witnesses to provide the best evidence.^{xii} This impacts on individual children's long-term health and wellbeing and the quality of evidence for all parties involved in the justice system (including defendants) and is at odds with Scotland's wider approach to Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). Reforms to better support vulnerable witnesses (including

children) are ongoing and include: improving the quality and consistency of Joint Investigative Interviews; the development of legislative proposals to increase pre-recording of evidence and the commitment in the *Equally Safe Delivery Plan* to consider the lessons from the Barnahus concept. To achieve a trauma-free justice, care and protection system for all child victims and witnesses, these reforms must be clearly rooted, interconnected and developed based on a planned vision of how Scotland will achieve this, rather than through a piecemeal approach.

The publication *European Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence* sets out detail about the Standards and examples of indicators and evidence that Standards are being met.

Children 1st recommends that all those involved in reforming the justice system in Scotland use the Guidance as a tool to assess, develop and measure reforms to better support child victims and witnesses in Scotland. There is strong appetite within Scotland for the development of “Bairn’s house” but Children 1st believe that leadership is needed to own and drive this at a national level to achieve trauma-free care, justice and protection for Scotland’s children.

The remainder of this paper identifies some key issues for consideration in Scotland relating to the individual standards.

Standard 1: Key Principles and cross-cutting activities

Standard 1 includes three principles which are crucial to preventing re-traumatisation – the central aim of the Barnahus.^{xiii} These are: placing the best interests of the child at the centre of practice and decision-making; ensuring children’s right to be heard and to receive adequate information at all times and avoiding delay in protection, assistance and justice processes.^{xiv}

Ensuring that children’s best interests remain front of mind throughout these reforms will be crucial if Scotland is to develop a truly non-traumatising and rights-based model of justice for children. Achieving a step change in culture and practice, as well as processes and procedures is essential. While Norway introduced the Barnahus model in 2007 they stopped children and young people giving evidence in court as early as the 1920s because they collectively understood that this was not the best way to elicit a child’s evidence. In Scotland

we need to achieve the same shared understanding in culture and practice, so that capturing children's evidence in advance of trial is the norm and not a 'special' measure.

Using Childs Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments (CRWIA) at an early stage to develop, assess and enhance proposed reforms will help keep children's best interests front of mind by maximising the benefits of proposed changes and identifying, avoiding or mitigating any negative or unintended consequences.

At Children 1st we hear from children and young people who have felt increasingly confused and distressed by the number of professionals they come into contact with and the lack of information/ failure to check they understand information about what is happening/ going to happen next. Appendix 1 shows a map of a typical journey a child in Scotland might make through child protection and judicial processes, alongside a map of what this might look like, if Scotland were to deliver services via a "Bairn's house." **By reducing the number of professionals a child and family come into contact with and establishing a clear single point of contact for a child and their family to access information about what is happening in their case, a Scottish "Bairn's House" has the potential to enhance children's ability to fully participate in processes in an informed way.**

Involving children and young people with experience of justice, care and protection procedures in the design, development and evaluation of a "Bairn's House" pilot, including the information which will be provided to children is essential to ensuring that children are heard, receive adequate information at all times and that their needs will be met.

Learning from existing models of the Barnahus indicates that the key enabling factor to avoid undue delay is well-functioning collaboration and communication between respective agencies regulated by clear organisational procedures^{xv}. At the Barnahus in Linköping (Sweden) the multidisciplinary team hold joint consultation meetings to discuss cases and prepare interviews every Monday. This enables them to hold interviews and medical examinations of the child on the same day. The suspect will also be interviewed on the same day at the police station. A number of countries, including Iceland and Denmark, have specific laws and/or guidelines about maximum time limits between disclosure/reported suspicion and child protection assessment, disclosure and forensic interview, initial criminal investigation and decision to prosecute and decision to prosecute and trial.^{xvi} Barnahus in Linköping and Iceland collect data and statistics about the time between each stage in a

child's journey to enable monitoring and help the team consider if further steps are required to ensure that undue delay is prevented.^{xvii}

In Scotland it has been incredibly difficult to find data about the number of child witnesses who give evidence in criminal justice proceedings each year, let alone how long they have to wait between initial investigation, giving evidence in chief and cross-examination. **Setting guidelines about time limits between different stages of justice proceedings and care support procedures, which are monitored in individual cases and as a guide to overall performance would better support child victims and witnesses in Scotland by keeping professionals, policy makers and politicians focused on avoiding undue delay.**

Standard 2: Multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration in the Barnahus

In several Nordic countries (Iceland, Norway and Sweden) Barnahus were set up without a formal regulative framework. In each case guidelines, standards and/or regulations have been introduced at a later date to formalise interagency collaboration within the Barnahus. In Denmark, by contrast, a law was adopted that regulates the operation and key features of Barnahus before they were established.^{xviii} Standard 2 requires a formal foundation agreement for the Barnahus signed by all the agencies involved which covers elements such as purpose, goals, commitments, roles and responsibilities, organisation, finance, privacy, time period and conflict management. **Children 1st's learning from the Promise Exchange shows that where Barnahus grow rapidly within a country, such as in Sweden and Norway, without an overview at national Government level, this can lead a "postcode lottery" of support for child victims and witnesses.** Ensuring equity of responsibility for the delivery of a high quality response from all agencies involved in supporting a child from disclosure/suspicion of crime to recovery is also crucial to ensuring that children's best interests are served without undue delay (Standard 1).

To avoid inconsistency in service provision in Scotland, where some of the agencies who would be providing services through a "Bairns house" are organised locally (social work services, health) and some nationally (Police Scotland), Children 1st believes that some clear principles and guidance for developing and monitoring a "Bairns house" should be established at a national level. This should include a guide framework for interagency collaboration. It may be appropriate to enshrine guidance in legislation, as in Denmark. Scottish-specific principles and guidance should be informed by the European Quality Standards and the views and voices of children and young people with experience of Scotland's care, protection and justice systems.

Standard 2 also highlights the importance of one or more staff members who are mandated to act as the Barnahus coordinator of the interagency collaboration. In conversations with professionals in both Iceland and Sweden, it is clear that the coordinator plays a crucial role in making processes as smooth as possible for children, families and professionals. Professionals talked about being able to fully focus on the core of their work because they knew that appointments had been organised, the child's other needs were being met and the child had been put at as much ease as possible, given what had happened to them.

Children 1st recommends that any Scottish “Bairn’s House” approach includes a coordinator role to free up other professionals and help reduce the stress and trauma experienced by children and their families.

Standard 3: Inclusive Target Group

The original Barnahus in Iceland developed as a specific response to a growing recognition of child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. In 2015 the Iceland Barnahus began to provide services to child victims and witnesses of physical abuse and domestic violence and in 2016 it further expanded to support the assessment of unaccompanied asylum seekers. Non offending family/care givers are included as a secondary target group.^{xix} Barnahus Iceland provides services to all children within these target groups regardless of where they live. Children usually attend the Barnahus for initial investigation and assessment (including pre-recorded interviews, medical examination and identification of possible trauma) with follow up treatment provided in the child's local community (unless a child lives in Reykjavík where the Barnahus is located) by the Barnahus therapists who travel to the child. Standard 3 recommends that the Barnahus target group should include all children who are victims and/or witnesses to all forms of violent crime included but not limited to physical and mental abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, commercial exploitation, trafficking, genital mutilation and crime with honour motives.

Children 1st believe that if we are to achieve the long term vision of a trauma-free justice, care and protection system for Scotland’s children, “Bairn’s House” needs to be open to as wide a target group of children and young people and their families as possible. The children and young people we support describe negative experiences at all levels of the criminal justice system – for example giving evidence in domestic abuse cases that are prosecuted in the summary courts. While the initial focus should be on child victims and witnesses, we also recognise that children and young

people who are accused of crime are often the most vulnerable and victimised and that there is merit in considering how a Scottish Barnahus approach may be adapted to children accused of crime as well as victims and witnesses, especially after the minimum age in criminal responsibility increases. Children 1st therefore believe that the most effective approach in Scotland would be to roll out Barnahus by geographic area rather than by type of case so that it includes as wide a target group of child victims and witnesses as possible from the outset.

Standard 4: Child Friendly Environment

Providing a safe, neutral and child-friendly environment is central to reducing anxiety and preventing re-traumatisation.^{xx} In Barnahus Iceland every effort has been made to ensure the environment is as family-friendly as possible, with a particular focus on welcoming children. The Barnahus is based in what looks like a family home in a residential area in Reykjavik, there is no signage and it is not publicly identifiable. Interview rooms are small to enhance feelings of closeness and safety and cameras and sound systems to enable live observation and recording of interviews are as unobtrusive as possible, with small soft toys attached to the microphones that children wear for recording purposes.^{xxi} While the rooms and interior environment at one of the three Barnahus in Stockholm are also designed to be child friendly, the Barnahus is situated in an office block and includes signage, making it less child-friendly from the exterior.^{xxii}

Children and young people in Scotland frequently describe how un-child-friendly feeling buildings, waiting spaces and interview rooms can compound their trauma by impacting on their levels of anxiety and ability to confidently give evidence. As one young person told us: “it felt like I was treated like the criminal.” The *European Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence* sets out detailed learning from Iceland and Linköping about how to provide a child-friendly environment which also meets the requirements for effectively pre-recording interviews for court proceedings. Scottish delegates to Barnahus Iceland noted the importance of both the internal and external look and feel of the premises in minimising children’s anxiety and putting them at ease. Children 1st would recommend that locations chosen for “Bairn’s House” in Scotland should model the Icelandic approach as far as possible.

Standard 5: Case Management

Standard 5 covers formal procedures and routines for continuous interagency case planning, tracking and review and the need for a support person to monitor the multidisciplinary response and ensure continuous support and follow up with the child and their family/care givers. This role is typically taken up by the social/child protection services as case managers. The standard recognises the processes for doing so may be shaped by potential restrictions on information sharing in national legislation. For example in the Netherlands the Child and Youth Trauma Centre, Haarlem has established a privacy protocol to enable the team to share information about cases while respecting legal regulations in line with Dutch data protection law.^{xxiii}

Scotland already has clear and robust processes and procedures for data protection, child protection case management and interagency working around a child, and these would continue to apply within a “Bairn’s house” approach. Social work would continue to be the lead professional preparing risk assessments, safety planning and organising child planning meetings. We would anticipate that interagency meetings and child planning meetings would take place within the “Bairn’s House.” In addition, a Coordinator would liaise with the child’s family to ensure they are fully informed about next steps in their case, continuity of support and effective tracking of the time taken from initial referral to the outcome of the case.

Without further swift and significant change to our judicial process it is very likely that children, young people and their families will continue to wait an excruciating 12-18 months for the conclusion of their case in Scotland. So the Coordinator role will be particularly important to ensure that children and their families understand the complex legal framework and process that follow initial interview, are kept updated about the progress of their case, know what is going to happen next and are supported through the preparation for giving evidence in cross-examination or taken by Commissioner.

Standard 6: Forensic Interview

The Barnahus approach to the forensic interview is crucial to ensuring that children and young people do not suffer further trauma and that in all cases that come to the Barnahus the child, regardless of the legal outcome, is in a better position at the conclusion of the process than at its start”.^{xxiv} The main aim of the forensic interview is to elicit the child’s free narrative in a much detail as possible without causing the child further trauma, while complying with the rules of evidence and the rights of the defendant in a way that is valid in

court.^{xxv} The interviews are routinely carried out by one single professional specialising in forensic interview, using evidence based practices and protocols, with other relevant professionals observing from another room. The backgrounds of the professionals carrying out forensic interviews in different Barnahus vary. In Stockholm the forensic interview is carried out by the police, in Iceland by professionals in the area of mental health with a background in child development.^{xxvi} Regardless of the professional background of the forensic interviewer, what is common across Barnahus is that the interviewer undergoes highly specialised training, with regular guidance, supervision and ongoing development in forensic interviewing and that this is their primary role. In Norway and Iceland forensic interviewers are trained in the 'Alabama' sequential interview training technique.

The number of interviews with children is limited to the absolute minimum necessary for the criminal investigation. If multiple interviews are required these are conducted by the same professional. In Iceland forensic interviewers carry out two types of interview with children and young people: a court statement which is taken when a child has already made a disclosure; and exploratory interviews which take place at the request of child protection services when there is a suspicion of a crime but a child's disclosure has been ambiguous, an offender has not been identified or the accused is below the age of criminal responsibility (which is 15 in Iceland). Both types of interview are recorded, but whereas all other relevant professionals will observe the court statement, only one other professional will observe exploratory interviews. If a full disclosure starts to be made by the child during the exploratory interview, the interview will be stopped to avoid the child having to retell their story more often than necessary. Arrangements will then be made to conduct a court statement interview as soon as feasible.^{xxvii}

In Scotland the approach to forensic interviewing outlined in the Standard Barnahus is of particular relevance to:

- The work that is being undertaken by Police Scotland and Social Work Scotland to improve the quality and consistency of Joint Investigative Interviews (JII)s to enable them to be consistently used as Evidence in Chief in court proceedings involving children in Scotland;
- Consideration of how to approach cases where the accused is below the age of criminal responsibility, as it increases to 12, learning from the 'exploratory' interview approach that is taken in Iceland.
- Moves to increase evidence taking by Commissioner in cases where cross-examination is required.

As part of their work Police Scotland and Social Work Scotland may find it helpful to undertake a full review of the 'Alabama' sequential interview training, with a view to considering how practical it would be to use this as the foundation for all forensic interview training in Scotland.

Standard 7: Medical Examination

The involvement of health is a core aspect of the Barnahus model as established in Iceland. In countries where health services have been involved as a lead in the development of Barnahus from the outset, engagement of health services is high. However in other countries including Norway, Sweden and Denmark health services are reported to be less engaged. In Denmark, in particular if children need a forensic medical examination they need to travel to hospital for this. Standard 7 addresses the need for routine medical examinations of children in the Barnahus premises in order to identify multiple forms of abuse and neglect which might otherwise be missed, if there is no requirement for a medical examination to gather forensic medical evidence. ^{xxviii}

The focus of medical examination in the Barnahus in Iceland is on a general medical examination in cases where abuse has been going on for a long time, rather than looking for fresh forensic medical evidence, (for example straight after rape). Where urgent or complicated cases require specialist interventions these continue to be done in a hospital setting – including taking blood samples and x-rays. This means that the examination room in the Barnahus in Iceland does not need to be forensically sterile and can therefore be designed to be much more child-friendly. Ebba Magnúsdóttir, a consultant to the Iceland Barnahus reports that because children feel more at ease and safer within the Barnahus environment, examinations are “quicker and children are more co-operative.” Prior to the introduction of the Barnahus Ebba said that in 50% of cases of medical examination of children she would have to use anaesthetic, now she uses it in “maybe one case a year”. ^{xxix}

In Scotland the focus on providing better supports for vulnerable victims and witnesses includes developing appropriate premises and infrastructure to ensure that gathering forensic medical evidence of rape or sexual assault doesn't cause more trauma to victims (both adult and child). While this type of examination is carried out in a hospital setting in Iceland, Scottish delegates to Iceland were of the view that it would be possible to maintain a forensically sterile examination room within a Scottish “Bairns House.” **In order for consistency of all supports available within a “Bairns House,” Children 1st suggest that the Scottish Government determines that any pilots or plans to establish a Bairns**

House would include forensic examination as a mandatory aspect of the support on offer.

Standard 8: Therapeutic Services

A core aspect of the Iceland Barnahus is that all children, young people, parents and carers have their trauma recovery support needs assessed and treated. This right to recovery support is enshrined in child protection law and the UNCRC (article 39). Standard 8 recognises that effective treatment and support for the child and wider family can minimise the negative social, emotional and developmental effects of trauma and that avoiding undue delay in providing this support is central to ensuring effective treatment.^{xxx} This includes crisis support intervention for both children and their parents/carers if needed.

The provision of therapeutic crisis and trauma recovery services must be a core part of Scotland's approach to improving support for child victims and witnesses. Intervening early to support children to recover from trauma is essential to preventing other issues including long-term ill-health, lower educational attainment and being a greater risk of developing unhealthy adult relationships. Yet the provision of trauma recovery support across Scotland is patchy and in many areas, children receive no support.^{xxxi} A consistent approach to the development of "Bairn's House" across Scotland would ensure this provision is available to every child who needs it. It is anticipated that given Scotland's geography, follow up trauma recovery for children who attend "Bairn's House" would be delivered within their local community.

While improvements to justice processes in Scotland should speed up the length of time that child victims and witnesses wait between decision to prosecute and evidence taken by commissioner (for the purposes of cross-examination), in the short-term at least children in Scotland will continue to experience a significantly longer wait than children in Iceland. In Iceland the different approach to justice means that the child's participation in judicial processes is concluded once the court testimony interview(s) are recorded at the Barnahus. This means that most children begin therapeutic recovery assessment and treatment within 2-4 weeks after their initial disclosure. In England a recent evaluation of "section 28 pilots" to speed up cross-examination of vulnerable witnesses found that while section 28 cases took on average around half the time for cross-examination than in other cases, "for witnesses...the cross-examination still took place months after they had given their evidence in chief."^{xxxii}

Children 1st have experience of offering children, young people and families support, from initial police investigation through to giving evidence in court. This support is delivered within clear parameters and does not discuss the nature of any disclosure. Rather the support focuses on building a child's confidence and resilience.

Many children and young people who disclose abuse have found that their relationship with non-abusive parents, friends and/or peers are impacted, they may not be believed or may become the victim of bullying or scapegoating by their friends or classmates. This can have a significant negative impact on a child's self esteem. Where young people are placed in foster care (when their non-abusive parent does not believe them) they have been known to say they regret sharing the abuse, as life only got worse after they told someone about it. Some children and young people may engage in risk taking behaviours as a result of their experiences.

By taking a flexible, trauma informed approach to support, children and young people can be helped to resolve many of the challenging issues or worries in their lives. Children 1st often find that as a result of our support a child's school attendance and conduct improves, as do their relationships with caregivers. As the date of the court appearance draws closer, the Children 1st worker will fully explain what to expect, ensure that special measures have been considered and facilitate a visit to a video conference suite or court, as appropriate. This support is also beneficial post trial, especially in cases where for example, plea bargaining means that an accused is found guilty of a lesser charge, which is seen by the young person as far less serious than what they have given evidence about. This is often a devastating moment for young people, who can feel let down or not-believed and may question whether the ordeal of interview and wait for the trial was worth it. Support to help children understand that the outcome was outwith their hands and to remove their sense of guilt or self-blame, can help them begin to recover more quickly.

A Scottish "Bairn's House" must build in provision for trauma informed therapeutic support for children and their families during the period between the JII/initial investigative interview and evidence taken by commissioner or cross-examination as well as trauma recovery assessment and support post trial.

Standard 9: Capacity Building

This Standard includes training, guidance, supervision, peer review and counselling support for members of the Barnahus team to ensure high quality interventions and protect staff from

burn-out.^{xxxiii} The Standard also gives examples of ways in which the expertise within the Barnahus can be used to build capacity more widely across professional disciplines.

Just as Scotland's existing case management procedures for child protection would be followed within a "Bairn's house," processes for training, development and supervision within individual professions would remain the same. There is much interest in Scotland in ensuring all professionals are trauma-informed, in order to prevent that damaging impact that long term unresolved trauma can have on individuals, communities and society. The potential for Scottish 'Bairn's House' to contribute to this work by building and sharing expertise in order to establish a trauma-informed approach across professions in Scotland should be recognised from the outset.

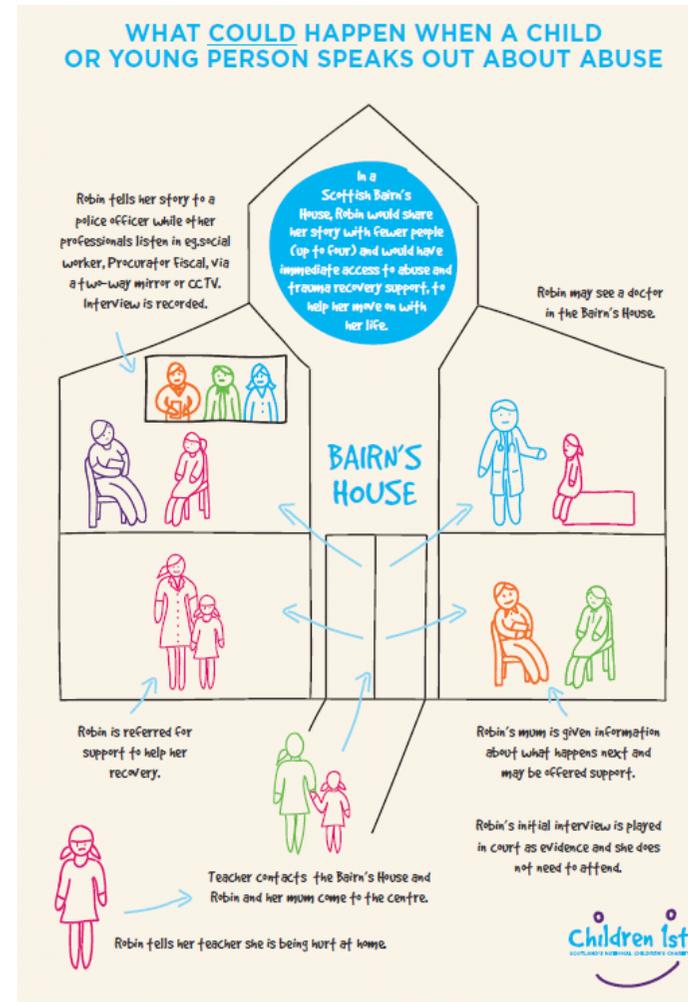
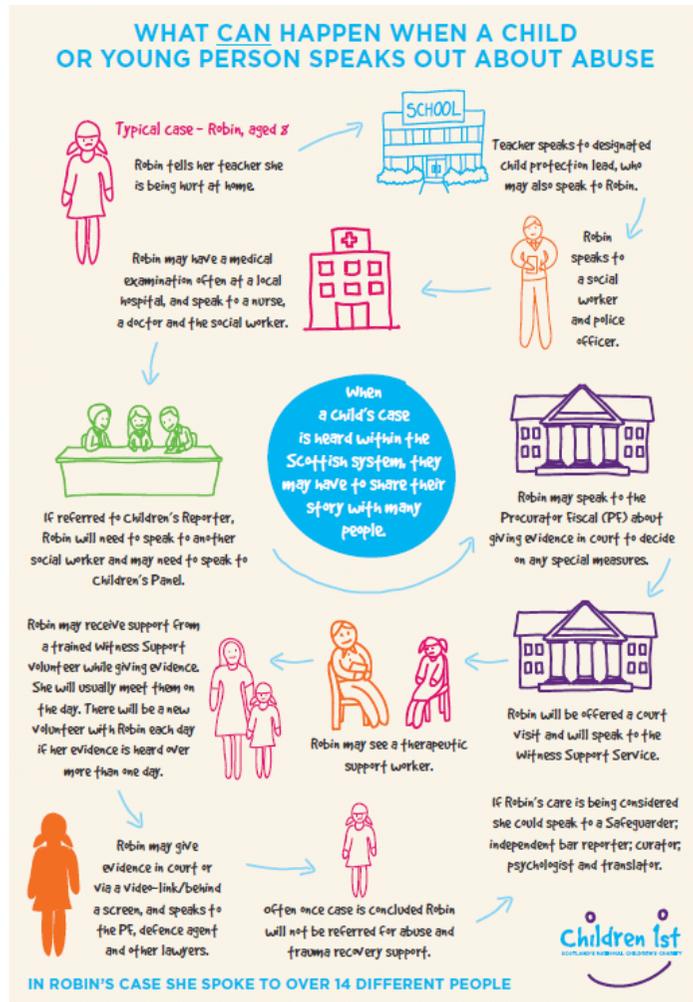
Standard 10: Prevention

The Standard covers data collection, information sharing and awareness raising as well as external competence building, which can serve as an important prevention measure.^{xxxiv} Several Barnahus, including Linköping are linked to universities in order to robustly capture and share the learning and expertise that has developed within the Barnahus. Where once the Barnahus in Iceland was seen as being extremely progressive, particularly by those within the country's judicial system, today, in Iceland it is the norm.^{xxxv}

Indeed the Barnahus is itself seen as a preventative measure against child abuse because its very existence makes it clear that if children disclose they will be listened to, their case will be investigated and they will get the support they need to repair and recover from their experiences.

Establishing a Scottish model of "Bairn's House" will be a key catalyst in achieving Scotland's aspiration that children experience child-centred, trauma free justice, care and protection. In addition to being the vehicle whereby services are shaped around a child and family's needs, the Bairn's house will drive the wider changes in culture and practice that are required to make the vision Scottish policy-makers, professionals, politicians and third sector organisations, including Children 1st, have for trauma-free care and justice for children the reality.

Appendix 1



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- ⁱ Wenke D (2017) p5 *Enabling Child-Sensitive Justice: The Success story of the Barnahus Model and its Expansion in Europe*, Council of the Baltic Sea States of Europe.
- ⁱⁱ Guobrandsson B (2016) *The emergence of Barnahus model and its implementation among the Nordic Countries*, presentation at the Promise Exchange Meeting, Reykjavik 15 -16 June
- ⁱⁱⁱ Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p12 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States of Europe.
- ^{iv} Wenke D (2017) p2 *Enabling Child-Sensitive Justice: The Success story of the Barnahus Model and its Expansion in Europe*, Council of the Baltic Sea States of Europe
- ^v Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p13 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States of Europe.
- ^{vi} Information gathered from Promise Exchange presentations
- ^{vii} Information provided during Children 1st facilitated Scottish leaders visit to Barnahus Iceland.
- ^{viii} Matheson M, (2016) Speech at Justice for Children Conference <https://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/getting-it-right-for-child-witnesses>
- ^{ix} Wenke D (2017) p61 *Enabling Child-Sensitive Justice: The Success story of the Barnahus Model and its Expansion in Europe*, Council of the Baltic Sea States of Europe and Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p55 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States of Europe sets out more details about the Standards and example of indicators and or evidence that the standard is being met.
- ^x Wenke D (2017) p63 *Enabling Child-Sensitive Justice: The Success story of the Barnahus Model and its Expansion in Europe*, Council of the Baltic Sea States of Europe.
- ^{xi} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States of Europe sets out more details about the Standards and example of indicators and or evidence that the standard is being met.
- ^{xii} Pre-recording Evidence of Child and other Vulnerable Witnesses Consultation Analysis (2017) p3 <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529192.pdf>
- ^{xiii} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p30 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xiv} *Ibid.*
- ^{xv} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p39 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xvi} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p41 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xvii} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p39 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xviii} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p46 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xix} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p54 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xx} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p58 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xxi} Observation during Children 1st facilitated Scottish leaders visit to Barnahus Iceland.
- ^{xxii} Observation during visit as part of the Never Violence Visitors Programme
- ^{xxiii} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p72 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xxiv} Promise Exchange visit to Barnahus Linkoping
- ^{xxv} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p76 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xxvi} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p76 *European Barnahus Quality Standards:Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xxvii} Information shared with delegates during Children 1st facilitated Scottish leaders visit to Barnahus Iceland.

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- ^{xxviii} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p88 *European Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xxix} Information shared with delegates during Children 1st facilitated Scottish leaders visit to Barnahus Iceland.
- ^{xxx} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p92 *European Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xxx} Promise Exchange visit to Barnahus Linköping
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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/553335/process-evaluation-doc.pdf
- ^{xxxiii} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p102 *European Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xxxiv} Haldorsson, O.L. (2017) p106 *European Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States
- ^{xxxv} Mr Hjörtur Aðalsteinsson, Chief Judge at the District Court of Sudurland, Court Judge addressing delegates during Children 1st facilitated Scottish leaders visit to Barnahus Iceland.