Autumn/Winter 2026

NEWSLETTER



Exciting Developments for our advice service

It has been a busy and rewarding period for our advice service, with a number of exciting projects and partnerships helping us strengthen our work with children, young people, and schools.

Earlier this year, we were delighted to welcome freelance research consultant Charis Robertson, who joined us for a three-month project funded by the Scottish Government. Charis worked closely with children and young people to gather their views on how our Advice Service can better engage with and reach those who need our support. The insights and recommendations from this project have been invaluable and will help shape the future development of our service, ensuring that the voices of children and young people remain at the heart of what we do.

A big shout out to Denise for all her hard work in keeping our Centre and Advice Service running smoothly and ensuring we continue to provide free and confidential legal advice to protect children's rights across Scotland. 👏

Bringing Children's Rights into the Classroom

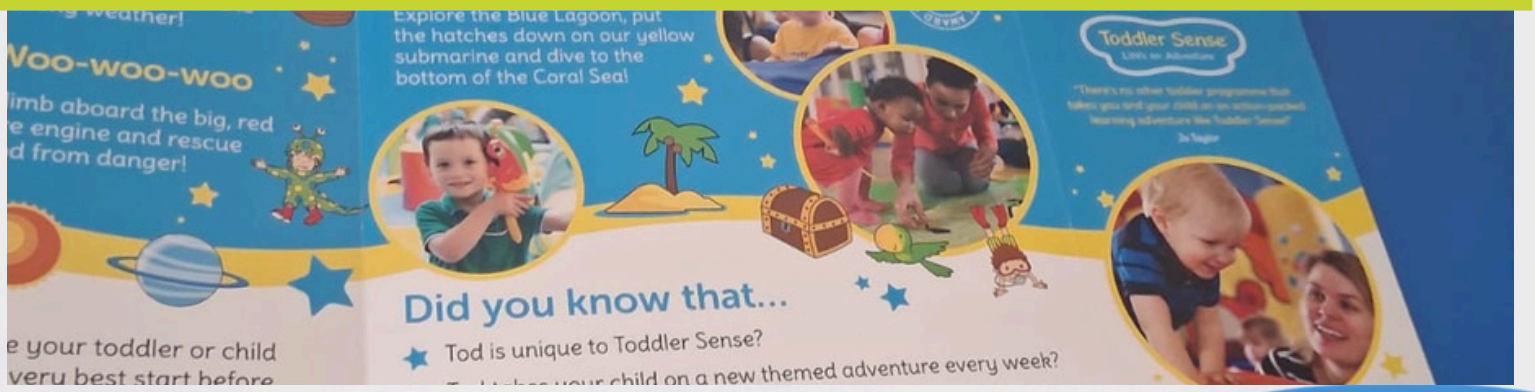
Our legal team has also been actively engaging with local schools. In April, our Principal Solicitor, Jamie Speirs, and Solicitor, Jan McCaig, were invited to St John Ogilvie High School to deliver workshops to all S1 classes and support S1 Rights Day. It was a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of young people's rights and encourage discussion about how these rights apply in everyday life. The students were very engaged and there were a few inspired future lawyers.

Jan has also been working in partnership with Annette Street Primary School in Govanhill, supporting staff and pupils as they work towards achieving the prestigious Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award. This collaboration has involved promoting children's rights throughout the school community and helping to embed a rights-based approach across school life. The school is planning to get the children involved in advocating for local issues, where rights are being breached.

We are proud of the positive impact these partnerships are having and look forward to continuing to work alongside schools, children, and young people to promote children's rights and improve access to our advice service.







Supporting Families, Strengthening Our Community



Jan leading legal advice, right here at Babyzone, Easterhouse

Free family law advice, right here at Babyzone

Our Our Solicitor, Jan McCaig, has been working closely within local communities, and we are delighted to have recently partnered with Babyzone Glasgow in Easterhouse.

On Friday 5 June, Babyzone opened its first Scottish hub at Easterhouse Sports Centre in Glasgow, marking an important milestone in the charity's mission to give every child a fair start in life. The opening day saw an impressive 443 people through the doors, including 174 families, 112 toddlers and 111 babies. This was a powerful reminder of the importance of accessible, welcoming spaces and the support they provide to local families.

Every Friday during term time, families with children from pregnancy to age five can drop in to Easterhouse Sports Centre between 9:30am and 2:30pm to access a range of support and services.



Jan made her first visit to Babyzone on Friday 14 August, where she was warmly welcomed by the Babyzone team and the parents attending the hub.

Going forward, Jan will be at Babyzone on the last Friday of every month, providing free legal advice and information on child and family law to families in the local community.

This partnership presents an exciting opportunity for the Centre to extend its reach and build stronger connections with communities who may need our support. By bringing legal advice directly into community spaces, we hope to make information and support more accessible to families and ensure they know where to turn when they need help.

RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND
counselling, mediation & family support across

Child Contact Centres Relationships Scotland



We continue to use the evidence gained from our direct engagement with children, and those who care and support them, to positively influence policy and the long-term change needed to improve lives.

Recently, this has included participation in the Child Rights Implementation Group through the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJI), and the Safer, Same Domestic Abuse Network.

We are always keen to build relationships and what better place than at Relationships Scotland? We recently met Kerry Mullen, Child Contact Centre Manager, who gave us a tour of the Glasgow Child Contact Centre. Child contact centres can play an essential role in helping children affected by family breakdown to maintain relationships with the parent they no longer live with, or with other family members.



We had valuable discussions about child-centred, trauma-informed practice, children's views, safeguarding, and emerging trends in child contact cases, including the rise in people representing themselves in family court proceedings.

We will continue to collaborate with Relationship Scotland and other partners to identify opportunities which help protect child's rights, and empower children, families and professionals ensuring that we reach those that who most need our support.

Govanhill Parade and Carnival



We were delighted to take part in the Govanhill Community Parade on Saturday 5 August. It was a vibrant celebration of culture, creativity and community, and we were proud to be part of such a wonderful day.

Jan, together with her two sons, Rory and Mati who volunteered their time to help on the day, set up a stall in Govanhill Park. This provided a great opportunity to meet local residents, chat with members of the community and share information about the clinic and the support we provide.

We would like to extend our thanks to Govanhill Baths Community Trust for organising such a fantastic community event and for their continued work delivering a range of community-based wellbeing, social enterprise and arts projects, shaped by the needs and aspirations of the local community.

We thoroughly enjoyed being part of the celebrations and look forward to returning in 2027!



Our appreciation and Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing volunteers, who give their time, energy and smiles to help us continue what we do for our advice service and community. Also, not forgetting Jan's sons Rory and Mati for helping out.

And to our funders, members and supporters — thank you. Your generosity makes our work possible and helps us continue supporting families across Scotland.

CHILDREN AT HEART

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