During Year 2 there has been improved collaboration and joint working between stakeholders and the Guardianship Service. The work of the Service is generally well regarded by stakeholders.

Findings of the 2012 stakeholder survey

- 74% agree or strongly agree that the Guardian appears sufficiently knowledgeable in relation to immigration and asylum issues (compared with 44% in 2011)
- 74% agree or strongly agree that the Guardian helped to communicate an understanding of the young person’s experiences (compared with 59% in 2011)
- 60% agree or strongly agree that the Guardian helped them to understand the young person’s fears, worries and concerns (compared with 44% in 2011)
- 60% agree or strongly agree that the Guardian understood and respected their work with the young person (compared with 30% in 2011)

An evaluation of the Scottish Guardianship Service Pilot

- The Guardians treat the children and young people with dignity and respect, and 62% strongly agree that the Guardian acts in the young person’s ‘best interests’ (compared with 28% in 2011)
- 68% were either totally or very satisfied with the work of the Service (compared with 56% in 2011)
- 60% agree that the Guardian helped to establish and facilitate informal networks of care and support (compared with 44% in 2011)
- 64% agree or strongly agree that the Guardianship service acted as an advocate for the rights of the child or young person (Standard 4)
- 74% agree or strongly agree that the Guardian helps the young person to participate as fully as possible in the asylum process (compared with 48% in 2011)

The Service acted as a mechanism for ensuring that service providers worked together and that the overall level of provision was improved. In so doing Guardianship supported organisations and institutions to meet their statutory duties to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people, and the service has supported the work of local authorities and, notably Social Workers and Residential Workers, to protect the safety of the young person (Standard 3).

During Year 2 there has been improved collaboration and joint working between stakeholders and the Guardianship Service. The work of the Service is generally well regarded by stakeholders.

A model for others

We conclude with a discussion of the extent to which the Scottish Guardianship Service meets the core standards of Guardianship practice developed by Goeman et al (2011). Our evaluation identifies evidence that:

- The Guardianship Service in line with the needs, wishes, feelings and rights of children seeking asylum
- The Guardian acts as a bridge between, and focal point for, the young person and other actors involved (Standard 5)
- The Guardians acts in the best interests of the child or young person (Standard 1); the Guardian supports and facilitates the young person’s participation in decisions which affect them (Standard 2); the Guardian ensures the young person’s participation in decisions which affect them (Standard 2);
- The Guardian works to ensure the timely and effective implementation of a durable solution for young people (Standard 6)
- The Guardian works to ensure that there is effective interagency working (Standard 7)
- The Guardian works in partnership with others, most notably Social Workers and Residential Workers, to protect the safety of the young person (Standard 3)
- The Guardian works to ensure that there is effective interagency working (Standard 7)
- The Guardian acts as an advocate for the rights of the child or young person (Standard 4)
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- The Guardian acts as an advocate for the rights of the child or young person (Standard 4)
- The Guardian acts in the best interests of the child or young person (Standard 1)
in their lives, not driven by deadlines, correctness, and neatness. It was manifest in two forms, one diffused and the other made of systematic and purposeful activities. This was based on what appeared to be – being taken shopping, going to prize-giving (Guardian).

"They know where the crisps are, and they help themselves" (Guardian).

The precision focussed on the young people participating in Regular group work, art and craft projects, photography lessons, trips to the zoo, the sea and countryside or other ...

Outcomes for young people

During the course of the evaluation we identified evidence of the added value of Guardianship across the three domains of asylum, well-being, and social networks. The role of the Guardian in this domain was primarily one of protection and advocacy. The Guardians were regularly described by young people as being like friends, family members, trouble-shooters, and a range of methods and techniques to ensure that young people understood roles, rules and contexts.

The work of the Guardians in relation to social networks was explicitly engaged young people in the issue of return where necessary and timely to do so and where a young person was willing to engage with this issue.