

getting
it right
for every child
in Lanarkshire



Newsletter for services in South Lanarkshire 3rd Edition – November 2013

Introduction

Once again I would like to welcome you to the GIRFEC newsletter and thank you all for your continued support in implementing this approach to Children's Services across all agencies in South Lanarkshire. As we work towards GIRFEC becoming part of everyday practice in Children's Services, I am aware that Adult Services have an important role in supporting adults to care for their children. Staff and parents working in this area need to be aware of GIRFEC and their responsibility to promote children's wellbeing. This newsletter focuses on some of the work being undertaken by the Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership in supporting staff to understand the implications of GIRFEC and how this impacts on their day to day practice.

2013 has seen the introduction of the Scottish Government Early Years Collaborative with its overall aim to improve the lives of children in Scotland by setting three stretch aims. Agencies in Lanarkshire are at the forefront of working together to improve the lives of children through this approach. The Early Years Collaborative and GIRFEC should not be seen in isolation. The Early Years Collaborative will provide an opportunity to further develop the good work of GIRFEC throughout South Lanarkshire.

Workforce development now falls under the remit of the GIRFEC South Implementation Group and in our next newsletter we will have details of the multi-agency core competency training available to all staff across the GIRFEC partnership.

Lastly, the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill is continuing its journey through the Scottish Parliament and the Stage 1 Report from the Education and Culture Committee is available from the Scottish Parliament website:
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/46956.aspx>

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

Updates

Integrated Children's Services

Getting it right for every child in East Kilbride and Strathaven – Annual Early Years Conference

East Kilbride and Strathaven Integrating Children's Services in partnership with 21st Century Families hosted their annual Getting it right for every child annual early years conference on Wednesday 18th September at the Village Theatre. The conference targeted both parents and practitioners in the locality and 68 delegates attended. The format for the event was a mix of key note presentations and workshops providing those attending with a variety of information on the importance of early intervention and prevention in the early stages of children's lives.

Andrea Batchelor, Head of Education (Inclusion) and Early Years Collaborative Champion for South Lanarkshire Council, provided an overview of the progress so far of the Early Years Collaborative in South Lanarkshire and highlighted the key challenging stretch aims, 3 of which are age related. Andrea further presented on the improvement science methodology and links to the Getting it right for every child approach which will be used to carry out small scale tests of change across all of the workstreams to ultimately improve outcomes for our youngest children in South Lanarkshire.

Irene Campbell followed by presenting two resources, an information leaflet and DVD, which have been produced by Integrating Children's Services in East Kilbride and Strathaven to promote the key messages of Getting it right for every child to parents and carers. Irene acknowledged the support of Karen Leonard in their development. The presentation reinforced the importance of engaging parents and carers in the resource development highlighting the message "nothing for us without us."

The last presentation was delivered jointly by 21st Century Families Lynne Jamieson, Activities Coordinator and Dawn Rafferty, Business Coordinator. They provided an overview, history and further development of 21st Century Families which has grown to become a registered charity.

Delegates then were offered the opportunity to attend a variety of workshop sessions as detailed below:

Community Learning and Home School Partnership	21 st Century Families	Play@Home
Roots of Empathy	Early Years FAIAR	Support for Play and Early Learning Lanarkshire (SPELL)

Feedback from the evaluations were extremely positive with attendees indicating they had learned more about the Early Years Collaborative and Getting it right for every child.



Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership

Getting it right: Promoting Wellbeing for Children and Young People Living with Substance Misuse

In February 2013, Lanarkshire ADP commissioned Mairi Tulbure Associates to deliver a programme of work that will enable Lanarkshire's adult substance misuse services to become fully compliant with GIRFEC and the Getting our Priorities Right guidelines revised in 2013.

The programme includes the development of protocols, training and practice guidance for substance misuse service staff to support their role in promoting, developing and safeguarding children's well-being. This work will also support children's services staff in the implementation of GIRFEC, 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.

A new process and paperwork has now been developed through a series of focus groups attended by practitioners from a range of services including South Lanarkshire Substance Misuse Team, Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Service (LAaDS), Meridian (individuals and families affected by substance misuse) and the hospital based substance misuse liaison nurses.

2 day GIRFEC training is also now underway for staff who have not already participated in this course with briefing sessions being delivered to those who have. Moreover, Training for Trainers will also be delivered to ensure sustained capacity building is in place across the substance misuse workforce.

Awareness raising and briefing sessions will also require to be delivered to those staff groups that will receive the information gathered by adult substance misuse services.

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

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Further information can also be found on our website:

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