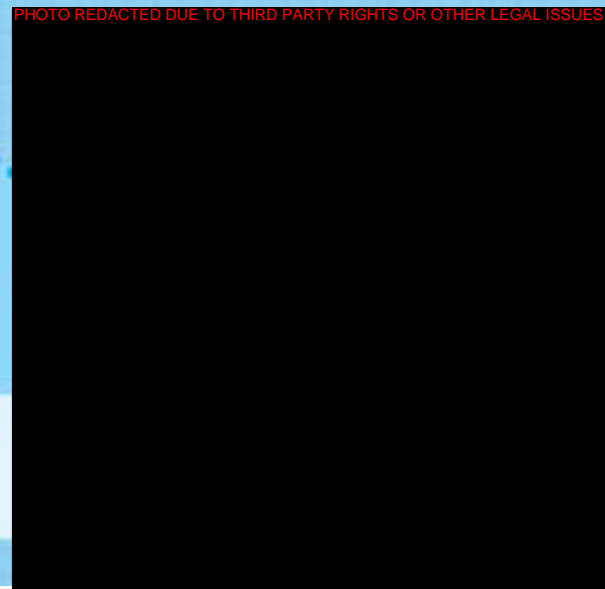


Getting it right for

**CHILDREN  
& FAMILIES**



# National Review of Services for Disabled Children and Young People - Progress Report

## **National Review of Services for Disabled Children and Young People - Progress Report**

The Scottish Government is committed to equality for disabled children and young people in Scotland, and to ensuring that all children can achieve their potential.

It first convened the National Review of Services Group in 2010 to consider the landscape of disabled children's services, and set out actions for improvement. As a result, the National Review of Services for Disabled Children and Young People and accompanying Action Plan was published in February 2011. Since then, Scottish Government and partners have been working to implement the actions in the plan.

The Review Group was chaired by Harriet Dempster, former Director of Social Work at Highland Council. Members were drawn from a wide range of organisations from central and local government, health, voluntary sector, parents and academia. The Review Group reconvened in August 2011 to advise on implementation of the actions, and provide expertise to ministers and policy makers.

This report provides an update on implementation of the actions set out in the National Review of Services for Disabled Children and Young People Report Action Plan. It sets out progress to date, and where appropriate, plans to continue the work in the future.

## ***National Review of Services for Disabled Children and Young People - Action Plan Update***

### **Action 1 - Short Breaks**

*Scottish Government will invest an additional, dedicated £2m in short breaks for families with severely disabled children. This builds on the existing £5m for short breaks between 2010 and 2015, where one priority for the use of this resource, after an initial assessment stage, is disabled children and their families*

#### ***Progress Update***

Scottish Government provided £2 million in 2011-12 for short breaks for disabled children and young people with complex needs up to the age of 20 and their parent carers. This fund was administered by Shared Care Scotland and The Family Fund.

In addition some of the £1m for short breaks in 2010-11 was disbursed to organisations for short breaks for disabled children.

The Scottish Government, with partners, continues to develop plans to help ensure provision of short breaks. A further £2 million for short breaks for disabled children and young people will be available in 2012-13 : due to launch in autumn 2012.

### **Action 2 - For Scotland's Disabled Children (FSDC) Charter**

*We will pilot the FSDC Charter for Scotland's Disabled Children in several local authority and related health board areas.*

#### ***Progress Update***

FSDC had limited success advancing the Charter in local authorities. As a result, in 2011, the Scottish Government agreed that it would consider how the principles contained within the Charter might be used within practice guidance and briefings which provide direction for practitioners working with children on the implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). Scottish Government is clear that many aspects of the Charter are already included in the GIRFEC approach and tools.

The Getting it Right for Every Child approach is about how people working across all services for children, young people and adults meet the needs of children and young people through a single system that puts the needs of the child at the centre, and makes the process easier for parents and children. It's about making sure that leaders, managers and practitioners work together when they need to, ensuring children and young people reach their full potential.

### **Action 3 - Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) - Practice Briefings**

*Working with partners, Scottish Government will develop and publish a Getting it Right for Every Child practice briefing setting out how the GIRFEC approach applies to disabled children*

#### ***Progress Update***

Scottish Government is currently developing practice briefing for practitioners working with disabled children and young people. This is being done, in conjunction with Long Term Conditions Alliance Scotland (LTCAS), through the collection of good practice case studies, which will be developed into a guide for practitioners. This will be published by the end of 2012.

### **Action 4 - Moving and Handling**

*We will publish new national guidance on manual handling for disabled children*

#### ***Progress Update***

The Scottish Government involved a wide range of stakeholders in gathering information and identifying relevant issues about moving and handling disabled children. In conjunction with the Children's Commissioner and Capability Scotland, a practical guide about moving and handling issues for professionals working with disabled children is currently being developed. The guide will be published in September 2012.

### **Action 5 - Good Practice**

*We will develop and disseminate a robust evidence base of good practice across a range of key areas, such as transition, which promotes the SHANARRI outcomes for disabled children and young people and builds on evidence developed in Setting the Scene*

#### ***Progress Update***

As set out above, Scottish Government is currently developing practice briefing relating to the Getting it Right for Every Child approach for professionals working with disabled children and young people. This will incorporate good practice case studies across a number of key areas, including transitions. This will be published by the end of 2012.

### **Action 6 - Staff Training**

*In line with the Getting it Right approach, we will develop a work stream to explore the consistency of deployment and training of staff across disciplines relevant to services for disabled children*

#### ***Progress Update***

Work is ongoing in Scottish Government to develop a "common core of knowledge" that can be applied across workforces (health, education, social care, justice, community services, etc). Following a public consultation and staff workshops, as well as discussion with the National Review of Services Group on the aspects relating to disabled children and young people, the final report is being prepared and will be published in May 2012.

## **Action 7 - Integrated Inspection Services**

*Within a Getting it Right context, we will explore the potential of integrated children's services inspection regimes to focus on disabled children that drills down to cover services that make provision for them as individuals*

### ***Progress Update***

The Care Inspectorate is currently developing a new methodology for introducing integrated children's services inspection that will consider how all services in a local area support the care of vulnerable children and young people. Disabled children and young people are included within this group. The methodology will be developed through a test site in Angus in April/May 2012, and from the summer 2012, 5 areas will be used to pilot-test the new approach. The new approach will be finalised in August 2012 and tested through the remainder of 2012-13.

## **Action 8 - Children's Services Plans**

*COSLA will seek to reinforce the importance of regularly reviewed children's services plans to ensuring improved outcomes for disabled children*

### ***Progress Update***

COSLA has made initial contact with Community Planning Managers. Early responses demonstrate that some children's plans are identifying outcomes for children and young people with additional needs. However, there is a mixed picture across Scottish local authorities. COSLA will continue to liaise with Community Planning Partnership (CPP) managers on this issue. Work on this action is ongoing, as CPPs will take account of developing legislation and the outcome of the Review of Community Planning.

## **Action 9 - Child Protection**

*We will identify and promote ways to make the child protection system more accessible to disabled children and sensitive to their needs, promote closer working between children's disability and child protection/social work teams in relation to safeguarding and seek to ensure all local child protection guidance takes account of disabled children.*

### ***Progress Update***

A Ministerial working group is being set up to take forward this work with representation drawn from the statutory and voluntary sector as well as central government. The group will scope the work and aims to produce a work plan before the end of June 2012. The aim is that some outputs from the group will be available by the end of 2012 and the group's work completed by the end of 2013.

## **Action 10 - Child Poverty**

*The Scottish Government will ensure that the national Child Poverty Strategy takes account of children's disability issues raised by this review*

### ***Progress Update***

The Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland, which was published in March 2011, acknowledged the link between households with a disabled member and the risk of being in poverty and took into account relevant recommendations in the National Review of Services Report. In March 2012 the Scottish Government published an Annual Review for the Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland, which highlights the work of the National Review of Services Group.

The National Review of Services Group also had the opportunity to advise Scottish Government officials working on the impact of welfare reform on families with disabled children, and provided information and expertise based on their experience of working with children and families. This will be further considered by officials as work on the impact of welfare reform progresses.

## **Action 11 - Self Directed Support**

*Scottish Government will strengthen the children's disability aspects of the self-directed support agenda*

### ***Progress Update***

The Self Directed Support (Scotland) Bill has now been introduced to Parliament and anyone with an interest was invited to submit evidence to the Health and Sport Committee by 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

If the Bill is passed it is likely to come into force in late 2013 and will be accompanied by guidance. The SDS team intend to consult on draft guidance at the end of the Parliamentary process. The guidance will include specific sections on self directed support (SDS) as it relates to children and young people and there will be opportunities for interested parties to contribute to this process.

Quarriers continue to represent children's services on the Self Directed Support Strategy Implementation Group. This is a 10-year strategy, launched jointly with COSLA in November 2010.

As part of the Strategy and Bill, money has been identified to support local authorities as well as care and support providers to implement self directed support. The funding for local authorities is intended to be used to transform both adults and children's services.

Barnardo's, In Control, the Social Care Ideas Factory and ARC Transitions Forum have been given funding for projects which specifically relate to SDS for children and young people.

## **Action 12 - Doran Review**

*Scottish Government will review learning provision for children and young people with complex additional support needs through the Doran Review*

### ***Progress Update***

The first phase of the review was completed in October 2011. An interim report was published on the Review's website in October 2012.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/920/0121725.pdf>. The interim report set out 4 questions that are the focus of the Review's 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase. Final recommendations are expected to be presented to the Scottish Government in summer 2012.

## **Action 13 - Engagement and Participation of Disabled Children and Young People**

*We will develop an ongoing communications strategy that actively engages disabled children, young people and their families*

### ***Progress Update***

The National Review of Services Group decided that the engagement and participation of disabled children and young people was a crucial step in the progression of the action plan. Scottish Government provided funding to For Scotland's Disabled Children (FSDC) to carry out a participation project with a range of disabled children and young people. This work was led by a sub-group of the National Review Group and was called the Conversations Project.

The Conversations Project spoke to around 60 disabled children and young people of varying ages and with a variety of impairments about their experiences of using services, and their lives. A report detailing the findings of the project will be published in June 2012. Scottish Government will use the findings of the report to refine and develop policy and services and the views of the children and young people will be used across a wide range of policy development, including the Children and Young People Bill and Getting it Right for Every Child implementation.

## **Action 14 - Independent Living**

*Scottish Government will continue to take forward work to ensure disabled children and their families are able to benefit from progress we are making towards independent living*

### ***Progress Update***

Phase 2 of the Independent Living Programme is currently being considered and its outcomes will indirectly benefit the lives of disabled children. Glasgow Disability Alliance, who have a disabled young people's project, are members of the Scottish Government funded Independent Living in Scotland (ILiS) Steering Group and represent disabled people on the Independent Living Core Reference Group.

Inclusion Scotland, a disabled people's organisation funded by Scottish Government with strong involvement in the Independent Living in Scotland project, have been making links with children and young people's policy teams within Scottish Government, including in the areas of youth employment and transition policy.

In addition, Scottish Government has funded a number of projects through the new Equality Fund which will develop work around transitions for young disabled people. One project at Donaldson's College will support young deaf people 16-24 into further education or employment and another project, Limelight Music, aims to work in schools to support professional careers in music and the arts and provide specialist music training and skills workshops for young disabled people.

Other Scottish Government funded projects include a project run by Enable which provides training to people with learning disabilities enabling them to deliver hate crime awareness raising sessions to school children and a People First project which will contribute to policy and practice development in child welfare and protection with the intention of reducing the number of children being removed from the parental care of parents with learning disabilities.

## **Action 15 - Housing**

*In line with Getting it Right for Every Child, we will ensure disabled children's needs remain at the centre of housing support.*

### ***Progress Update***

The Scottish Government Independent Adaptations Working Group is currently developing proposals for the future delivery and funding of housing adaptations across all tenures. The working group intends to consult on its proposals prior to submitting its recommendations to Ministers in September 2012.

A representative from the Scottish Government Housing, Regeneration, Commonwealth Games and Sport Directorate attended a meeting of the National Review Group in January 2012 and obtained views from the group on housing related issues. During 2012-13, in partnership with disability groups and other stakeholders, officials will take forward work on the housing challenges facing disabled people.





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