**#NeedsNow: ‘Amplifying Voices’**

An update from our Research & Policy team

It was another hectic week in the research and policy field in Scotland last week with the appointment of a new First Minister for Scotland and the creation of their first cabinet. With all this going on, the Research & Policy team continued to find ways to amplify the voices of the children, young people and families we support – ensuring their views are at the centre stage of the new governments plans.

**Here’s just a small glimpse into what we’ve been up to last week;**

**Events**

* We met with the Tackling Child Poverty Team at the Scottish Government to talk about our previous research and our priorities for the coming year. We are excited that we have the input of policy makers right from the beginning to influence our housing and hobby guarantee– this way we can ensure it has the most impact.
* Meg, along with many of the Glasgow team members, have been supporting young people and their carers to co-design a family support service for Glasgow. These sessions have been great, and it has been amazing to see the young people’s confidence grow over the weeks. Thanks to Stephen, Amy, Stephanie, Steph and Mary for their hard work. Thanks too to Lily and Kerr for stepping in at the last session.
* On Wednesday, Meg gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament’s Education, Children and Young People’s Committee on the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill. She also used the opportunity to influence the Children’s Hearing Working Group recommendations through a chat with Sheriff Mackie in relation to children who are referred to a Hearing on offence grounds.
* On Thursday, Snow and Meg travelled to the Scottish Parliament to join partner organisations to ask the new First Minister and the Scottish Government to reaffirm their commitment to ending Child Poverty by 2030. The well-timed event took place after First Minister’s Questions and was well received. It also gave us a great opportunity to raise our profile with MSP and discuss the experiences and challenges faced by those we support.

Want to find out more? Drop us an email at publicaffairs@includem.co.uk