To make sure these pledges are met for children and young people
the Scottish Executive will:


• Work with agencies to raise community awareness of the need to help protect them and how to do this: from March 2004.

• Have assurances from the leaders of local authorities, health and police that they have reviewed their quality assurance systems to ensure continuous improvement in the services they provide: by May 2004.


• Pilot approaches to multi-disciplinary inspection to check the Charter and Framework for Standards are being implemented across all agencies: from December 2004.

• Work with agencies and existing helplines to provide a 24-hour national child protection service: by 2005.

• Continue to work with agencies to help deliver real improvements in child protection building on the Charter and the Framework for Standards: by 2006.

We have committed to a programme of reform of child protection services and will work with professionals and agencies to help them deliver these pledges. We will review progress over time and take the necessary steps to make this happen.

It is for all of us to help children and young people to be safe.

About the Charter

• It sets out what children and young people need and expect to help protect them when they are in danger of being, or already have been, harmed by another person.

• It has been developed through talking to children and young people who have experienced the need to be protected and supported - but what they are saying is how any child facing difficulties could expect to be treated.

• The statements also reflect how children and young people should be expected to deal with each other and adults.

• The response to the 13 statements from children is a set of 11 pledges and an outline of work to be done to help deliver on these.

• The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) sets out the wider rights of all children and young people.

The Charter is available in different formats on request

www.scotland.gov.uk/childrenscharter

The Scottish Executive
Our pledge to the children and young people of Scotland who are at risk of abuse or neglect is that you will:

- get the help you need when you need it;
- be seen by a professional such as a teacher, doctor or social worker to make sure you are alright and not put at more risk;
- be listened to seriously, and professionals will use their power to help you;
- be able to discuss issues in private when, and if, you want to;
- be involved with, and helped to understand, decisions made about your life; and
- have a named person to help you.

and those helping you will:

- share information to protect you;
- minimise disruption to other parts of your life;
- work together effectively on your behalf;
- be competent, confident, properly trained and supported; and
- rigorously monitor services to continually improve how and what is done to help you.