

Briefing No.64

27 March 2017

Children's Services Plan

The draft Children's Services Plan will be presented to DG Council on 28 March and then to the NHS Board. You can view the plan on the website at the bottom of this page: <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15966/GIRFEC-resources-for-practitioners>. The next steps are that once approved, we will publish the plan and produce accessible summary versions for children, young people and families.

Launch of Multi Agency Staff Guidance on Sexting 2017

In recent years there have been growing concerns both locally and nationally about the increasing incidence of sexting involving children and young people. Sexting is defined as:

‘Creating and/or sending on text, images or videos that are of a sexual nature or are indecent, by, to or of children under the age of 18.’

These images are shared between young people and/or adults via a mobile phone or other electronic device including the use of social media, with people they may know or not know. In Dumfries and Galloway staff, particularly in schools, have asked for guidance about how this should be managed.

The guidance has therefore been developed to support all practitioners working with children and young people to provide a consistent and proportionate response to concerns at both a single and inter-agency level. It applies to children & young people under age 18 but may also be relevant to work with vulnerable adults.

The purpose of the guidance is:

- To provide a shared understanding of sexting, its place, potential risks and impact in young people's lives
- To provide a shared approach that if consistently applied will support partnership working in response to this issue
- To provide a framework for assessing and responding to potential risks

The guidance gives practical advice about what to do if sexting happens or is disclosed in your school, care or youth work setting, highlights the steps that you need to take and provides some practical examples.

It should be used to support risk assessment and management of sexting at a single and inter agency level, to generate responses that are proportionate to the individual situation and needs of the children and /or young people involved.

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15965/Child-protection-resources>

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