

## Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

### **Focused on children and young people most at risk, SCRA's fundamental purpose is to:**

- Make effective decisions about a need to refer a child/young person to a Children's Hearing
- Prepare for and participate in court proceedings where Statement of Grounds or Hearings findings are appealed, and ensure the wellbeing of children and young people – particularly vulnerable witnesses – are protected throughout the court process
- Support Panel Members (though we are not involved in making Hearing decisions) and ensure fair process in Hearings
- Enable children, young people and families to participate in Hearings
- Disseminate information and data to influence and inform the wider Children's Services community
- Provide premises for Hearings to take place
- Work collaboratively with partners to support and facilitate the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) agenda

## What is the "Getting it Right" agenda?

"Getting it Right For Every Child" (GIRFEC) is a programme of change driven by the Scottish Government and designed to ensure that appropriate action is taken for each child/young person. It has the following aims:

- Children and young people get the help they need when they need it and are central to the process of finding solutions.
- Everyone working with children and young people uses a consistent and equitable approach and works more effectively together to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Everyone is clear on their personal responsibility to do the right thing for each child/young person and how they contribute to the collective responsibility to do the right thing for each child/young person.
- Parents and children/young people benefit from a collaborative approach which results in fewer meetings, requires them to give their information only once, and jointly develop with professionals one plan that will meet all of their needs.
- Agencies and professionals are freed up to respond to children/young people and take appropriate, proportionate and timely action with the minimum of paperwork, bureaucracy and duplication.

## Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

The Act, which began to be implemented from Spring 2015, places elements of the GIRFEC approach on a statutory footing, including:

- Setting out a holistic definition of wellbeing.
- Placing duties on public bodies to work together to plan and deliver services and to report on outcomes.

- Making provision for all children and young people from birth up to 18 to have a Named Person as a single point of contact.
- Ensuring that a Child's Plan is produced for every child/young person who needs one.

## SCRA's role

SCRA has been actively engaged at each stage of the process and will continue to be committed to working with partners both within and outwith the Hearings System to support the implementation of the GIRFEC agenda and to ensure that it produces the best possible outcome for the children and young people who are referred to us.

SCRA is leading a workstream within the multi-agency Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership (CHIP) which recognises that GIRFEC's common language and identified aims is a framework for enabling improvements within the Children's Hearings System.

The aims are to:

- Analyse and strengthen understanding of referral criteria across all agencies.
- Promote more effective and informed decision making, based on needs and risks.
- Establish what a supervision order can add to a child's life and how success can be measured.
- Consider the Child's Plan, and its suitability for use and adaptation during a Hearing.



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