

<i>item:</i>	5
<i>report:</i>	CYP03/06

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD

By Bill Alexander

SUMMARY

This report updates Members on the national implementation of 'Getting It Right For Every Child' in Highland.

Additional information will also be provided to the Committee, further to the Seminar being held in the morning session.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The December meeting of the Joint Committee agreed that Highland should be the national pathfinder authority for 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC).
- 1.2 This initiative is launched at a Joint Committee Seminar that precedes the January meeting, and the Joint Committee may wish to consider some of the outcomes of that discussion at its meeting.

2. The Project Plan

- 2.1 Further to the last Joint Committee, discussions have continued with Scottish Executive officials to confirm the final detail of the Project Plan. This Plan is likely to be agreed at the first meeting of the Project Board.
- 2.2 Executive officials have supported the agency secondments that were endorsed by the Joint Committee, and the financial arrangements for these are being finalised. Each agency is presently taking action to put these secondments in place as quickly as possible.
- 2.3 At the Joint Committee, consideration was given as to whether there should be a further secondment from SCRA, but this is not likely.
- 2.4 The Scottish Executive is also considering means to ensure the full involvement of all agencies at a national level on the Project Board.

3 eCare

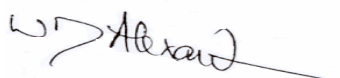
- 3.1 Since the December Joint Committee, further consideration has been given to the possibility of GIRFEC implementation through electronic information sharing systems.
- 3.2 The Data Standards & Data Sharing Division of the Executive has indicated that they would fully resource this initiative over the next year.
- 3.3 Further, a number of Highland agency staff participated in a recent demonstration of the available software, which does appear to be more advanced and have greater potential than was previously envisaged.
- 3.4 This matter will be considered further by Chief Officers.

4 Timescales

- 4.1 Scottish Executive officials have indicated that the timescale for implementation will be considered by Ministers at forthcoming meetings.
- 4.2 It is envisaged that new legislation will be placed before the Scottish Parliament in September 2006, which will involve enabling powers for all agencies, and a strengthening of the Children's Hearings System. This legislation will take some time to progress through the system, and implementation in Highland will not be effected by this process - but may influence it.
- 4.3 It is presently envisaged that the GIRFEC framework will be launched in Inverness in September 2006, and supported through until April 2007, when other Areas of Highland would begin to introduce the new processes, and also when the process of dissemination will commence across the country.

Recommendations

The Joint Committee is asked to consider these further developments, and any additional issues raised during the Seminar.



Bill Alexander

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