

## Getting it right for every child Implementation Update

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### Education, Children and Families Committee

13 September 2011

#### Purpose of report

- 1 To provide information for elected members on the implementation of *Getting it right for every child* in Edinburgh

#### Main report

- 2 Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is the national framework to help co-ordinate children's services across Scotland. In Edinburgh we have followed this by adopting the Getting it right for every child in Edinburgh approach to give the right help to children, young people and families, when they need it from a joined up multi agency team.
- 3 Good progress has now been made in implementing *Getting it right for every child* in Edinburgh. Revised and simplified materials have since been developed based on feedback received from a number of sources (including Evaluation Questionnaires, Single Agency Reference Groups, the Project Board, the Children's Partnership and meetings with individual practitioners, teams and managers).
- 4 In addition to the above revisions to the *Getting it right for every child* in Edinburgh, a framework for supporting service delivery has been developed. This is called the Children's Services Delivery Model (CSDM) and is founded on the principles of early intervention and strengthening universal services (Appendix 1). This is a staged approach to service delivery. It places strong emphasis on enhancing the resources that the Named Person, the child/young person and the family can draw on within universal services and communities, making best use of existing resources to support effective early intervention and, wherever possible, avoid issues and problems escalating.
- 5 Children's Services Management Groups are established within each of the five Children and Families neighbourhood areas. Additionally a structure to support citywide services for children and young people with complex needs has been established. These Management Groups comprise of senior managers from each of the partner agencies, and are responsible for the implementation of *Getting it right for every child*, and for monitoring impact and performance.

- 6 The focus is on strengthening resources around the entire high school cluster and Headteachers have welcomed the development of the Team around the Cluster. This clearly identifies, by name and profession, the staff who can support early and preventative action in a designated geographical area. A similar resource is being developed to support pre-5 services across health and education services.
- 7 Schools are positively engaged and there is a real energy developing in relation to implementing the approach and increasing earlier intervention. Evaluation of practice development sessions since February 2011 evidences high levels of understanding and satisfaction with training and paperwork/systems revisions. Since training recommenced, over 1400 staff have participated in the sessions which have largely been based around school and workplace teams to ensure that the information given is practice based and useful.
- 8 Examples of good practice in Getting it right for every child are now being gathered and two specific examples of effective planning and interventions are given below:
- a) A two year old Down's Syndrome child was having difficulty settling into a Child and Family Centre and displaying challenging behaviour which the staff found hard to manage. The solution focused child's planning meeting resulted in the parents feeling listened to and able to influence the placement, the staff developing more successful responses to the child's behaviour and a smooth transition into nursery school being effected;
  - b) An accommodated young person was being very difficult in the residential setting and had stopped attending school. A solution-focused planning meeting was held with the young person being supported to take an active part in the process and hearing and responding to the concerns being raised. A number of suggested changes were agreed and the young person returned to full time education and was positively re-engaged in the process;
  - c) Two brothers with mother and father both suffering significant health issues are receiving partner agency support for the family. The solution focussed approach to the child planning meetings has resulted in a greater sense of effective partnership working exemplified by greater young person participation in the solutions as well as improved engagement with parents;
  - d) Boy at serious risk of permanent exclusion in P3 not accessing any additional support. Child Planning meeting held with parents and relevant agencies. Child's Plan agreed resulting in a blend of support from Parent, Voluntary sector, Health and Council staff. The young person is still at school due to the measured response enabled through joint agency working and the Getting it Right approach.
- 9 The intention is to post these good practice examples on the Getting it right for every child in Edinburgh website and to use them to support ongoing training and staff development.

- 10 Over the coming term information about the number of Child's/Young Person's planning meetings and the outcomes of these will be gathered systematically to inform next steps in the implementation plan.
- 11 Work is also being undertaken to ensure that notifications of offending behaviour and/or Child Concern forms by the police to Social Care Direct are appropriately directed to the Named Person within the health care and education sectors. This will be tested in two selected high school clusters.
- 12 It was agreed at the June GIRFEC Project Board meeting that - given the focus on mainstreaming and the emphasis on Children's Services Management Groups reporting to the Children's Partnership and to relevant partner governance structures a separate Board structure was no longer required.
- 13 Further work is needed to ensure parents and carers are aware of and using the systems associated with Getting it right for every child. The issue is being scheduled for a forthcoming meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents. We are exploring the potential to ask all parents, carers, children and young people a number of set questions in each case where there is a Child's Plan of any description eg "what worked well": "tell us one thing that could be improved" and "did you feel listened to?" Testing this in a number of settings will show us the potential to roll out on a wider basis and contribute to our approach to enhanced Customer Service Excellence.
- 14 Further work is being taken forward to ensure that children and young people contribute more consistently to planning which impacts on their lives: this will be taken forward jointly with the Child Protection Committee to ensure that systems that are developed can be used across planning arenas.

### **Financial Implications**

- 15 The support for the implementation of Getting it right for every child is currently being supported by the former Fairer Scotland Fund. All other changes to current provision will be met within existing resources or through service redesign.

### **Equalities Impact**

- 16 Getting it right for every child means that each child and young person in the city has a named person: there should be no negative impact on any specific sector arising from implementation. As we go forward, particular attention will be paid to those children and young people who are home-schooled and those who are living in travelling families to ensure, as far as possible, that any specific needs they may have are addressed.

### **Environmental Impact**

- 17 There are no adverse environmental impacts arising from the implementation of getting it right for every child in Edinburgh.

## Recommendations

- 18 That the Committee notes the progress to date in implementing the systems and processes designed to improve effective early intervention and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

**Gillian Tee**  
Director of Children and Families

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Appendices	1. Children's Services Delivery Model
Contact/tel/Email	Lynne Porteous 529 2423 <a href="mailto:lynne.porteous@edinburgh.gov.uk">lynne.porteous@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>
Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
Background Papers	

# Children's Services Delivery Model

*Getting it right*  
for every child in Edinburgh

