

Dear Sir Madam

We would like to invite you to participate in a deliberative forum to discuss child care policy in a European context.

Childcare issues continue to be at the crux of labour market reform, which aims to maximise participation in the workforce on the one hand and to enable families to have children by managing work-family balance, on the other. The UK has already the most expensive childcare in the EU in terms of costs borne by parents and now the Comprehensive Spending Review may further reduce the provision of public childcare. The squeeze on UK parents is particularly acute. Can Scotland develop a distinctive response?

The aim is to look at European research and to develop guidelines for practice and policy on childcare in a Scottish context. For this reason key policy makers and stakeholders have been invited.