



## August 2008

### Making Progress Taking Action

Since February this year the *Getting it right for every child* team has travelled north and south from Shetland to Dumfries, and east and west from Stornoway to Aberdeen, engaging directly with well over 1,000 practitioners across all sectors. As part of the *Getting it right for every child* Roadshow we delivered 13 events, 90 workshops, 20 presentations, we listened to your queries and discussed your thoughts and ideas. Valuable feedback has been received in a post event evaluation. This information will help the *Getting it right* team to shape future plans and national activity with greater knowledge of the needs of partners.

What is clear is that enormous progress is being made right across Scotland. Implementation of the *Getting it right for every child* approach is being driven at a local level and areas are at different stages of implementation. Our task is to support this and provide clarity over the core components, principles and values that support the approach.

Work underway in pathfinder areas, with learning partners and in other areas is increasing our knowledge and understanding about how the approach is being implemented - more on this in our next newsletter in the autumn. The *Getting it right* team is committed to supporting a learning exchange via the [Learning Community](#) - which goes live in the Autumn - with updates on our web section and through the production of tools and materials.

An Information Pack setting out practice tools that can be used by anyone who works with children and young people will be made available by October.

## Getting it right for every child Group

To support implementation of the *Getting it right for every child* approach the Scottish Government is establishing a national group to provide strategic oversight and strengthen connections across the children's services landscape. The group will bring together individuals from Government, local authorities, the police, education, health and social work who are committed to driving forward implementation.

The aims of the Group will be to:

- develop and maintain a strategy for the implementation of *Getting it right for every child* across Scotland
- oversee the progress of the pathfinders, learning partners, and e-Care framework, and advise on how best to apply the lessons emerging from the programme across Scotland
- oversee the evaluation of the programme; consider the implications its findings have on implementation, including a review of the practice model and tools
- advise on how best to embed the *Getting it right for every child* principles within professional practitioner training.

Invitations will be issued shortly, and updates from the group will be made available via the *Getting it right* newsletters and the web section on the Scottish Government website.

## National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan Launched

With COSLA, the Scottish Government launched a [National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People](#). It is estimated that there are more than 100,000 children and young people affected by domestic abuse and this is the first time a joined up approach to the problem has been taken that focuses on improving their lives. The views and recommendations of children and young people have been taken into account as part of the development of the plan.

The Delivery Plan, drawn up in partnership with COSLA and other key agencies, sets out a common framework based on *Getting it right for every child* principles and values and the aims of the [National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland \(2000\)](#). The Delivery Plan contains thirteen priorities for action to be progressed over the next three years to enable more effective protection, provision, prevention and participation for all children, young people and their families affected, or at risk of being affected by domestic abuse in Scotland. The experiences and findings of the four *Getting it right for every child* domestic abuse pathfinder areas have been incorporated in the plan.

## Scottish Learning Festival – GIRFEC Workshop

*Getting it right for every child* is hosting a workshop as part of the Scottish Learning Festival taking place in Glasgow on Thursday 25 September at 9.30am. The focus of the workshop is the application of the *Getting it right for every child* approach in schools. The workshop is being facilitated by Julia Swan from ADES, and Head of Education at Falkirk Council.

The session will demonstrate how *Getting it right for every child* supports culture, systems and practice change across children's services. Delegates will hear how this interdisciplinary approach applies in schools and how working in partnership with other professionals can benefit children. If you are attending the Scottish Learning Festival, please consider [booking a place](#).

## *Getting it right for every child*: Childhood, Citizenship and Children's Services Conference

In September the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde are hosting a three-day international conference at Glasgow's Grosvenor Hilton Hotel.

Building on the successful "Children's Hearings at the Crossroads" conference in 2003, this ambitious event aims to discuss key themes arising from the integration of children's services and to explore contemporary policy and practice relevant to all children in Scotland.

The conference has a broad range of contributors from across the spectrum of children's services and hopes to attract involvement not only from academics, but from policy makers, professionals and anybody involved in the delivery of education, health, youth justice and social work services.

The key themes of the conference are:

- Children's voices, citizenship and inclusion
- Building better childhoods
- Changing children's services: challenges for education, social work and health care professionals

The conference takes place on the **24th, 25th and 26th September**.

[More information can be found online](#) or by contacting Barbara Reid at [b.reid@educ.gla.ac.uk](mailto:b.reid@educ.gla.ac.uk), or telephone: 0141 330 6107.

## Children's Health Services

### 60 years of the NHS

The *Getting it right for every child* approach is recognised in the [Better Health Better Care Action](#)

[Plan](#) to improve health and health care in Scotland. The Action Plan promotes the view that supporting early years development, good health choices and behaviours amongst children and young people should set children on a trajectory where they can sustain good health throughout their lives.

This approach was championed in June at the [NHS Scotland event](#) - the NHS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference that took place at the SECC in Glasgow. The *Getting it right* team hosted a stand at the event and supported a workshop with a cross-government panel and two speakers - the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Harry Burns; and Prof. Jonathan Kotch - who provided fascinating presentations on the importance of attachment, early intervention and wellbeing in the early years, and their significance for child development.

### **Review of Nursing in the Community**

The new [community nurse model pilot](#) continues to run in four health board areas in Scotland. This pilot was established [an earlier consultation](#) which raised concerns around difficulties in engaging with community nurses who had a diversity of roles and titles, and a lack of whole family lifespan focus.

### **Addressing the Needs of Children and Families**

The community nursing team will continue to provide the universal service defined within [Hall 4](#) to all families. This service includes an assessment of family needs carried out in partnership with parents and carers, a programme of health promotion and an emphasis on strengthening parenting skills and capacity.

Community nurses will play a key and sometimes lead role in identifying needs for vulnerable families in the context of early intervention and prevention in the wider multi-agency setting. Community nurses will continue to identify and meet family's needs within the context of both Hall 4 and *Getting it right for every child*. The forthcoming [early years and early intervention strategy](#) will provide further opportunities to support children and their parents as part of a joined up multi-agency approach which puts children at the centre.

Beyond the [early years](#), the Scottish Government is also investing in the development of multi-disciplinary school health teams to respond to the needs of children. These teams will include community nurses giving families continuity of support from early years through to school leaving and into adulthood.

### **Infant Health and Nutrition – New Post**

Establishing good nutrition and developing healthy weaning practices is essential and will influence children's immediate and long term health. In recognition of the importance that is placed on breastfeeding and children's early eating pattern, an Infant Nutrition Co-ordinator for Scotland has recently been appointed. The role is to lead the development and implementation of an infant nutrition strategy, providing advice and support to Ministers, NHS Health Boards and all those involved in infant nutrition. This post supports a major strand of maternal and child health policy, as well as wider policy, to promote health and tackle health inequalities. Much of this is covered in the publication [Healthy Eating, Active Living: an action plan to improve diet, increase physical activity and tackle obesity \(2008-2011\)](#).

### **Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities**

["Equally Well"](#) is a report of the ministerial task force on health inequalities, which sets out the

context in which the Scottish Government intends to improve health across some of the poorest sections of society.

In this publication Adam Ingram, Minister for Children and Early Years, highlights how this agenda is supported by early intervention: *“Early intervention is a hallmark of this Government’s approach to improving the lives of Scots and delivering the better Scotland that we all want to see. The early years of a child’s life are a key opportunity to build resilience and reduce the impact of inequalities on health outcomes.”*

The report states that children’s circumstances in the earliest years of life are critical to future health inequalities and that action is needed across a range of services to end the cycle of health inequalities which passes from parent to child. It maintains that vulnerable groups, such as looked after children or those who live in a house where alcohol or drugs are misused, require particular help. It also points out that children should be encouraged to enjoy learning and to stay in education beyond the age of 16.

## Preventing Offending by Young People - A Framework for Action

On 19 June the new Youth Justice framework [Preventing Offending by Young People: A Framework for Action](#) was launched in the Scottish Parliament. The Framework was jointly developed and is formally owned by the Scottish Government and key partners. The Framework sets out a shared vision of what we want to do to prevent, divert, manage and change offending behaviour by children and young people – and how we want to do it. The over-arching shared commitment, through the Framework, is to work together as national and local partners to deliver real improvements on the ground.

In conjunction with the launch of the framework the [new Youth Justice website](#) was also launched. Over time the website will be developed to provide a wide range of information for practitioners as implementation of the framework progresses.

## Key messages and using the *Getting it right for every child* logo

We are increasingly being asked for our key messages as well as electronic copies of the *Getting it right for every child* logo to support others in the production of their local materials.

A selection of *Getting it right for every child* materials is available for download via the *Getting it right for every child* [Tools & Resources web section](#). This includes a [Style Guidance document](#) which can also be downloaded. This document sets out how materials can be prepared by others that are in keeping with the *Getting it right for every child* house style. It also includes colour shades, writing styles, copies of the logos, and a set of PowerPoint slide templates.

For further information or guidance, please contact [Lorraine Spalding](#) or [Jenny Massey](#).

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