**National GIRFEC guidance**

**Overview of key changes**

**Policy Statement – 2022**

The refreshed Policy Statement contains a number of key changes throughout the document:

* Use of the phrase children **and** young people;
* A change in tone, using positive language, building from the impact of GIRFEC in Scotland;
* An emphasis on working together;
* Further clarity in order to provide confidence for practitioners in delivering GIRFEC through a policy, legislative and practice context;
* A focus on children’s rights as an underpinning principle of GIRFEC, ensuring policy and practice protects, respects and fulfils the rights of all children and young people;
* Alignment to key policy areas, for example: The Promise and a continued commitment to eradicate child poverty;
* Highlighting that all children and young people may benefit from the GIRFEC approach;
* An uplifting, visionary statement in relation to Achieving our Ambition, recognising the gaps and opportunities; and,
* A commitment to ongoing participation of children and young people to ensure that they fully understand, and are involved in, all areas of GIRFEC.

**Practice Guidance 1: Using the National Practice Model – 2022**

The refreshed National Practice Model contains a number of key changes throughout the document:

* Greater emphasis on child-centred, rights-respecting, strengths-based practice and the inclusion of children, young people and their families at every stage of the process;
* Simpler language identified which can be used when working together with children, young people and families;
* A deeper understanding of the impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in considering the My World Triangle; and
* Further detail provided on the Resilience Matrix.

**Practice Guidance 2: Role of the named person – 2022**

The refreshed role of the named person contains a number of key changes:

* Clarity that the named person continues be delivered on a policy basis, rather than a legislative basis;
* Understanding that the role and function of the named person may be known by other names across the country;
* Clarity of role within single agency (see glossary planning for children and young people; and
* Clarity on the interface between named person and lead professional (see glossary) roles.

**Practice Guidance 3: Role of the lead professional 2022**

The refreshed role of the lead professional contains a number of key changes throughout the document:

* The guidance is non-legislative and policy-based;
* Clarity is provided regarding function and flexibility of the role;
* Further clarity regarding who can be a lead professional for the child, young person and family;
* There is an increased emphasis on the voice of the child or young person, including enabling full participation within decision-making; and
* Greater clarity regarding a lead professional’s responsibilities in regard to the child’s plan.

**Practice Guidance 4: Information Sharing 2022**

The approach to information sharing for organisations has developed significantly since GIRFEC was initially introduced. Key changes highlighted in this document include:

* Parts 4 (named person) and 5 (child’s plan) of the Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014 have not come into force and the intention of the Scottish Government is to repeal them. The role of named person (see glossary) does not create any additional authority to obtain information. However, some practitioners who fulfil the role of named person may have an existing role in relation to a child or young person (e.g. health visitor or head teacher) and in that capacity may have a lawful basis to process information. If a practitioner has significant concerns about a child or young person, they may share necessary information with the appropriate agencies and/or practitioners in response to their concerns, in compliance with data protection legislation. In some circumstances, it will be appropriate for information to be shared with the named person. No more information than necessary should be shared;
* An emphasis on building trusting relationships and being transparent with children, young people and families; and
* This guidance provides more clarity on information sharing for third sector organisations, and takes into account smaller, voluntary and community organisations that play a valuable role in sharing information to support a child or young person’s wellbeing.

**Statutory Guidance: Assessment of Wellbeing 2022 –Part 18 (section 96) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**

The refreshed statutory guidance contains a number of key changes throughout the document:

* The guidance has originated from Revised Draft Statutory Guidance published for consultation in December 2015, on Parts 4, 5 and 18 (section 96) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014;
* GIRFEC Values and Principles have been strengthened and are underpinned by the UNCRC, ensuring policy and practice protects, respects and fulfils the rights of all children and young people;
* The revised National Child Protection Practice Guidance 2021 is reflected;
* Clarity is provided regarding named person (see glossary) and lead professional (see glossary). These roles are now defined in policy rather than legislation; and
* Incorporation of The Promise Scotland Plan 2021-24.