

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 14 March 2012

**Subject: West Dunbartonshire Council's (WDC)
Implementation of the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
framework.**

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to present to Members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee information on the progress of implementing the Scottish Government's GIRFEC framework.

2. Background

- 2.1** In 2008, the Scottish Government published its *Guide to GIRFEC*, which explains the approach to be taken, especially the Values and Principles, Core Components and the *National Practice Model*.
- 2.2** In 2010, the Scottish Government published a report entitled *The Guide to Implementing GIRFEC* which reported on the progress of local authorities in implementing the Guide.
- 2.3** The Scottish Government has announced plans for legislation and policy development that will ensure a major shift in services for children and young people. The focus will be on a new approach, based on:
- Prevention
 - appropriate early intervention
 - child-centred service delivery; and
 - support for parents to build their confidence and capacity.
- 2.4** During December 2011, Members were sent a briefing note on the Council's response to the Consultation on The Rights of Children and Young People Bill which closed on 1 December 2011; a Children's Services Bill is planned for 2013
- 2.5** In December 2011, COSLA's Education and Young People's Executive requested information from the Council on the progress to date of

implementing the GIRFEC framework, with a focus on examples of good practice (appendix 1).

- 2.6 Prior to October 2010, the responsibility for implementing GIRFEC lay with the local authority and Community Health Partnership (CHP) working together through joint forums and services within partnership agreements.
- 2.7 In October 2010, the Council's Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) was established integrating social care and health services within the one organisation and establishing a new arrangement through the Scheme of Establishment to work in partnership with local authority services and the third sector.

3. Main Issues

What is GIRFEC?

- 3.1 GIRFEC is a national programme that aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people (C&YP) in Scotland. It seeks to do this by providing a framework for all services and agencies working with children and families to deliver, where necessary, a coordinated approach which is proportionate, appropriate and timely.
- 3.2 The GIRFEC framework is based on 10 core components, which together describe a model of practice that has been proven to improve the delivery of services to children and young people.
- 3.3 Implementing *Getting it right for every child* and its Values and Principles will bring changes to the Council's culture, systems and practice.
- 3.4 GIRFEC states the right of children and young people to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included. These are the 8 *Well-being Indicators* in the GIRFEC approach.
- 3.4 Implementing the *GIRFEC framework* necessitates transformational change. It requires agencies and individuals to examine all processes, procedures and their culture to determine what existing systems and practice can be built upon and what needs to change or be replaced.

How has the Council delivered GIRFEC to date?

- 3.5 The report included as Appendix 1 is a description of the varied but effective interventions and strategies currently being deployed within the Council to meet the expectations of GIRFEC and to prepare for the introduction of the Children's Services legislation.

4. People Implications

- 4.1 The GIRFEC framework is being implemented by existing staff with effective support from the voluntary sector.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The cost to the Council of implementing GIRFEC is met within existing budgets and with matched funding from the Community Planning Partnership for the various programmes within the Education and Lifelong Learning Thematic Group.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There are no identifiable risks to the Council in implementing GIRFEC; however, the risk of failing to implement would lead to an increased demand on services to meet the inevitable failure demand.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1** No significant equalities issues were identified in relation to this report.

8. Strategic Assessment

- 8.1** The information from this report demonstrates that children and young people are benefiting from improvements to Children's Services, and are therefore better equipped to benefit from employment, training or education opportunities thereby contributing to the social and economic regeneration priority.
- 8.2** The information from this report demonstrates that the judicious application of funding within an early intervention preventative model may prevent the need for high levels of public resources to be spent at a later date to alleviate social problems and tackling "failure demand." This accords with the Council's Financial Strategy.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1** The Council is meeting the aims and expectations of the GIRFEC framework as outlined in the appendix (1).
- 9.2** Members are asked:
- 1) to note the contents of this report; and,
 - 2) to acknowledge the Council's progress in implementing the GIRFEC framework.

Date: 11 January 2011

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Appendices: Appendix 1: West Dunbartonshire Council's Implementation of the Getting it Right for Every Child Guidelines.

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All wards