

<i>item:</i>	5
<i>report:</i>	JYP20/07

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD - UPDATE

By Marj Stewart

Summary

This report updates members on recent activities as part of the implementation and roll-out of Getting it Right for Every Child.

1. Background

- 1.1 *Getting it Right for Every Child* is a major change management programme, to introduce new assessment, planning and intervention processes for children across Scotland. Highland is the lead pathfinder, and local agencies have been working closely with the Scottish Government to develop and implement the changed systems, initially within Inverness.
- 1.2 The Joint Committee has requested an update at each meeting on the implementation and roll-out of the pathfinder. This report reflects specific recent key developments.

2. Multi-agency developments

- 2.1 There have been two further *Getting it Right for Every Child* awareness raising days for managers to cascade to members of staff in their particular workplace.
- 2.2 The multi agency GIRFEC training programme for lead professionals, which is now linked to the Child Protection training programme and training, commences on 1st November. There are 12 two day courses before the end of the year.
- 2.3 The change team supported the International Conference in Aviemore and hosted a workshop with Jane Aldgate and Wendy Rose, on the subject of sharing and managing information across the agencies. Bill Alexander hosted a workshop on child centred working and Bob Stradling and Morag MacNeil presented their findings in respect of their evaluation of Highland's Integrated Children's Services. Additionally the team set up a GIRFEC stall. The feedback on the event was positive, and it presented a good opportunity to demonstrate the vision and the range of work undertaken to date in

the project.

- 2.4 5000 diary inserts have now been received for use across the authority, to help 'get the message out there' and the team is creating further publicity products.
- 2.5 Recent meetings with Scottish Government officials have confirmed the basis of the final draft procedures, for use both nationally and within Highland as part of the imminent training programme.

3. Health Processes

- 3.1 Sandie Young, formerly Lead Adviser on Child Protection in NHS Highland, has been appointed to a 2 year Consultant Nurse post, with the specific remit of supporting Getting it Right implementation.
- 3.2 Connections with Ophthalmology service have been made, and there are ongoing discussions regarding implications for this service.
- 3.3 There is closer engagement around implementation of the Review of Nursing in the Community
- 3.4 The final 'learning set' has been delivered to community nursing staff from across Highland by the health lead and colleagues and key action points have been agreed with regard to practice issues and the use of the record. This model of delivery has been viewed by participating staff as positive – they have felt valued, included and 'listened to', and this is a valuable learning point for future development.
- 3.5 Following discussion with public health practitioners, who have reported difficulty in using the child's assessment in their record, re-examination of that record is taking place to simplify some of the processes for the early contacts with children and their families, and to ensure that proportionality is applied to the assessment process.
- 3.6 Following a successful Early Years seminar in June a second seminar has been arranged for November. This aims to enhance working practice between early years services and health (see also next item).

4. Education Processes

- 4.1 Work progressing to finalise policy statement for providing additional support in childcare and early education settings – intended for January JCCYP.

- 4.2 The education lead will be taking forward work to design materials to raise awareness for children and their families as to what we mean by SHANARI etc, and to raise the profile of GIRFEC.

5. Social Work Processes

- 5.1 CareFirst has now gone live and the social work lead continues to work with her colleagues to refine and support the GIRFEC processes. Practitioners are now beginning to use the Child's Plan and the SW lead is liaising with the Children's Reporter as to its effectiveness as a report to the hearing.
- 5.2 In order to be clear about the single meetings process, meetings where the child's plan is reviewed or altered should be named the 'Child's Plan Meeting'. This should include the existing responsibilities for LAC, CP and/or CSP meetings, but provides a common language.
- 5.3 The Reviewing Officer seconded to the team has worked on three cases to test out the use of the child's plan and a solution focused approach to a child's meeting. These children are currently reviewed within the Looked After Children's system. Interviews were held with the child and their parent/carers following the meetings to obtain feedback on their experiences of meetings, the role of the reviewing officer, how we could improve future meetings and communication with children and families. The findings will be detailed in a report from the reviewing officer, but early feedback has been positive, suggesting that these families find this process easier to understand and more inclusive.

6. Police Processes

- 6.1 Officers in the Western Isles Area Command have now had the awareness raising sessions, have been given the supporting guidance and are now using the Child Concern Form to record and share information in their existing processes. This now brings the total of Area Commands that are using the Child Concern form to four which equates to approximately 400 police officers and support members of staff. The four remaining Area Commands – Caithness & Sutherland, Lochaber, Ross, Cromarty & Skye and Orkney Isles – will receive awareness raising sessions in October and November. All Area Commands will be using the Child Concern Form by the end of November 2007 in preparation for the roll out across Highland and the Islands.
- 6.2 The GIRFEC leaflet for practitioners has been circulated to every employee of Northern Constabulary (approximately 1300 people) to ensure that they are kept up to date with the vision and aims.
- 6.3 Strategic links have continued with ACPOS to ensure that a national oversight is maintained for the Scottish Police Service and the

implications for ways of working, and the police lead has attended the ACPOS GIRFEC Working Group.

- 6.4 The first draft of the Force Reference Document for Northern Constabulary has been completed and is being commented on within the command area. This document details the processes, policies and procedures for police officers for every occasion that they come across a child or young person and have concerns. It pulls together existing police processes and reflects the forthcoming changes. This document will be tabled at the next Change Board Meeting (end of October 2007) for agreement and will then be adopted across the force, initially in the Pathfinder area. This document will also be tabled at the next ACPOS GIRFEC Working Group meeting (early November 2007) for the information of all Scottish forces.
- 6.5 The police lead along with the supervisor of the Family Protection Unit met with Mr Adam Ingram MSP, Minister for Children and Early Years and were given the opportunity to inform him about the new processes for children where concerns had been identified by the police. The initial findings are positive and referrals to the Children's Reporter have been reduced by approximately 70%. For those children that are not being referred services are being put in place at an earlier stage by individuals in universal services. Mr Ingram was supportive of the new processes and in particular early interventions for children.

7. IT Processes

- 7.1 The IT lead is working on a Business Requirements document as a priority and the first draft is expected to be finished before the end of October.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider any implications from this report

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