



## **Action for Sick Children (Scotland) Manifesto for the Scottish Government, Members of the Scottish Parliament and those responsible for the formulation of healthcare policy**

Action for Sick Children (Scotland) believes that every sick child or young person has the right to:

- Care by professionals with relevant training and experience in the care of sick children and young people
- Access to education whenever they are well enough to learn
- The opportunity to use play as part of their treatment when ill, and as a means of understanding their condition and its treatment
- An advocate of their choice to accompany them through times when they need support
- A parent or parent substitute to be with them at all times when in hospital, unless the child or young person confirms they do not want this
- Age and stage appropriate information and assistance in order to understand and follow treatment plans
- Holistic health care, including dental care that is designed for a child or young person's needs.

Action for Sick Children (Scotland) calls upon the Scottish Government, elected Members of the Scottish Parliament, and those responsible for the formulation of healthcare policy, to ensure that all children and young people's healthcare rights are upheld in line with the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH) Charter, which is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Action for Sick Children (Scotland) calls upon them:

**1. To ensure equity of access to education for all sick children and young people, regardless of their illness, age or where they live.**

*EACH Charter Article 7, UNCRC Articles 28 and 29*

**2. To empower and support young people to take responsibility for their own health and management of their chronic condition.**

*EACH Charter Articles 4 and 5, UNCRC Articles 12, 13 and 23*

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**3. To ensure a clearly defined healthcare pathway exists from early years to adulthood for all sick and disabled children, including transition from paediatric to adult services.**

*EACH Charter Article 9, UNCRC Article 23*

**4. To ensure that children and young people who are vulnerable, by virtue of the fact that they are in care or because they have exceptional healthcare needs, are accorded the same degree of respect, understanding and privacy as we would accord to any other child or young person.**

*EACH Charter Article 10, UNCRC Articles 2 and 39*

**5. To ensure that advocacy services are available to all sick children and young people particularly those who are looked after and those with exceptional healthcare needs.**

*EACH Charter Article 5, UNCRC Article 12*

**6. To ensure that children and young people with Additional and Complex Needs are adequately provided for in any government funded Oral Healthcare initiatives and services.**

*EACH Charter Article 4, UNCRC Article 23*

**7. To ensure that all healthcare facilities, where children and young people are treated, provide safe and age-appropriate play opportunities, and are maintained and organised by trained and registered Hospital Play Specialists.**

*EACH Charter Article 7, UNCRC Articles 7, 23, 24 and 31*

**8. To work with the NHS, local authorities and the voluntary sector to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the healthcare needs of all adolescent parents and their children.**

*EACH Charter Article 4, UNCRC Article 24*

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