

Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) for Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII)

Quality Assurance and Data Framework

This framework is designed to support local areas implementing the Scottish Child Interview Model for joint investigative interviewing by outlining the expected quality standards for each component of the model. All five components – Strategy, Planning, Action, Outcome and Support & Evaluation/ Learning & Development – must be implemented for the model to be delivered with fidelity, so that children experience the intended benefits. Local areas have flexibility to agree their own arrangements for meeting each standard, and for agreeing measurements to quality assure the standards.

Strategy	
Quality Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All joint investigative interviews take place within an overarching investigative strategy agreed at Interagency Referral Discussion or equivalent multiagency decision-making forum2. Sufficient strategic direction is provided by the Interagency Referral Discussion (or equivalent multiagency decision-making forum) to effectively inform interview planning, ensuring that there is a focus on the needs of the child.
Examples of sources of evidence for meeting these standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interagency Referral Discussion quality assurance arrangements• Rationale for interview recorded at Interagency Referral Discussion• SCIM for JII Data Capture Form; “Routes to interview” data field• Feedback from interviewers and their managers about effectiveness of Interagency Referral Discussion strategic direction

- Audits of children's records which illustrate the role of interview within an overarching investigative strategy

Planning

Quality Standards

3. All joint investigative interviews are jointly planned by Police and Social Work
4. Those who know the child well share information to support planning when asked to do so
5. Accurate and sufficient information about the needs of the child is available to interviewers to inform planning
6. Accurate and sufficient information about the nature of the concern/essential elements is available to interviewers to inform planning
7. A Plan for Child's Needs is completed prior to all joint investigative interviews, and this is adapted to the background of each individual child
8. A Topic Identification Plan is completed prior to all joint investigative interviews, and this covers all essential elements of the crime and/or concern under investigation
9. An Interview Plan is completed prior to all joint investigative interviews, central to which is the Scottish NICHD Protocol
10. The best interests of the child are taken account of in planning the date, time, and venue of the joint investigative interview
11. The child's views and perspective are taken into account in all decisions made when planning the interview.
12. The support needs of the child are considered and addressed in planning.
13. Police and Social Work Managers share responsibility for conducting a briefing prior to every interview
14. The briefing ensures effective links between the strategy and planning components and quality assures the interview plan

**Examples
of sources
of evidence
for meeting
these
standards**

- Planning documents
- Audit of planning documentation
- Agency records which evidence information-sharing for purposes of planning interviews
- Record of managerial oversight
- Managerial sign off of interview plan and associated documents
- Scottish Child Interview Model Data Capture Form
- Feedback from interviewers about information-sharing pathways
- Feedback from interviewers and their managers about the accuracy of the information provided from first referral/disclosure to IRD and planning
- Feedback from children and their families about the suitability of date, time, and venue of interview
- Feedback from children and their families in relation to their inclusion in the gathering of information and planning process.
- Evidence of support being agreed and arranged for the child in planning documents and/or the child's record
- Interviewer Practice Evaluation Framework – evaluation of planning (by interviewer, peers and manager)
- Briefing records
- Quality assurance of briefings and associated documentation

Action	
Quality Standards	<p>15. All joint investigative interviews are jointly conducted by Police and Social Work staff who are trained in the Scottish Child Interview Model and who are supported to maintain their practice standards</p> <p>16. The interview equipment available for use by interviewers operates effectively and supports high quality audio and visual recording of the interview</p> <p>17. All joint investigative interviews are visually recorded unless this is not in the best interests of the child</p> <p>18. All joint investigative interviews are conducted at a location which enables high quality recording of the interview and is comfortable and appropriate for the child.</p> <p>19. Interviewers incorporate the interview plan into the interview with the child</p> <p>20. Interviewers respond, through a trauma informed lens, to the needs of the child during interview and support their participation.</p> <p>21. Interviewers apply the principles and adhere to the phases of the Scottish NICHD Protocol during the course of the interview</p> <p>22. The child's views are heard and respected before, during and after interview.</p> <p>23. Analysis of the joint investigative interview is undertaken jointly by both interviewers</p> <p>24. A debrief between the interviewers and a supervisor is held following all joint investigative interviews and the outcome is shared with those responsible for the overarching investigation and those providing ongoing support for the child and their family</p>
Examples of sources of evidence for meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of staff deployed to undertake interviews • Record of training completed by staff undertaking interviews

these standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audits of equipment testing • Issue/Action logs for equipment and any other local challenges • Adherence to the Interviewer Practice Evaluation Framework • Scottish Child Interview Model Data Capture Form • Feedback from SCRA and COPFS on technical quality of interview recording • Feedback from children on their experiences • Debriefing records • Quality assurance of debriefings and associated paperwork
Outcome	
Quality Standards	<p>25. The child experienced an interview that was well planned, trauma informed and responsive to their needs</p> <p>26. The child is supported to participate in their interview and give their account of what happened</p> <p>27. The minimum number of interviews necessary for the child to be able to give their full account of what happened, at their pace, are conducted</p> <p>28. The child was supported effectively after interview</p> <p>29. Information and evidence from the interview are used to inform ongoing care and safety planning to ensure the child (and any other child) is safe and protected</p> <p>30. The quality of the joint investigative interviews is of sufficient standard to be used in court proceedings by SCRA and/or COPFS where appropriate</p>
Examples of sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from children about their experiences

of evidence for meeting these standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to the Interviewer Practice Evaluation Framework • Scottish Child Interview Model Data Capture Form • Audits of child's records which illustrate support provided • Audits of child's record which demonstrate how information and evidence from the interview informed ongoing care and safety planning • Application for Evidence in Chief by Prior Statement using joint investigative interview • Interview evaluation feedback from SCRA • Interview evaluation feedback from COPFS
Support and Evaluation, Learning and Development	
Quality Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 31. Proactive wellbeing support measures are in place for all interviewers 32. The wellbeing of interviewers is supported by effective working conditions 33. Pathways to access additional wellbeing support, when necessary, are clearly defined and accessible for all interviewers 34. Interviewers gain confidence and skills through regular interviewing deployment 35. The Interviewer Practice Evaluation Framework is implemented 36. Interviewers receive feedback in relation to the quality of the interview 37. Interviewers are supported to reflect on their own practice 38. Interviewers are supported to access both local and national learning opportunities to continue their professional development 39. The local child protection system operates effectively to support the Scottish Child Interview Model

	<p>40. Ongoing implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model is informed by data and evidence from relevant sources, central to which are the voices and experiences of children and their families</p>
Examples of sources of evidence for meeting these standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team Meeting Minutes• Evidence of individual supervision with interviewers• Evidence of group supervision with interviewers• Access to wellbeing and therapeutic services for staff• Central control sheet for Interviewer Practice Evaluation Framework• Attendance at Continuous Professional Development sessions• Engagement with National JII Team and other experts in the field in response to planning for complex cases• Quality assurance arrangements for the local child protection system• Evidence of how data and evidence contribute to continuous improvement