

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee – 6 November 2013

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) BILL:
GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD (GIRFEC) IN PERTH AND KINROSS****Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report outlines progress with the development and implementation of "*Getting it right for every child*" (GIRFEC) across services and partners in Perth and Kinross. GIRFEC is at the heart of our approaches, practice, policy and guidance; these are all designed to ensure we achieve the best possible outcomes for every child, young person and their family. The Scottish Government's Children and Young People Bill will result in aspects of GIRFEC becoming enshrined in legislation. We set out in this report how we intend to plan to meet the expected legislative requirements of the Bill.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Historically, too many children were seen as not receiving the help they needed when they needed it. Across services, different assessment and planning formats led to duplicate meetings for parents and carers, children and professionals. Agencies were not perceived as always working together effectively to determine how best to help a child or young person and their family.
- 1.2 In November 2002, the report of the Child Protection Audit and Review, entitled "*It's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright,*" presented the Scottish Executive's vision for Scotland's children as "A Scotland in which every child matters, where every child, regardless of his or her family background, has the best possible start in life." The report also further identified the importance of everyone involved with a child or family sharing responsibility for 'getting it right' for that child.
- 1.3 The Scottish Government's "*Getting it Right for Every Child*" (GIRFEC) policy focuses on delivering better outcomes for all children, young people and their families through the provision of help that is 'appropriate, proportionate and timely'. This help is to be delivered either from within the universal services of health and education, or by coherent joint working of wider services and agencies.
- 1.4 The GIRFEC approach initially identified a range of Core Components, which gave a clear indication of the 'system change, culture change and practice change' which were required: A focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families based on a shared understanding of well-being;

- A common approach to gaining consent and to sharing information where appropriate;
- An integral role for children, young people and families in assessment, planning and intervention;
- A co-ordinated and unified approach to identifying concerns, assessing needs, agreeing actions and outcomes, based on the Well-being indicators;
- Streamlined planning, assessment and decision-making processes that lead to the right help at the right time;
- Consistently high standards of co-operation, joint working and communication where more than one agency needs to be involved, locally and across Scotland;
- A *Lead Professional* to co-ordinate and monitor inter-agency activity where necessary;
- A skilled workforce within universal services to address needs and risks at the earliest possible time;
- A confident and competent workforce across all services for children, young people and their families;
- The capacity to share demographic, assessment, and planning information electronically, within and across agency boundaries, through the national eCare programme where appropriate; and
- A Named Person from within Health Services for pre-school children, and from within education for Primary and Secondary age children.

1.5 These Core Components have now been refined into five priorities as follows:

- A 'Named Person', identified for every child as the main contact for any concern, with responsibility to ensure the child's 'well-being';
- A 'Lead Professional' identified for a child where more than one service or agency is involved in meeting the needs of the child or family and co-ordination of support is required;
- An agreed set of assessment tools known as the 'National Practice Model' which will be used across all services supporting a child or young person, using shared language which strengthens inter agency working;
- A single 'Childs Plan' based around the Wellbeing Indicators which brings together the desired outcomes for a child and roles and responsibilities of different contributing partners; and
- Children and their families are involved in decisions that are made about them and proportionate approaches taken to managing concerns.

1.6 The Scottish Government's Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill, was placed before the Scottish Parliament on 17 April 2013, to take forward into legislation aspects of the GIRFEC approach. This Bill was the subject of a previous report to Lifelong Learning Committee on 29 May 2013, (Report No 13/244 refers). Legislation is particularly in relation to the role of the Named Person, the National Practice Model and Child's Plan, with a focus on early intervention and supporting children and young people through universal services.

- 1.7 Much progress has been made in introducing staff across all agencies to the components and priorities of GIRFEC. However it was always recognised that this was to be seen as building on existing good practice in Perth and Kinross.
- 1.8 Perth and Kinross Introductory GIRFEC Guidance was developed for use with staff across all services, agencies and partners and distributed widely in May 2011, supported by an extensive programme of single and multi-agency training for services from across Perth and Kinross.
- 1.9 A key element of the Perth and Kinross GIRFEC Guidance, written in partnership with young people themselves, set out standards for effective communication with children and young people, and which would underpin wider GIRFEC implementation. The HMle Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children (2011), identified as excellent the trusting, effective relationships which were built with children and young people across all services in Perth and Kinross.
- 1.10 There are strong indications that future inspections will include a focus on core elements of GIRFEC.

2 PROPOSALS

- 2.1 A number of important priorities for 2013-2014 remain based around the following 5 areas:
- Multi-agency training to further embed the skills and understanding and practical application of the key roles of Named Person and Lead Professional, and to develop agreed pathways for the creation of a Child's Plan using the National Practice Model (Integrated Assessment);
 - Partnership working with colleagues across Tayside, at both strategic and operational levels to develop a common approach across the Tayside area where possible;
 - Information for Parents, Children and Young People on the role of Named Person confirmed as part of Children's Services (Scotland) Bill;
 - Participation in the National Third Sector GIRFEC Project, aimed at encouraging greater inclusion of the Third Sector in delivering on the aims and aspirations of GIRFEC; and
 - Refocusing Integrated Team meetings within schools to provide a forum for engagement of Lead Professionals.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The *Getting it Right for Every Child* (GIRFEC) approach must be adopted as a shared approach for all services and agencies involved with children and their families across Perth and Kinross.

- 3.2 By agreeing the prioritisation of the GIRFEC agenda in Perth and Kinross we are committed to further improving services for children, young people and their families, particularly through the delivery of earlier intervention. The Evidence2Success research undertaken with the Dartington Research Unit, supports this ambition.
- 3.3 The involvement of key agencies across Perth and Kinross in the National Early Years Collaborative also support the aspirations contained within the GIRFEC agenda.
- 3.4 GIRFEC should be embedded as the key approach for delivery of the Integrated Children's Services Plan. Progress should continue to be reported through the Children and Young People's Strategic Group.
- 3.5 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Notes the progress of the initial development and implementation of GIRFEC in Perth and Kinross;
 - (ii) Agrees the further key priority areas for 2013-2014; and
 - (iii) Requires Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to report progress through the Children and Young People's Strategic Group.

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	n/a
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	n/a
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	n/a
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	n/a
Legal and Governance	n/a
Risk	n/a
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	n/a

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of **all** the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Corporate Plan

1.2 The proposals relate to the achievement of all the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities as follows:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (iv) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Change and Improvement

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 Costs related to the delivery of training will be met from existing service budgets.

2.2 Scottish Government funding for the proposed Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill is still under final negotiations and has been highlighted as possible ECS Expenditure Pressure for 2014 - 2015.

Workforce

2.3 n/a

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.4 n/a

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

3.3 n/a

Legal and Governance

3.4 n/a

Risk

3.5 n/a

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 The Head of Democratic Services, Head of Finance and Head of Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

4.2. The following groups have also been consulted in the preparation of this report:-

- GIRFEC Strategic Group;
- NHS Tayside, Head of Primary Care & Lead for Child Health, Perth and Kinross;
- Tayside Police;
- Voluntary Sector liaison group

External

4.3 n/a

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

3. APPENDICES

n/a

