

# getting it right for every child in Lanarkshire



## Newsletter for services in South Lanarkshire 4<sup>th</sup> Edition – February 2014

### Introduction

2014 is going to be an important year for the implementation of Getting it right for every child throughout Scotland. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill continues its passage through the Scottish Parliament and is at Stage 3. Stage 3 involves the final consideration of the Bill by parliament and a decision on whether it should be passed. The Bill includes some aspects of the Getting it right for every child approach and if it is passed, local authorities, health board and others will be required by law to put the approach into practice. In particular, the role of the Named Person will be a key element which will become a legal duty for some agencies.

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of our newsletter also includes some important information on workforce development and as well as resources available to parents who have a child who has received a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder.

I hope you find the contents of this newsletter helpful and I look forward to hearing from all partners about the steps that are being undertaken to ensure that the Getting it right approach is being introduced in South Lanarkshire.

**Robert Swift, Head of Children and Justice Services, South Lanarkshire Council**

### Updates

#### Early Bird

Early Bird is a licensed programme for parents whose child has received a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and is of pre-school age. The programme aims to support parents in the period between diagnosis and school placement, empowering and helping them facilitate their child's social communication and appropriate behaviour in their natural environment.

It also helps parents to establish good practice in handling their child at an early age, so as to pre-empt the development of inappropriate behaviours.

It aims to help parents understand their child's autism; get themselves into their child's world, make contact, and find ways to develop interaction and communication; and learn how to analyse and understand their child's behaviours and how to use structure, so they can pre-empt and cope with problem behaviours.

The programme draws from well-established practice in the field of autism. The approaches used include:

- the NAS [SPELL](#) approach
- techniques from the [TEACCH](#) approach
- [Picture Exchange Communication System](#) (PECS)

The course is structured to work with six families at a time. Two places are allocated to each family. The programme lasts for three months and combines group training sessions with individual home visits, when video feedback is used to help parents apply what they've learnt. Parents will have a weekly commitment of a two-and-a-half hour training session or home visit, and to ongoing work with their child at home.

The Early Bird Plus programme is for parents of school aged children up to the age of 8 with autism.

To deliver Early Bird and Early Bird Plus there must be two trainers who have been trained under the licensed NAS Early Bird programme and the delivery must meet the terms of the licence.

There are currently 12 staff across Education and Social Work Resources trained to deliver the Early Bird programme and 4 staff trained to deliver Early Bird plus across the Council.



To date there have been 17 courses delivered across the Council. This breaks down to:

- 3 in Hamilton
- 8 in East Kilbride
- 5 Cambuslang/Rutherglen
- 1 in Clydesdale

A total of 93 families have participated in the training. This breaks down to:

- 10 in Hamilton
- 53 in East Kilbride
- 25 Cambuslang/Rutherglen
- 5 in Clydesdale

Staff in East Kilbride have been trained to deliver Early Bird since 2008, hence the larger number of families supported in this area.

Over the past year a practitioner's network has been established for the trainers to come together on a quarterly basis to share their experiences of delivering Early Bird and discuss any issues and good practice they may have encountered, and any further training they may feel would be useful to them in delivering the programme.

Although staff have been recording information on families for each of the courses that have been run, a system has recently been put in place to record information that can then be held centrally to gather data and evaluate the programme.

Feedback from parents who have taken part in Early Bird has been very positive, with them finding the strategies very helpful in coping with the behaviours and communication difficulties of their child. Some of the comments made by parents are:

"It's a huge comfort to know I am not alone, listening to other parents' experiences and concerns".

"I have a much better understanding of the reason why our child behaves in a certain way".

"The parent book has been excellent for passing on to family members".

"I actually regularly use it to remind me of strategies etc. It keeps my memory refreshed of the things I can do to help my son. It's my bible"

"Videos providing ideas, what to work on and what we are doing right was helpful".

"It's a very valuable course and a must for parents of children with ASD".

If you would like further information on either the Early Bird or Early Bird plus programmes in South Lanarkshire, please contact Jennifer McCormick, Early Years Manager (Development) on 01698 454973 or [Jennifer.McCormick@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jennifer.McCormick@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



## **Workforce Development.**

The new Getting it right for every child Multi Agency Events Calendar will be published in February 2014 and will outline courses to run from April to October 2014. Included in the Calendar will be five core competency courses available to staff from all sectors of the children's services workforce. The courses include:

Assessment, Planning and Review – full day course.

Child Development – full day course.

Building Relationships with Parents and Partners – full day course.

Communicating with Babies, Children and Young People – half day course.

Basic GIRFEC Awareness – half day course.

Amy Murray, Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council will be distributing the calendar later in the month and this includes applications details and further information about the courses.

## **Resource Information.**

Please find links to the Scottish Governments GIRFEC Maturity Model as well as the Angus GIRFEC Toolkit.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00409510.pdf>

<http://www.angus.gov.uk/girfec/measuringoutcomes.html>

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter or would like further information about GIRFEC please contact:

Louise Young

Senior Clerical Assistant

Getting it right for every child

[louise.young@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:louise.young@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Further information can also be found on our website:

[www.girfecinlanarkshire.co.uk](http://www.girfecinlanarkshire.co.uk)



## Useful Contacts: GIRFEC South Implementation Group

<b>Social Work</b>	
Robert Swift (Chair) <a href="mailto:robert.swift@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">robert.swift@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>	Heston Johnstone <a href="mailto:heston.johnstone@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">heston.johnstone@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>
Paul Brady <a href="mailto:paul.brady@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">paul.brady@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Child Protection</b>	
Margaret Campbell <a href="mailto:Margaret.campbell2@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk">Margaret.campbell2@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Education</b>	
Val McIntyre <a href="mailto:val.mcintyre@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">val.mcintyre@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>	Elaine Walker <a href="mailto:elaine.walker@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">elaine.walker@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>
Debra Lindsay <a href="mailto:debra.lindsayrobinson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">debra.lindsayrobinson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>	Kevin Mullarkey <a href="mailto:kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>
Jennifer McCormick <a href="mailto:jennifer.mccormick@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">jennifer.mccormick@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>	Alex MacLeod <a href="mailto:amacleod@calderside.s-lanark.sch.uk">amacleod@calderside.s-lanark.sch.uk</a>
Lorna Kinsman <a href="mailto:lorna.kinsman@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">lorna.kinsman@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>	
Mark Wilson <a href="mailto:Mark.wilson@slcpsych.org.uk">Mark.wilson@slcpsych.org.uk</a>	
<b>Housing</b>	
Alf Ghiloni <a href="mailto:alf.ghiloni@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">alf.ghiloni@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>	
<b>NHSL</b>	
Jim Murray <a href="mailto:jim.murray@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk">jim.murray@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</a>	Margaret McCredie <a href="mailto:Margaret.mccredie@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk">Margaret.mccredie@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</a>
Liz Kearney <a href="mailto:liz.kearney@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk">liz.kearney@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</a>	Eileen Lochhead <a href="mailto:eileen.lochhead@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk">eileen.lochhead@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</a>
Paul Campbell <a href="mailto:paul.campbell@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk">paul.campbell@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</a>	
<b>SCRA</b>	<b>Voluntary Sector</b>
Jim McLafferty <a href="mailto:jim.mclafferty@scra.gsi.gov.uk">jim.mclafferty@scra.gsi.gov.uk</a>	Ann Sangster <a href="mailto:ann.sangster@vaslan.org.uk">ann.sangster@vaslan.org.uk</a>
<b>Police Scotland</b>	
Dawn MacEachern <a href="mailto:dawn.maceachern@scotland.pnn.police.uk">dawn.maceachern@scotland.pnn.police.uk</a>	John McTear <a href="mailto:John.mctear@scotland.pnn.police.uk">John.mctear@scotland.pnn.police.uk</a>