



GIRFEC - Getting it Right for Every Child Policy

Purpose of Policy

Getting it right for every child is important for everyone who works with children and young people as well as many people who work with adults who look after children. Practitioners need to work together to support families, and where appropriate, take early action at first signs of any difficulty - rather than only getting involved when a situation has already reached crisis point.

This means working across organisational boundaries and putting children and their families at the heart of decision making - and giving all our children and young people the best possible start in life.

Foundations for Getting it Right for Every Child

GIRFEC is founded on ten core components which can be applied in any setting and in any circumstance:

1. A focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families based on a shared understanding of wellbeing.
2. A common approach to gaining consent and to sharing information where appropriate.
3. An integral role for children, young people and families in assessment, planning, and intervention
4. A co-ordinated and unified approach to identifying concerns, assessing needs, and agreeing actions and outcomes, based on the wellbeing Indicators.
5. Streamlined planning, assessment and decision-making processes that lead to the right help at the right time.
6. Consistent high standards of co-operation, joint working, and communication where more than one agency needs to be involved, locally and across Scotland.
7. A Named Person for every child and young person, and a Lead Professional (where necessary) to co-ordinate and monitor multi-agency activity.
8. Maximising the skilled workforce within universal services to address needs and risks as early as possible.
9. A confident and competent workforce across all services for children, young people, and their families.
10. The capacity to share demographic, assessment, and planning information - including electronically - within and across agency boundaries.

The wellbeing of children and young people is at the heart of GIRFEC. The approach uses eight areas of wellbeing, SHANARRI indicators, which represent the basic requirements for all children and young people to grow and develop and reach their full potential:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Nurtured
- Active
- Respected
- Responsible
- Included

The indicators are used to record observations, events, and concerns and as an aid in putting together a child's plan.

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 is designed to further the Scottish Government's ambition for "Scotland to be the best place to grow up in by putting children and young people at the heart of planning and services and ensuring their rights are respected across the public sector."

In relation to GIRFEC, the Act will:

- require local authorities and health boards to develop joint children's services plans, in co-operation with a range of other service providers.
- require a 'Named Person' for every child.
- require a 'child's plan' where targeted intervention is necessary.
- create a statutory definition of 'wellbeing'.

The Scottish Government has published a guidance framework document to support the GIRFEC functions in the Act.

Underpinning the Scottish Government's early intervention agenda, *Getting it Right for Every Child* (GIRFEC) provides a consistent and integrated approach to supporting children across Scotland, translated through the SHANARRI framework of wellbeing indicators.