

<b>item:</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>report:</b>	CYP26/08

## **GIRFEC UPDATE**

### **By Marj Stewart**

#### **Summary**

This report updates the Joint Committee about progress on the development and implementation of '*Getting it right for every child*' in Inverness and Highland, including the activities of the programme team.

#### **1 Training**

- 1.1 The programme team has had two development days focussing on training and how it will be rolled-out across the rest of Highland, by whom and by what method. Members of the Child Protection training team attended and contributed to these sessions. A scoping exercise across all of the agencies is now being carried out and an online evaluation has been sent to staff that have attended Programme 1 – basic training. The results will inform the GIRFEC training plan that will be drawn up following the scoping exercise.
- 1.2 Further work has taken place to integrate GIRFEC and child protection training. The Police Lead has linked with the Highland Child Protection Committee training team and developed the existing training that is delivered to reflect GIRFEC processes. There will be commitment from the GIRFEC team to have a member attend future child protection training events.
- 1.3 Meetings have been held with the University of Stirling to discuss how to develop an accredited Lead Professional course, which would specifically meet the needs of practitioners involved in managing more complex cases.
- 1.4 The team has continued to deliver Programme 3 – Lead Professional inter-agency training to staff in the pathfinder area, and the current programme is now complete. Other staff likely to be Lead Professionals will be trained following the completion of the scoping exercise, as will other staff involved at various stages in the planning process.
- 1.5 The team has continued to contribute to a variety of national events, including the national roadshows.
- 1.6 Other contributions to training in Highland have included
  - the Police /Social Work Joint Investigation Training course;
  - Recording Practice for Social Work team managers;

- Child Protection 'Recognition and Response' session on assessment and planning;
- a half day session led by the team and delivered to Children's Panel members.

## **2 Guidance and Procedures**

- 2.1 The team members continue to refine their single agency guidance documents.
- 2.2 Work has now begun to ensure that GIRFEC/Carefirst is fully embedded in all social work training and procedures. Education guidance on the fit between GIRFEC and some challenging areas, such as staged intervention, the IEP, and the CSP is now mapped and written for consultation.
- 2.3 The Education lead is now working on the present ASN documentation to ensure the inclusion of GIRFEC assessment processes and will issue this with appropriate guidance along with guidance on the contents and management of PPRs/ASN files.
- 2.4 The Force Reference Document for Police Officers is now complete and at consultation in Northern Constabulary. A consultation day has been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> June to finalise the document, which will thereafter be put to the Change Board for approval. This document is also being given to the ACPOS GIRFEC Working Group for comment.
- 2.5 Marj Stewart is working with Jane Aldgate and Wendy Rose to produce a consultation survey on the Draft Guidance. This will be complemented by a consultation event.

## **3 Managing Change**

- 3.1 The Social Work lead is progressing discussions with SCRA and University of Aberdeen in respect of Children's Hearings training, and case examples and training materials are under development. Discussions are also progressing with SCRA locally regarding the acceptance of the Child's Plan as a report to the Hearing.
- 3.2 Within Social Work, ongoing support to practitioners during the change period is being provided by way of telephone and face-to-face contact. This is in respect of the use of Carefirst, but more specifically is supporting improvement in the use of the assessment framework and the Child's Plan.
- 3.3 The education lead continues to drive forward change with clear and consistent communication to her ECS colleagues, provision of information materials, opportunities for discussion and regular updates

and she has secured a GIRFEC site on the staffroom page of Highland Virtual Learning Community.

- 3.4 A dedicated input on Girfec was included in a recent series of A Curriculum for Excellence seminars for all schools, and this is being followed by an event for all secondary schools.
- 3.5 The Health lead has led on or contributed to discussions at the following as part of the change process in NHS Highland and beyond;
  - Area Nursing Midwifery Advisory Committee, with more in-depth input scheduled for June;
  - The Early Years group, where the action plan is regularly updated. An Early Years event is planned to be delivered in June as a result of the work of this group;
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Child Protection Data Standards Working Group;
  - SPENS (Senior Paediatric Educationalist and Nurse Specialists) Conference Edinburgh;
  - Paul Martin, Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland on the achievement and challenges of implementing GIRFEC in the NHS.
- 3.6 The Police lead is currently working with Divisional Commanders, PPU Inspectors, Head of Operations and Head of Crime Support to map the scope and scale of the implementation of GIRFEC across the remainder of Northern Constabulary (mainland and islands) and will produce a plan to take this work forward.
- 3.7 The Police Lead has now met with SACRO, SWS and the Children's Reporter regarding the new processes for children who are involved in anti-social or offending behaviour and how SACRO will fit in. Work still requires to be carried out to formalise this process and will be looked at in the coming weeks.
- 3.8 Two Stakeholder events have been planned in Inverness. This will involve practitioners in working in their area (ASG) groups to move forward and develop their plans to make the required system and process changes to embed GIRFEC into day to day practice.
- 3.9 Gillian Newman, Children's Consultation Worker with Highland Children's Forum has joined the team on a part time basis for a 3 month period to take forward the communication and change required with Voluntary Sector groups locally. She will also begin to examine the requirements for change at National level along with relevant colleagues who work locally, but who are managers in National bodies.
- 3.10 There has been a disappointing response to recruit to the adult services post to date. Further discussions will take place on this matter.

## **4 E-solutions**

- 4.1 The Scottish Government has confirmed that the Social Work Services CareFirst system will be the next to connect to the multi-agency store, and significant work is now taking place to support this.
- 4.2 CareFirst implementation continues to be supported by a range of activities, including work to enable the child's plan to be printed – as a 'workaround' in the meantime.
- 4.3 Discussions are continuing with the Scottish Government and Pearson Phoenix, with a view to confirmation of the planned upgrade in Education from Phoenix Gold.
- 4.4 NHS Highland continues to work towards the establishment of an interim solution, based on a dedicated assessment module, and possibly some limited use of CareFirst.
- 4.5 National discussions are taking place regarding the use of VISOR for all police forces, but the Highland Data Sharing Partnership is also scoping the possible use of CareFirst in the new Divisional Public protection Units.

### **Recommendation**

The Joint Committee is invited to note the progress that continues to be made and to comment on this report.

**Marj Stewart**  
Programme Manager