

getting  
it right  
for every child

# Child's Plan

Providing a consistent approach to planning  
for children who need coordinated support

**The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 is about improving the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland. The Act is wide ranging and includes key parts of the *Getting it right for every child* approach, commonly known as GIRFEC.**



The Act ensures a single planning framework – a Child's Plan – will be available for children who require extra support that is not generally available to address a child or young person's needs and improve their wellbeing.

The Child's Plan is part of the GIRFEC approach to promote, support and safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people. The Child's Plan will be available nationally from 31 August 2016.



## What's in a Child's Plan?

Every plan should include and record:

- information about the child's wellbeing needs including the views of the child and their parent(s);
- details of the action to be taken;
- the service(s) that will provide the support;
- the way in which the support is to be provided;
- the outcome that the plan aims to achieve; and
- when the plan should be reviewed.

A Child's Plan will also record who will coordinate the support. This person is known as the Lead Professional for the plan who will work with the child and their parent(s) to keep them informed.

## Who ensures a Child's Plan is working well?

Overall responsibility for delivering a Child's Plan sits with an organisation such as a health board, local authority or independent school. The Lead Professional will ensure the Child's Plan is managed properly.

The Lead Professional will:

- make sure that the child and their parent(s) understand what is happening at each point so that they can be involved in the decisions that affect them;
- ensure the Child's Plan is accurate, up-to-date, taken forward and reviewed regularly; and
- consult and work with the child's Named Person.

The Lead Professional will be a practitioner who is chosen because they have the right skills and experience to ensure the Child's Plan is taken forward properly, and who can work with the child, their parents, their Named Person and other services supporting the child.



Information about a child's needs, specific circumstances and the help they have already received may be shared with the Lead Professional and other services involved in the Child's Plan. The child and parent(s) will know what information is being shared, with whom and for what purpose, and their views will be taken into account. This may not happen in exceptional cases, such as where there is a concern for the safety of a child or someone else.



## Key facts about the Child's Plan

**1. Not every child will require a Child's Plan.** A Child's Plan will be available for a child who needs extra support that is not generally available to address their needs and improve their wellbeing. A Child's Plan will also be put in place where there are child protection measures.

**2. The Child's Plan will offer a consistent approach to how extra support that is not generally available is planned, delivered and coordinated.**

It will help services to coordinate additional help offered to a child, tailored to meet their specific needs and circumstances.

**3. A Child's Plan is developed in partnership with the child, their parent(s) and the services involved.** It will be coordinated by a Lead Professional who will work with the child, parents and those supporting the child to ensure that the plan is taken forward to meet the needs identified.

**4. The Child's Plan will contain:** information about why the plan has been created, what it is aiming to achieve, and the actions to be taken to improve the child's wellbeing.

**5. The child's Named Person will be a partner to the Child's Plan.** A child's Named Person will usually be their health visitor for pre-school children or a promoted teacher - such as their head or guidance teacher - for school aged children.

# Further information

Other information leaflets in this series include **Getting it right for every child, Named Person** and **Understanding Wellbeing**.



For more information on Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) visit: [www.gov.scot/girfec](http://www.gov.scot/girfec)

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