

# getting it right for every child in Lanarkshire



## Newsletter for services in South Lanarkshire 5<sup>th</sup> Edition – June 2014

### Introduction

Getting it right for every child in Scotland reached a milestone when the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 received Royal Assent during March of this year. As you may be aware, the Act contains legislation relevant to key components for the future working of the Getting it right approach to children's services, such as the provision of a Named Person, a Child's Plan as well as placing wellbeing at the centre of agencies support to children and families. During 2014/15, the Scottish Government will publish guidance and regulation in relation to the Act which will support the introduction of Getting it right for every child across Scotland. South Lanarkshire is in a strong position in terms of the progress made in implementing Getting it right and the guidance and regulations will assist in strengthening our procedures, processes and systems.

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of our newsletter also includes information about how Getting it right for every child is beginning to develop within Adult Services who have links with children and also highlights the What I Think Tool and important issues around Changes to the Notification of Concerns paperwork used in Lanarkshire.

I'd like also to mention that children's services are being inspected from June to August 2014 and details are provided below.

I hope you find this edition of the newsletter useful and informative. If you have any comment or would like to contribute to this newsletter please contact us using one of the various methods mentioned at the back of the letter. Once again I would like to thank you all for your continued support in implementing Getting it right for every child and ensuring that all agencies collaborate to support children, their parents and carers.

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

## Updates

### Children's Services Inspection

Inspectors are due to spend three months looking at how services for children and young people are delivered in South Lanarkshire.

The 14-strong team from the Care Inspectorate will look at all aspects of the service in the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership area.

The inspection begins on site across South Lanarkshire on June 9, and on June 10 the partnership board will give a presentation, looking at how well services are currently delivered, highlighting areas of good practice and identifying areas for improvement.

A number of focus groups will also be held that week on a range of topics including Corporate Parenting, Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), plus involvement of young people and their families in service planning and development.



### Housing and Technical Resources

Housing and Technical Resources have developed procedures for their staff to outline the steps an officer within their resources should follow when they identify a concern they may have in relation to a child's wellbeing. Since 2012, general homelessness services have had a system in place to notify the Named Person when a child is affected by homelessness. GIRFEC guidance has now been developed for staff within housing management with a particular focus on anti social behaviour. This is to ensure that the Named Person is notified where it has been identified that there are children/young people living within households who are involved in or the victims of anti social behaviour. GIRFEC has been rolled out across each area for anti social behaviour and it is anticipated that GIRFEC will be rolled out across housing management within the next few months.

### What I Think Tool

The What I Think Tool is a core component of the Getting it right for every child Practice Guide which provides a framework to make sure the views of children and young people are encouraged and understood. The tool should be used by an individual who knows the child well and has developed a

relationship of trust. It has been designed as age appropriate and can be used from early years to post school to encourage and support children and young people to participate in the decision which affect their lives.

Over the past few years this tool has been developed and adapted to differing age groups. As a result the Lanarkshire Getting it right for every child now has three distinct tools:

- The Early Years What I Think Tool
- The What I Think Tool
- 16+ What I Think Tool

The Early Years What I Think Tool aims to help early years staff capture the views and/or experiences of children up to the age of 8 years old. The tool provides guide questions within the eight wellbeing indicators and details resources and opportunities within the nursery/classroom which may facilitate discussion around these areas.

The What I Think Tool can be used for children from 8 years to 16 years. The tool will allow practitioners to gain a more holistic picture of the child's situation and perspective which will help to inform decisions and planning.

The 16+ What I Think Tool were designed following focus groups with young people aged 16-24 years in schools, colleges, Youth Learning Services and Skills Development Scotland. The questions are intended to promote dialogue between professionals and young people based on the Getting it right for every child health and wellbeing indicators.

Please follow the links to all three tools and the relevant guidance.

### **Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership**

As previously highlighted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Getting it right for every child Newsletter, the Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership have developed a protocol and practice guidance for substance misuse staff to support their role in promoting, developing and safeguarding children's wellbeing. This work will also support children's services staff in the implementation of Getting it right for every child, particularly those who will take on the roles of the Named Person and Lead Professional enabling better joint working and a fuller understanding of children and families lives.

Over the coming months, awareness raising and briefing sessions will be delivered to those staff groups in health, education and social work that will receive the information gathered by adult substance misuse services. More information will follow.

Please follow the link below to gain access to the 'Getting it right: Promoting Wellbeing for Children and Young People Living with Substance Misuse' procedures.

### **Notification of Child Protection Concern**

Agreement has been reached that the Lanarkshire 'Notification of Concern' paperwork will now be renamed the 'Notification of Child Protection Concern' paperwork. The two Child Protection Committees of North and South Lanarkshire were in agreement to the name change when some concerns were raised that agencies were using the Notification of Concern paperwork to raise general wellbeing concerns between agencies rather than child protection concerns. Consequently, the title has been changed to assist staff from all agencies ensure that clarity is maintained when dealing with child protection issues. The new paperwork is available from the [gificinlanarkshire](http://gificinlanarkshire) website and all old paperwork will be removed from electronic sites and replaced with the new.

### **Best Possible Start short film**

The Best Possible Start Programme has created a short film involving local Lanarkshire children from the Laburnum Nursery Centre to support the delivery of key health messages from the programme, highlighting the following: Pre conception health, Early Antenatal Access to the Midwife as first point of contact, Breastfeeding, the Personal Child Health Record (Red Book) and the new Health Visitor led 27-30mth child health review.

This was played repeatedly at a marketing event held in April 2014 at the East Kilbride Shopping Centre where front line practitioners who support children and families in the early years, engaged the public to seek their views about the key health messages and what they think needs to happen in order for Lanarkshire to be the best place for children to grow up.

You can view the short film by clicking on the link below.

<https://vimeo.com/dfptv/review/90835264/dd4183f005>



## Resource Information

Please find links to the Scottish Government's Getting it right for every child website, the girfec in lanarkshire website and access the Getting it right for every child Multi-Agency Events Calendar.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

<http://www.girfecinlanarkshire.co.uk/>

[http://intranet.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/8507/girfec\\_multi\\_agency\\_events\\_calendar\\_april-september\\_2014](http://intranet.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/8507/girfec_multi_agency_events_calendar_april-september_2014)

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

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