



## Getting it Right in Fife (GIRIF) Newsletter October 2016

### **GIRFEC Update: Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**

Many of you will be aware of the recent Supreme Court ruling relating to Parts 4 (Named Person) and 5 (Child's Plan) of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Over the last few weeks senior leaders have been meeting locally and nationally to discuss the potential implication of the ruling and the anticipated impact upon our current implementation of the Act.

Over the past few years GIRFEC Policy has allowed us to develop the role of the Named Person, the use of a single Child's Plan and to share information in Fife. The recent court ruling does not change this and staff should continue to work in the same way as before. What the ruling has meant in Fife is that many of the new processes that were due to start on 31 August 2016, to ensure compliance with the Act, are now on hold until the Scottish Government are able to present revised legislation to the Scottish Parliament.

### **Key points for staff who work with children & young people in Fife:**

- The use of terminology Named Person and Lead Professional can still be used because it was part of GIRFEC Policy.
- Sections 23, 25 and 26 (information sharing sections) were not compatible with Article 8 of Human Rights Act and are being reviewed by Scottish Government with a code of practice on information sharing to follow.
- Work needs to be undertaken to check local Fife processes for information sharing compliance. This work will be co-ordinated across the local partnership, including consultation with the respective legal services.
- By December 2016 John Swinney will go back to Parliament with new proposals on the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 relevant sections.
- An intensive and active engagement on the Act will take place by the Scottish Government October-November 2016 with stakeholders, practitioners and young people.
- Full implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 is now anticipated to commence from August 2017.



### What is being developed nationally (timescales to be confirmed):

- Guidance on GIRFEC Policy Framework Implementation (Scottish Government)
- Information Commissioner's Officer (ICO) Statement can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/news-and-events/news-and-blogs/2016/09/ico-statement-on-named-person-scheme/>
- Code of Practice on Information Sharing being developed by Scottish Government
- Parts 4 and 5 (Named Person and Child's Plan) statutory guidance being redrafted by Scottish Government

### What we will be doing in Fife:

- Staff across Fife continue to work in the same way and are still using terminology such as Named Person, Lead Professional and Child's Plan in the context of GIRFEC policy / approach.
- We will work with Scottish Government to offer opportunities for our children, parents and staff to participate in National intensive engagement that will inform future aspects of the legislation.
- A training programme is being developed to support Named Persons and Lead Professionals with changes to legislation and statutory guidance. Further information on this will be available shortly for the relevant services.

### Local Update:

#### *Children in Fife Workforce Development site:*

Phase 1 of the site development is now complete, with initial content on GIRFEC and Quality Improvement now available. We would encourage you to check back regularly as range of new resources and content will be added over the coming year. You can access the site [here](#).



#### **Children's Services Plan**

Work has begun to review the Children's Services Plan 2014-2017 and identify key priorities for inclusion in the Children's Services Plan 2017-2020. Parts 1 and 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 give guidance on what should be included in the new plan. The statutory guidance to support parts 1 and 3 are expected to be published by the end of October.

A development session led by 'Children in Fife' has been organised and will start the work on the new Children's Services Plan. Arrangements are in place to consult with parents, children and young people as well as staff over the month of November.

You can access the [2014-2017 Fife Children's Services Plan](#) here