



## Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People, Newsletter 4, July 2015

Dear Colleagues,

In the previous newsletter we set out the progress made so far in preparing for the inspection of children's services and described what will happen in August and September. So far we have concentrated on the self-evaluation the very positive evidence gathered against the 22 quality indicators. In this newsletter, the focus is very much on the examples of good practice and the position statements we are also required to provide.

The three position statements are on:

- Implementation of Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC);
- Corporate Parenting;
- Child Sexual Exploitation.

The four areas of good practice, using the Care Inspectorate's criteria of multi-agency working and the measurable difference being made to the lives of children and young people, are:

- Mobile Alcohol Intervention Team (MAIT);
- Early Years Collaborative;
- Springfield Project – Therapeutic Service for Looked After Children;
- Get On My Level - Targeted Teenage Pregnancy work.

In identifying these four areas we fully recognised the considerable range of excellent practice across the partnership, and certainly the very high standards of core provision to which you all contribute but were only allowed to submit 3 or 4 that met the Care Inspectorate criteria. Many other areas of good practice are highlighted throughout our self-evaluation. Thanks to everyone who submitted information for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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Executive Director

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### GOOD PRACTICE

#### Mobile Alcohol Intervention Team (MAIT)

This is a collaboration between the Clued up Project, Police Scotland, NHS Fife, and Fife Council. Over 3 years, 253 young people have received an alcohol brief intervention. 56% of those followed up reported a reduction in alcohol consumption and 84% reported using behaviour change options. An external evaluation details the main benefits to young people's lifestyle choices.

#### Early Years Collaborative

Through leadership at all levels there has been a commitment to improvement through "tests of change" in diverse areas such as income maximisation, breastfeeding, reading to children and uptake of vitamins. There is strong evidence of the methodology being adopted across all partner services and having an impact on outcomes for children and families.

#### Springfield Project – Therapeutic Service for Looked After Children

This project supports young people and their foster carers through a multi-agency team of Psychotherapists, Clinical Psychologists and Occupational Therapy. The project provides a safe consistent environment for children to develop more positive attachments. Outcomes are measured across the SHANARRI well-being indicators and the therapy is very much child-led. 91% of cases had sustained progress at follow-up evaluation.

#### Get On My Level - Targeted Teenage Pregnancy Work

Teenage pregnancy is a significant concern in Fife. Four school-communities established multi-agency task groups to develop local solutions using the named person as key. The result is that teenage pregnancy for under 16s has fallen in the last 3 years. Valuable learning has been gained in the area of relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) which can be used in other areas. This work has been recognised by a COSLA award as well as a ministerial visit.



#### **POSITION STATEMENTS**

The summaries give a flavour of what we said about ourselves. The full statements can be found at [www.fifedirect.org.uk](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk)

#### **Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)**

In providing a position statement on GIRFEC a description was given of the commitment from all partner agencies at a strategic level that can be tracked to the work of the 7 local GIR groups since 2009. The Getting it Right Working Group has been in existence since 2009 as a partnership group to deliver on GIRFEC and now to deliver on the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 that relate to GIRFEC. The Getting it Right in Fife Framework (GIRIFF) has been developed to help with integrated approaches to assessment. We are well ahead on introducing the Named Person requirements in Health and Education while Social Work has a clear understanding of the Named Person and their role as the Lead Professional. The Vulnerable Person's Database used by the Police is key to our approach to supporting children and young people and this complements the Social Work Contact Centre. Information is shared with the Named Person through an electronic system that allows a better assessment to be made about whether or not a Child Wellbeing Assessment meeting should be held. Regular reports on outcomes are considered by Children in Fife and other key groups.

#### **Corporate Parenting**

The Fife Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) was established in 2008 and promotes the well-being of looked after children (LAC) on a partnership basis. The CPB is chaired by an elected member and councillors have received training from "Who Cares?". Children's Rights lie at the heart of our work (for example through the Care Leavers' Charter) as does the voice of the most vulnerable young people. Significant developments have taken place in the care arrangements for children including permanency planning and kinship care. Much work has taken place to safeguard and improve the health outcomes for looked after children. The achievement outcomes in Fife for LAC are amongst the best in Scotland but we believe they are still not good enough.

#### **Child Sexual Exploitation.**

Led by the Child Protection Committee the Fife Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy was published in June and the issue was the subject of the annual conference in 2014. It can be found at [www.fifedirect.org.uk](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk). This strategy complements the Underage Sexual Activity Protocol that is in place for all services. Training has been provided for key staff. Much work has been done on Internet Safety. This is seen as a key area of concern, the nature of which is such it will receive continued attention into the foreseeable future raising awareness of parents and carers as well as staff.

For more information, including further references to key documents refer to  
Fife Children's Services Plan 2014-2017: [Fife Children's Services Plan](#)