

Briefing No.59

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Getting it right for every child in D&G and the named person functions

Following the Supreme Court ruling in July on the Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014, we assured practitioners in Dumfries and Galloway that we would continue to keep you informed about the implications. This briefing provides an update on our position.

In Dumfries and Galloway we remain committed to getting it right for every child as our approach to working with children, young people and families. The GIRFEC approach encapsulates all the principles of best practice, these being that:

- We focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families based on a shared understanding of wellbeing (SHANARRI indicators).
- We prioritise keeping children safe.
- We use the wellbeing indicators to identify concerns, assess needs and agree actions and outcomes.
- We share information proportionately and appropriately.
- We put the child at the centre of all assessment, planning and intervention and we listen to their views.
- We streamline our planning, assessment and decision-making processes to provide the right help at the right time.
- We shift from crisis intervention to prevention and early intervention.
- Where children need multi-agency help, this is co-ordinated by a Lead Professional.

In Dumfries and Galloway, we use named persons to support the practical application of the GIRFEC principles above.

Our progress in supporting children and families and improving the wellbeing outcomes of children was recently acknowledged by Care Inspectorate inspectors and we are committed to ensuring the GIRFEC approach continues to deliver improvements in the way we work with families.

The court ruling does not impact on our continued implementation of the GIRFEC approach in Dumfries and Galloway and practitioners should continue to use the guidance, tools and templates that have been developed for this. Our GIRFEC products are all publicly available on the [practitioner's page](#) of the children and families website and the key products include:

- D&G GIRFEC Practice Guidance
- D&G Information Sharing Guidance

- Child Chronology template
- Child's Plan Meeting template
- Child Assessment Report
- Request for Assistance Form

Guidance is also available on the website for using the forms and templates and [child protection resources](#) are also available.

The role of a named person in Dumfries and Galloway has always been to:

- Offer support to the parent or carer and their child.
- Act as the parent's first point of contact if they have any concerns about their child.
- Assist in getting help from other services if the child needs additional support.

These functions pre-date the Children and Young People (Scotland) 2014 Act and they have not changed.

In Dumfries and Galloway, the following staff carry out the functions of named person.

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Named person</u>
From birth to when the child starts Primary 1	Health Visitor
From Primary 1 to the end of Primary 7	The Head Teacher or a promoted teacher
From Secondary 1 to when the child leaves school	The Head Teacher or a promoted teacher
If the child is home-educated or, for example, a member of the gypsy/traveller community.	The Education department will identify a named person.

We recently issued guidance on information-sharing to managers and we continue to provide multi-agency training on information-sharing and chronologies. Our next steps will be to continue our implementation of GIRFEC with further revision of existing tools (for example the Child Assessment Report) and development of training.

We will notify staff of further guidance, information and opportunities for learning and development in due course.

We understand that the Scottish Government are working towards a revised implementation date of August 2017 for the parts of the Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014 relating to the Named Person Service.

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