



November 2008

Dear Colleague

Getting it right for every child – The Guide

Improving outcomes for children and young people across Scotland is a major priority for both national and local government. In line with the principles and commitments in the Concordat there is a great deal of partnership working involving local authorities, the voluntary sector and other key partners to deliver real progress in a number of key areas, including education and development in children's early years.

Through *Getting it right for every child* we are gradually changing the way adults and organisations think and act to help all children, young people and their families grow, develop and reach their full potential. The practices being developed by Pathfinders and Learning Partners will help practitioners working with children and those associated with them, to remove the obstacles that can block children's paths on their journey from birth to adulthood.

Publication of this guide provides direction on the way forward for *Getting it right for every child* and marks a significant shift from the development phase to the implementation of *Getting it right for every child*.

The Guide is in sections to make it easier to update over time as *Getting it right for every child* implementation develops. Key pages may be amended and re-issued in agreement with partners. The guide sections are version controlled and new or updated sections will be promoted via the Scottish Government website: www.scotland.gov.uk/gettingitright/publications. This is your personal copy, other copies may be downloaded and printed from the website according to your local needs.

Written for practitioners the Guide describes the emerging practice model that supports the *Getting it right for every child* framework. It encourages practitioners to look at the child's needs as a whole and identify where additional support can contribute to improving outcomes for the child. It is wholly child centred. It is not the preserve of any one particular service. It is designed to be flexible and to operate in a single agency setting to plan for children's needs on one hand or in a inter agency or multi-agency setting on the other.

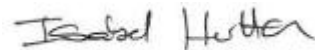
We encourage all practitioners and agencies working with children to consider either how this Guide and model might be incorporated into all work with children or to look at local practices/models and consider how they fit with the emerging model.

Whatever model local areas decide to operate for their purposes we advise that consideration be given to the *Getting it right for every child* approach since the practice model and well-being indicators will structure the way in which information about a child's need is captured, recorded and shared nationally. This approach is forming the development work under the e-Care Framework for secure information sharing where required across Scotland.

Implementation of *Getting it right for every child* and embedding the new approach into ways of working will take time. However development and testing work in Pathfinder areas is demonstrating how *Getting it right for every child* can contribute to achieving several national outcomes under the Concordat and make a difference for children, young people and families.



ADAM INGRAM
MINISTER FOR CHILDREN
AND EARLY YEARS



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