

National Child Protection Guidance Implementation Newsletter

21 DECEMBER 2022 (ISSUE 2)



In This Issue:

- Letter from Chair of the National Child Protection Guidance Implementation Group.....[page 2](#)
- The National Child Protection Guidance Implementation Group.....[page 3](#)
- Identified areas of challenge.....[page 4](#)
- Resource for Children, Young People, and Families[page 5](#)
- Support for Chief Officers[page 6](#)
- Supporting the Health Workforce[page 7](#)
- Supporting the Education Workforce[page 8](#)
- Learning and Development Post.....[page 9](#)
- Data and Evaluation.....[page 10](#)
- 16 and 17 Year Olds.....[page 11](#)
- Child Protection Processes.....[page 12](#)
- Review of the Guidance[page 13](#)
- National Child Protection Implementation Group Member Organisations[page 14](#)

Issued by the National Child Protection Guidance Implementation Group to provide an update on the implementation of the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#) including news, resources and supports available or in development.

We're now over a year into implementation of the National Guidance and it's a great opportunity for us all to pause for a moment and look back at how far we've come. I've been involved in many meetings across the country recently where I'm hearing both the challenges of implementation, but also the examples of excellent practice. It's important that we're all talking about and sharing these. There are a number of fora in place to support this including the National Child Protection Guidance Implementation Group (the "Implementation Group"), the recently established Community of Practice for CPC implementation leads, and CPC Scotland.

The Implementation Group is now focussed on some of the gritty issues that have emerged over the past year in order to provide strategic oversight and support to the leads in those particular areas. These are outlined on page 4. To date we've had in depth discussions on the Adult Support and Protection Code of Practice and GIRFEC at the July and September Implementation Group meetings. We've also been hearing from local areas what has really worked well from them. East Renfrewshire shared their improvement journey, and in January we will hear how the Ayrshires are collaborating on implementation.

The momentum and engagement with implementation in local areas has been inspiring and brilliant to see. I'm looking forward to seeing that continue in 2023 as we make further progress, and to providing support from the national level where that would be helpful.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas,

Joanna MacDonald and the Scottish Government Child Protection Unit

Deputy Chief Social Work Advisor and
Chair of the National Child Protection Guidance Implementation Group

Please circulate this newsletter to COGs, CPCs, colleagues, and your stakeholder networks.

The National Child Protection Guidance Implementation Group

The National Child Protection Guidance Implementation Group was formed to provide strategic oversight and offer support to local areas. The group meets every 2 months and will continue to do so until September 2023.

Membership of the group, listed at the end of the newsletter, has been drawn from a range of statutory and third sector partners and national organisations.

The National Child Protection Leadership Group, Chaired by the Minister for Children and Young People, provides oversight of the Implementation Group and receives quarterly updates.

The Implementation Group have agreed the following as areas of focus:

- Participation of children and families
- Leadership
- Pre-birth, perinatal, and pre-5
- Preventative and proactive early family support and GIRFEC
- Training and workforce development
- Neglect
- Data and evaluation
- 16-17 year olds
- Extra-familial harm
- Child protection processes

Identified areas of challenge for ongoing work

The Implementation Group agreed at the 29 July meeting, that the best use of the remaining meetings is for the Group to focus on the following areas of challenge which have been identified through intelligence gathering:

- Pre-birth
- Transitions
- Adult Support and Protection code of practice
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Process Timescales
- Participation
- GIRFEC
- Poverty and Neglect
- Sharing of best practice
- Outcomes
- Data
- Implementation beyond September 2023

Work is being progressed by both existing groups and new subgroups. Where appropriate they have determined priorities and developed milestones which form the basis of an implementation plan.

* * *

If you would like information about any of the work highlighted in this newsletter, please contact: Fiona.Marshall@gov.scot or Sian.Robson@gov.scot.

Please note that the following highlighted work is not exhaustive.

Resource for Children, Young People, and Families

CELCIS are leading the work to develop a child protection resource for children, young people and families. Direct engagement with children, young people, and families including consultation and co-design of the content and design of the resource took place over the summer. In parallel, work is being done to consider the options to produce the resource.

Delays to the timeline due to extensive consideration of the draft content, and the extensive engagement undertaken, mean that it is likely that the resource will be published in Spring 2023.

Leadership: Support for Chief Officers

Chief Officers' Leadership Event 2022

Joanna MacDonald Chaired the 2022 Chief Officers' public protection leadership event on 28 September. The event for Chief Executives of local authorities, NHS health boards, and police divisional commanders, included sessions on self-evaluation evaluation and learning from the pandemic, Bairns' Hoose standards and wider developments, and making sense of headline and statistical data.

The planning group have now begun to consider a public protection leadership event in 2023.

Supporting the Health Workforce

Publication of the NHS Public Protection Accountability and Assurance Framework

On 6 October the [NHS Public Protection Accountability and Assurance Framework](#) was published and issued with a joint covering letter from the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Nursing Officer, Chief Dental Officer, Chief Midwifery Officer, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, and Chief Optometrist. The framework was developed by a range of health professionals and is intended to guide Health Boards in the assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of their public protection arrangements both at strategic and operational levels and ensure greater consistency in what children and young people, adults at risk of harm and families can expect in terms of support and protection from health services in all parts of Scotland.

* * *

Launch of NHS Education for Scotland public protection national e-learning education resource

The NHS Education for Scotland public protection national e-learning education resource was launched on Turas Learn on 6 October to support health professionals in their child and adult protection roles. The resource is intended to help alleviate some of the current pressures on the resources of individual Health Boards and improve consistency and access to high quality educational resources across Scotland.

Supporting the Education Workforce

National Education Safeguarding Leads Network

The National Education Safeguarding Leads network representing 32 local authorities and the independent schools sector meets on a quarterly basis with themed sessions scheduled to provide a deep dive into a particular area or issue. At the 22 November meeting leads discussed implementation of the National Guidance.

The Safeguarding in Education Leads Network has set up a supervision in education short life working group to:

- Pull together an overview of the current context of supervision for education staff responding to safeguarding / child protection across Scotland – linking this to the definition within the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland
- Help provide clarity around ‘what is supervision’ in an education context
- Consider existing models of supervision across other agencies
- Provide some recommendations / supports to share with Scottish Government and COSLA, and provide signposts

The Scottish Government Implementation Team is also engaging with ADES, Education Scotland, HMI and the independent schools sector.

Learning and Development Post

Scottish Government have agreed to fund a 2 year National Learning and Development Co-ordinator post which will sit within the CELCIS Protecting Children team. June Welsh started in the post on 12 December. June will have a key role in supporting local areas to consider the workforce learning to implement change in line with the National Guidance. The Implementation Group signed off the workplan for this post at the 8 November meeting.

Data and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Guidance implementation

The subgroup have developed a logic model based on the National Guidance and this has been approved by the Implementation Group. The subgroup are also developing self-evaluation tool for local areas which is based on the logic model, and an associated set of statistical indicators. The aim is to develop a tool or set of tools that allow for national consistency in self-evaluation activity, being mindful of time and resource pressures locally to complete such tools.

16 and 17 Year Olds

The priorities of the CPC Scotland National Transitions Working Group are to scope what's already in place and identify good practice; understand the interfaces between legislation, policy and practice across child and adult services; develop guidance/framework/practice guidelines. The group will next meet in February.

Child Protection Processes

Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD)

The editorial group within the IRD training subgroup have produced a first draft of suggested content for the training course. A questionnaire will be circulated to relevant agencies outlining the expected level of experience of the professionals for access to the proposed training and requesting estimated numbers of staff who will undertake the course.

Review of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021

A commitment was made in the National Guidance supporting narrative to an annual review to capture significant legislative, policy or practice changes. This review is now in progress. We are also considering what issues have arisen during the first year of implementation.

Input has been provided so far by Scottish Government policy leads, Implementation Group members and other stakeholders. If you would like further information or to comment please contact Sian.Robson@gov.scot. The deadline is 13 January.

National
Child Protection
Implementation
Group Member
Organisations

Aberdeenshire Council

Association of Directors of
Education in Scotland (ADES)

Care Inspectorate

CAMHS

CELCIS

Chief Social Work Officers

Children's Health Scotland

Coalition of Care and Support
Providers in Scotland (CCPS)

COSLA

CPC Scotland

Disabled Children's Child
Protection Network

East Ayrshire Council

Edinburgh Child Protection
Committee

Education Scotland

Midlothian Council

National
Child Protection
Implementation
Group Member
Organisations

National Lead Officers' Network

NHS Grampian

NHS Healthcare Improvement
Scotland

NHS Highland

NHS Chief Executives

NSPCC

Police Scotland

Public Health Scotland

Scottish Children's Reporter
Administration (SCRA)

Scottish Executive Nurse Directors
(SEND)

Scottish Government

Scottish Nursing Leadership for
Child Protection

Social Work Scotland Child
Protection Subgroup

Social Work Scotland Children and
Families Standing Committee