

## Children's Rights and Responsibilities

May 2002



**SCHOOL** → **Glencryan School, North Lanarkshire**  
**FOCUS** → **Funky Blue Smurfs**

*Initiatives or projects in place to encourage the development of rights and responsibilities, education for citizenship or active pupil participation in decision-making*

The Funky Blue Smurfs is based in Glencryan School and gives young people attending the school an opportunity to meet after school and to discuss issues which they identify as being important to them. The young people are supported by other young people from St Maurice's and Cumbernauld High Schools. The pilot project was set up in 2001 as a multi-agency partnership involving North Lanarkshire's Education and Social Work Departments and a voluntary organisation called Partners in Play. The pilot aimed to look at how we could develop disabled children's advocacy. This involved children with severe communication impairments, children with learning impairments and young people from local secondary schools who together identified the issues.

*How these initiatives are being monitored and evaluated*

Evaluated through CITS (Consultancy Group). The evaluation report is available on request. The group is monitored by a steering committee consisting of representatives from multi-agency groups.

*What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people or members of your organisation, in implementing the initiatives or projects?*

Transport; premises; resources for the after-school group; a lack of a strategy for disabled children's advocacy.

*What has worked well?*

The young people's enthusiasm  
Partnership with statutory and non-statutory agencies  
Young people's development  
Young people's awareness of issues and their ability to speak out  
Recognition of the group as an opportunity to speak out

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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***What did not work & lessons learned?***

Strategy and policy are slow to develop from practice

***Future plans?***

Promotion and marketing of the group.  
Employment of an advocacy/children's rights worker to develop advocacy across North Lanarkshire

***Any materials the school is willing to share***

Publications are not available until next year – subject to funding. The school is happy to share information and see also the website [www.partnersinplay.org.uk](http://www.partnersinplay.org.uk)



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