



For Highland's Children - Bulletin 10

June 2006

with information on

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Follow-up Child Protection Inspection

The HMIe follow up child protection inspection will take place in the week of 5th June. There will be a multi disciplinary inspection team of seven, including one associate assessor. The fieldwork programme is now in place, and staff will have been informed if they are due to be involved at any stage. It involves:

- focus groups with staff and managers
- interviews with senior staff
- visits to services
- observation of practice and meetings.

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

The inspectors will maintain confidentiality about any personal information they get during the inspection. Discussion about individual cases, including the examination of files, should wherever possible be on the basis of informed consent - which means that children or parents/carers should be informed about this possibility and may refuse consent if they wish. Posters and leaflets explaining the inspection to staff, children and families are available from lisa.mcclymont@highland.gov.uk.

However, and while this is unlikely, further to recent new legislation, inspectors can insist on the examination of any case if they have significant concerns about practice or the safety of a child.

Chief Officers will receive a debrief about the inspection in the following week, and a written report is expected in late summer

The latest update of the multi-agency child protection workplan is included with all other updates of *For Highland's Children 2*, at:

<http://www.forhighlandschildren.org/html/integrated-planning/integrated-planning-fhc2-updates.php>

Further advice and information about any aspect of the inspection is available from:

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

Getting it Right For Every Child in Highland

Work continues apace on the roll-out of 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC), commencing in Inverness later this year. Recent briefings have been held for around 150 staff in Inverness, as well as for a range of professionals across Highland agencies.

Further briefings are being organised before the summer break, and a key event for strategic managers and all core ACSF members is being held on Wednesday 28 June from 10.00 - 1pm. Contact kay.ballantyne@highland.gov.uk to reserve a place.

These briefings are being organised to complement the progress of developmental activity. However, if you are anxious about being left out of the loop, please contact any of the following at @highland.gov.uk or 01463 702807.

- **Colin Macaulay** - Project Manager
- **Marj Stewart** - Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF) Coordinator
- **Dawn Main-Fraser** - Social Work secondment
- **Jill Moss** - Police Secondment
- **Elizabeth Watson** - Health Secondment
- **Roseann Christie** - Education Secondment

A national announcement about the roll-out programme is expected before the end of June. There has been some recent press speculation, suggesting that GIRFEC involves the establishment of a national database. GIRFEC involves a single planning process for all children, including a single plan for those children with multi-agency needs. This is not a national database.

Instead, it is intended that details of children held on existing systems (health, education, social work and police) will be accessed as required for key information about a child and where there are concerns that multi-agency action is needed to address these concerns. The single record is created as required.

The Highland pathfinder programme is not being driven by IT. IT will facilitate the exchange of information and awareness about what is happening in a child's life. The pathfinder is more about practice change. It is about focussing on the child's needs not on process, developing the single assessment, record and plan and the tools etc to support practice change, identifying training and awareness needs, breaking down barriers and reducing bureaucracy. Further news will follow in *For Highland's Children* newsletters.