

## For Highland's Children - Bulletin 9

May 2006

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### Follow-up Child Protection Inspection

The HMIe *Services for Children* Unit will undertake a follow-up to last year's child protection inspection, in June. While this is part of the routine inspection process, the Scottish Executive has also requested that it should include evaluation of the progress made to meet the recommendations in *the independent review into the circumstances surrounding the death of Danielle Reid*.

Follow-up inspections are designed to support continuous improvement, and to be:

- proportionate to the findings of the initial inspection;
- responsive to the findings of the initial inspection and subsequent developments;
- evaluative of quality assurance arrangements and capacity for improvement.

There will be a multi disciplinary inspection team of seven, including one associate assessor. The fieldwork will take place between 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June, involving a range of activities: a presentation from the child protection committee, focus groups, visits to services, examination of files & records, individual interviews and observations.

There will not be prior arranged interviews with children and families. Instead, the inspectors hope to meet and talk with children and families after observing meetings, while visiting services or when there are routine meetings and contacts.

The inspection timetable will be organised over the next few weeks. You may be asked to be involved, or may meet members of the team at routine events during the fieldwork. Further advice will follow, but if you want more detail, you should contact any of:

- Lead Officer - [bill.alexander@highland.gov.uk](mailto:bill.alexander@highland.gov.uk)
- Highland Council ECS Service - [laurence.young@highland.gov.uk](mailto:laurence.young@highland.gov.uk)
- Highland Council SW Service - [linda.maclennan@highland.gov.uk](mailto:linda.maclennan@highland.gov.uk)
- NHS Highland - [sandie.young@hpct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:sandie.young@hpct.scot.nhs.uk)
- Northern Constabulary - [julian.innes@northern.pnn.police.uk](mailto:julian.innes@northern.pnn.police.uk)

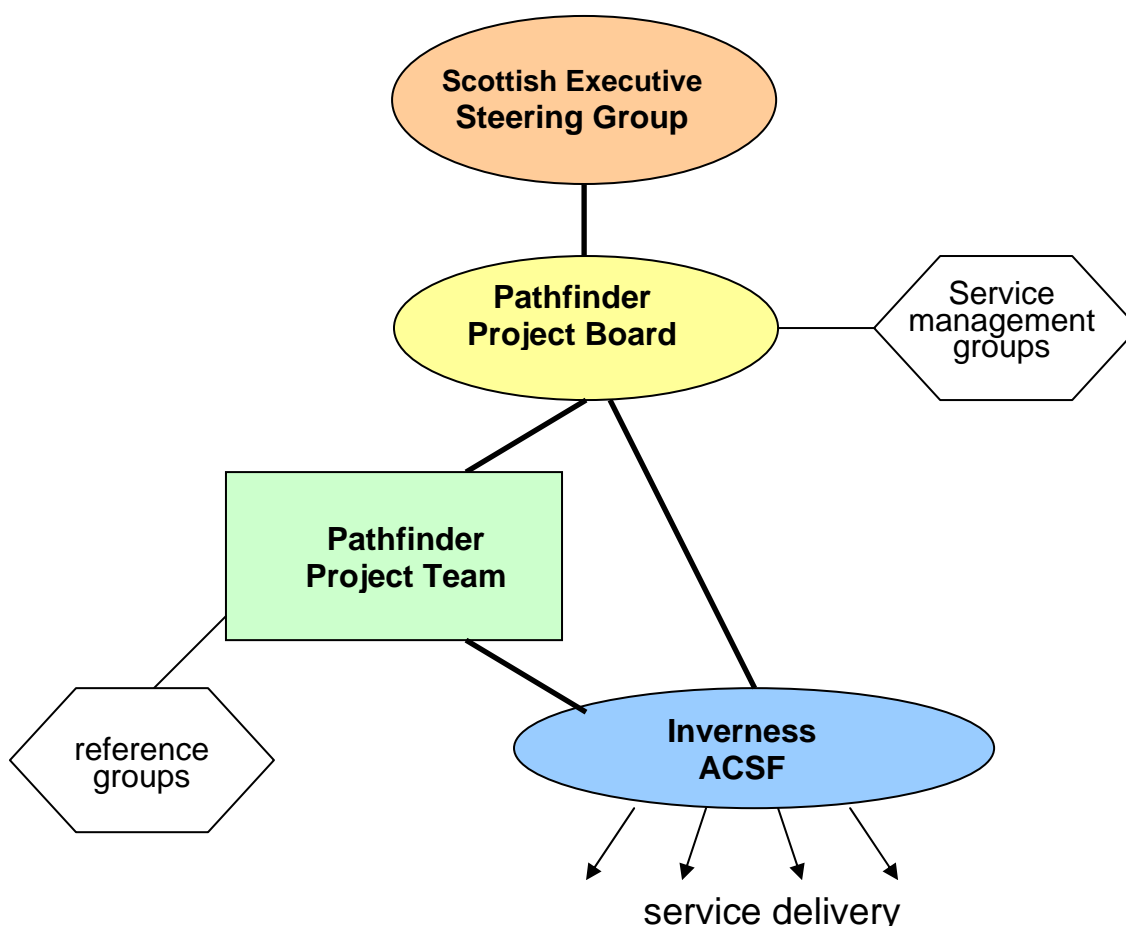
## Getting Inverness Right For Every Child - up and running!

As of 18<sup>th</sup> April, the GIRFEC Pathfinding Project Team is in place, working from a base at Highland Council HQ:

- **Colin Macaulay** - Project Manager
- **Marj Stewart** - Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF) Coordinator
- **Jill Moss** - Police Secondment
- **Elizabeth Watson** - Health Secondment
- **Roseann Christie** - Education Secondment
- **Kay Ballantyne** - Administrator

Contact details can be found at: [www.forhighlandchildren.org/htm/girfec/girfec.php](http://www.forhighlandchildren.org/htm/girfec/girfec.php)

In addition, the Team will be joined by **David Crines** from SCRA on a part-time basis; and by **Dawn Main-Fraser** from Social Work (until the Summer). Externally, advice will be provided by **Jane Aldgate** and **Wendy Rose** of the Open University - and more locally, advice will come from a wide range of key individuals within Highland agencies.



As a 'pathfinding' process, the Scottish Executive are active participants in all aspects of GIRFEC developments. Regular, joint meetings bring together the Highland Team with their national counterparts - and key contributors from other areas of Scotland - with their respective expertise and experience of integrated children's services.

A Project Board, comprising Highland Chief Officers and key Executive Departmental Leads has now met to agree the project plan and direct the development and implementation phases.

The Inverness Area Children's Services Forum will act as a generic reference group - a key group of local service managers responsible for managing the first implementation phase, across the Inverness Area - scheduled for September this year. Other service and issue specific reference groups and management groups are being linked with (or established where necessary) - to ensure that the extremely broad impact of GIRFEC is well-channelled through managers and practitioners alike.

A tremendous amount of work has already been accomplished over the past year by Marj, Jane, Wendy and the IAF Reference Group, and GIRFEC will build on this solid ground. Similarly, the work around Child Health and Hall 4, around Child Protection and around the ASL Act, provide foundations for our current thinking.

Clearly a huge amount of work still requires to be undertaken - drafted, tested and endorsed - if we are to be 'fit for purpose' in a few months time. Should you feel that you, or your team or your service are 'out on a limb' at this time - it may be that the phase of development is too early for wide consultation. However, please do contact us with your thoughts and ideas about this challenging agenda.

Watch this space! *Colin Macaulay, Project Manager*

## Health For All Children and GIRFEC: Seminars

Over 30 health visitors, midwives and school nurses took part in seminars in March and April at Ross County's stadium in Dingwall, to explore links between the implementation of Health for All Children (Hall 4) and GIRFEC.

These sessions began a series of events that will bring health practitioners together to discuss issues and to help shape the way that changes are implemented. It is hoped that the same participants or their colleagues will be able to meet over the next few months, as policies and resources are developed.

Issues discussed so far by participants include Information-sharing, the Assessment Process, Pathways & Care Aims, Business Processes, the Red Book and Documentation. Comments from the groups will be incorporated into the work underway. Summer seminar dates will be confirmed shortly.

*Julia Nelson, Health Development Officer – Early Years*

## Additional Support for Learning

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 came into force on November 14th 2005. It improves and modernises systems for identifying and meeting the needs of ALL children and young people who may need support with their learning. The Act introduces a new framework for supporting children and young people in education and introduces the term Additional Support Needs.

The term **Additional Support Needs** applies to children or young people who, for whatever reason, require additional support, long or short term, in order to make the most of their education. The Additional Support Needs of most children and young people will continue to be identified, and provided for by the systems which schools already had in place through the Staged Approach.

The Act does not just cover education. It places a legal obligation on other agencies to help the Highland Council to support children and young people with Additional Support Needs, and multi-agency support will be co-ordinated through the Liaison Group process and Additional Support Liaison meetings.

A small number of children and young people will have Additional Support Needs which are complex or multiple, have a significant adverse effect on their learning, will last for more than a year and require a high level of support from more than one agency. This support may be co-ordinated by a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) triggered at an Additional Support Liaison Meeting.

In October and November 2005, multi-agency awareness raising seminars were arranged on an area basis to introduce partner agencies to this education law and outline how they may be involved in the new system. Further Case Study days, also on an area basis, were organised in January, February and March 2006 to look at the more practical aspects of this change in law. Professionals came together on a multi-agency basis to work through the documentation developed to assist the processes and to discuss together how it will work out in practice.

Evaluations of these sessions have proved very positive, and it is intended to further develop a running programme of training on a multi-agency level as well as more specific training for education staff through the CPD Calendar.

The Authority has been working closely with health colleagues, developing procedures and ensuring links with the Care Aims process, building a shared understanding of effectively supporting our children's learning.

The implementation of this Act is strongly linked to the developments within Health for Hall 4, the Integrated Assessment Framework and GIRFEC, so that the processes dovetail smoothly, avoid duplication and therefore ensure best practice and value for the partner agencies and importantly best outcomes for our children and families.

Further information can be found at [www.highlandschools-virtualib.org.uk/sfl/](http://www.highlandschools-virtualib.org.uk/sfl/) .

CHIP+ has produced a series of information sheets about the act which can also be accessed on the above webpage.

*Barrie Forbes, Additional Support for Learning Co-ordinator*

## Delivering a Health Future: national consultation

**Deadline: 7 July 2006**

The Children and Young People's Support Group has just issued *Delivery a Healthy Future*, a draft Action Framework. The Framework sets out a structured programme of action and progress measures, drawn primarily from existing policy initiatives and commitments (e.g. *Health for All Children, Getting It Right for Every Child*).

'At the heart of the development of the Action Framework is the precept that within a healthcare system inevitably challenged by adult health needs, particularly in the context of an ageing population, specific and conscious attention has to be given to ensure that the very different health needs and requirements of children and young people are appropriately prioritised and addressed'.

Actions are grouped under six headings:

- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Developing the workforce
- Information technology
- Balancing access, quality and sustainability
- Reflecting patient focus
- Ensuring performance management & quality assurance

The draft is available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/04/07102245/0>. Comments should be made to [sally.amor@hnb.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:sally.amor@hnb.scot.nhs.uk) The consultation ends on 7 July.

## Parenting Matters

Since 2001, NHS Highland and Highland Council have pooled resources to enable developments in parent support. Below is a summary of current training activities:

### Reference Group

Parent Programme Leaders from across the Highlands met in January at the Highland Parenting Reference Group to develop 'parent programmes' - the targeted activities in which parents are supported to improve their confidence and skills in caring for children. Thirty practitioners from all agencies and from all Highland areas met at Council Headquarters in Inverness.

The meeting aimed to utilize the variety and depth of expertise and experience of practitioners involved with services for parents. The agenda included a review of the survey of all parenting programmes. Participants' workshops contributed to the assessment of systems and practices available for parent orders

One of the group's tasks is to assist in developing a **Parenting Programme Strategy** covering the whole of Highland. Over the next year, the group will assist in identification and dissemination of 'best practice' parenting programmes ensuring a consistent approach to the provision of parenting services. This will contribute to service links to the 'Integrated Assessment Framework' and 'Health For All Children'.

The 'strategic' connection for the Parenting Reference group will be the Family Resource Alliance and appropriate other relevant strategic meetings such as, the Youth Justice Strategy for Parenting Order issues and the Hall 4 Implementation Group for Health for All.

### **Training for practitioners**

The Wave Trust, a charity aimed at researching the causes of violence, has identified the most effective programmes for supporting parents, and three of them are part of the Highlands array of services for assisting parents - 'Pippin', 'Baby Massage' and 'the Incredible Years.' The trust's research shows that programmes that develop 'attunement' between parents and children and help to build empathy are the most effective and the most popular with parents.

Building on this over the next year, Highland practitioners from various agencies will attend Group Leader Training Programmes with a view to participating and running parent skills training groups. The training will be matched to participants own learning needs and be run by experts from across the country.

First off this month, five practitioners will attend the **Incredible Years Group Leader** training. During the year, up to forty practitioners will attend training run by **Aberlour** at the National Parenting Centre. This course will provide training in all the underpinning skills to enable practitioners to become confident in running groups.

In August another **Incredible Years** course will be run in Highland, with a 'consolidation day' for experienced practitioners. In June and September, there will be **Baby Massage Instructor Courses**; and in September, two **PIPPIN** courses. Other programmes are also running including 'Drug proof your kids', 'Positive Parenting' and 'Mellow Parenting'

*Alan Richards, Highland Parenting Program Coordinator and Development Officer*

Further information is available at:

<http://www.wavetrust.org/>      <http://www.aberlour.org.uk>  
<http://www.incredibleyears.com>   <http://www.pippin.org.uk>

If you wish to know more, contact [alan.richards@highland.gov.uk](mailto:alan.richards@highland.gov.uk) (01463 711176)