



GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016

In Glasgow, we have been working to further implement Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), which is the national approach to improving the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 reinforces this approach by providing a new legal framework where services work together to focus on the early years of a child's life and early intervention for whenever, a child, young person or their family need it and preventative measures that deliver better outcomes for the child or young person to sustain or improve their well-being.

Parents, carers, and families have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that their children's needs are met. Most children, young people and their families will receive the assistance they need to help them develop and achieve positive outcomes from universal services, such as, maternity services, health visitors, GPs, school, etc.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

In Glasgow, it has been acknowledged that there is a lot of good work being done through joint working across agencies, to improve the outcomes for children and young people. However, we can do better.

The approach we are taking is to build on the good practice and joint working to further implement the Getting It Right for Children (GIRFEC) approach.

The GIRFEC Service Managers Group¹ has been working for some time to scrutinise processes and find solutions to reduce barriers to improving joint working.

[Glasgow GIRFEC PRACTICE GUIDANCE](#) was launched in September 2013. The guidance describes the well-being indicators, assessment tools to be used to complete a comprehensive assessment and child plan. Also, included is the child's plan that details the intervention that is required to meet the needs of the child and the importance of practitioners recording significant events in a child's life in the chronologies.

¹ The GIRFEC Service Managers Group, membership includes: service managers from across, children and families social work services, education services, the third sector, specialist children health services, HV services, child protection, GG&CNHS Board and other agencies as work development requires.



The **Core Data** set has been agreed. This means that the profile information collated on the child or young people i.e. name, age, etc. is the same across single agency assessments and the GIRFEC assessment. The purpose of this is to reduce duplication of gathering the same information and assist the referral to other relevant agencies to meet the needs of the child.

Each agency has in place a **Single Agency** assessment. This will be used when the well-being needs of a child or young person can be met by that individual agency.

A **GIRFEC Assessment** is used when more than one agency has to be involved in the child or young person's life to meet their well-being needs.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAMED PERSON

The Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced the Named Person which will be enforced on 31 August 2016.

The Named Person will ensure the right help can be offered timely and effectively for children and young people who require additional assistance to improve their well-being and development.

The **Named Person** will be:

Health Visitors – until the child goes to school usually aged 5

Education Services – school aged children and young people (aged between 5 to 18)

The **Lead Professional** will be:

Social Work Services – looked after children and young people and those in continuing care.

Where the child or young person is not known to social work services, a local multi-agency meeting will take place to determine which agency will become the Lead Professional. This decision will be based on the needs of the child or young person and which agency can meet those needs.

WHERE ARE WE NOW

The role of the **Named Person** in health has been agreed across GG&CNHSB in partnership with the various Local Authorities.

We are currently working to:

- provide **multi-agency training** for staff across services to ensure that we have:
 - the same standards of **sharing information** to allow information pertinent to the needs of the child to be shared for the purpose of obtaining assistance to meet their well-being and development needs.
 - build on existing processes to enable the Named Person to discuss the child's needs with other relevant agencies to allow them to come to agreement on what has to be done to improve the outcomes for the child.
 - develop one or two **co-ordinating hubs** for telephone enquiries and referrals to the Named Person.
 - Improve the process for Police Scotland and Health Services to send relevant information to Education Services.

- Develop a process to allow a Named Person to handover the responsibility to another Named Person. For example, when a child moves from primary to secondary school or to another area of the City.
- Develop a process for **Request for Assistance** which will be used should there be a dispute between services about the child's needs. It is envisaged that any disputes will be rare and resolved at service manager level.
- Specialist children's health services are currently reviewing how they will engage with the Named Person.
- We have made some significant strides forward, but there is still a lot to do between now and 1 August 2016.

As these improvements evolve we will update notify staff, update the GIRFEC Practice Guidance and training framework.

There is a genuine commitment by all partners working with children and young people in the City to work together to get this right. We want to ensure all children have the best start in life, to be healthy, open to positive experiences and have the best life changes.

