

It's my body:

calls to ChildLine Scotland about sexual health and wellbeing

Wednesday 14th November
Glasgow Caledonian University

Who should attend?

Policy makers in the field of young people's sexual health and relationships, education, children's rights and child protection.

Specifically professionals working in the areas of:

Public health
Health promotion
Education (SHRE, PSD, pastoral care)
Child protection
School nursing
Youth/ school counselling services
General practise
Children's Rights
Youth work
Teacher education and curriculum development
Nurse education

Outline programme

- 10.30 Coffee & Registration
- 11.00 Welcome - Elaine Chalmers, Head of ChildLine Scotland
- 11.05 Opening address - Patrick Harvey, MSP
- 11.20 Children and young people's concerns: an overview of research findings
Kathryn Backett-Milburn and Elinor Newall, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR)
- 12.00 Working with children and young people's concerns
Alison Wales, ChildLine Scotland
- 12.15 Questions and discussion
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Workshops
- 2.30 Young people's input
- 3.00 Close

Scotland has heard much about the sexual health of its young population over the last decade and many voices have contributed to the debate. What has rarely been heard at a national level however, is the voice of young people themselves.

ChildLine Scotland¹ represents the unsolicited voice of children and young people living in Scotland today. Last year around 35,000 children and young people talked to volunteer counsellors about a vast range of concerns from bullying to running away. Over the years, calls to the service about sexual health and relationships have steadily increased to the point where they now represent one of the most common issues children and young people call us about.

This event will present the findings of a study by CRFR and ChildLine Scotland into the concerns that over 14,000 children and young people brought to the helpline about issues such as relationships, sexual orientation, puberty, pregnancy and sexual abuse. The information represents children and young people's unsolicited concerns about their own sexual health and wellbeing. Please come along and listen to what they are telling us.

"It may make uncomfortable reading for some, but there is no point in designing education and services for children and young people without listening to what they need and want.

"So far, we have heard everyone's opinion on sexual health – apart from the voice of young people themselves. Surely, if we are to tackle the massive problems of teenage pregnancy, sexual abuse and an increase in STIs we have to look at what we're doing wrong. Young people are telling us that they need 'realistic' sex education which talks about their rights in the setting of relationships. It's time we acted on what they're telling us."

Kathleen Marshall

Scotland's Commissioner for
Children and Young People



Supported by the
Scottish Executive

¹The ChildLine service is delivered in Scotland by CHILDREN 1st on behalf of the NSPCC

There is a charge of £30 for this event, which includes lunch. To book a place please go to:

<http://www.crfr.ac.uk/events/childline.html>