

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by the Director of Social Work Services

Children's Services Committee: 18 April 2007

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**Subject: Getting It Right for Every Child  
Draft Children's Services (Scotland) Bill Consultation**

### **1. Purpose**

**1.1** This report is to inform Committee of the consultation process being undertaken by the Scottish Executive in respect of the Draft Children's Services (Scotland) Bill which is part of the "Getting It Right for Every Child" policy initiative and to seek approval of the response to that consultation which has been prepared by West Dunbartonshire and our partner agencies.

### **2. Background**

**2.1** Getting It Right for Every Child is a far-reaching set of policy proposals which will have a major impact on the delivery of services to children in Scotland.

**2.2** Attached at Appendix I is the response to the proposals prepared by the partner agencies involved in the Joint Strategy Group for Children and the preparation of the Integrated Children's Services Plan. Responses to the consultation were to be returned to the Scottish Executive by 31 March.

**2.3** The Children's Services Bill would place duties on agencies to deliver the aims and objectives of "Getting It Right for Every Child", which are:

- Children and young people get the help they need when they need it and are central to the process of finding solutions.
- Everyone working with children and young people uses a consistent and equitable approach and works more effectively together to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Everyone is clear of their personal responsibility to do the right thing for each child and how they contribute to the collective responsibility to do the right thing for each child.
- Parents and children benefit from a collaborative approach which results in fewer meetings, require them to give information only once and jointly develop with professionals one plan that will meet all of their needs.

- Agencies and professionals are freed up to get on and respond to children and take appropriate, proportionate and timely action with the minimum of paperwork, bureaucracy and duplication.

### **3. Personnel Implications**

- 3.1** There are no personnel implications apart from the extensive training for staff which will be required.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1** There are no immediate financial implications but members will note issues about resourcing which have been highlighted in the response sent to the Scottish Executive.

### **5. Risk Analysis**

- 5.1** This consultation, along with other initiatives from the Scottish Executive, indicates the direction future legislation is likely to take. The Council needs to prepare for these changes and respond to further guidance as it becomes available

### **6. Conclusion and Recommendation**

- 6.1** Committee is asked to (i) note these important proposals for the future delivery of services to children; (ii) retrospectively agree the content of the response to the Scottish Executive.

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<b>Appendices:</b>	Response to Consultation Paper on Draft Children's Services (Scotland) Bill
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Draft Children's Services (Scotland) Bill
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All wards