

7-Minute Briefing: New National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 and the Revised Dumfries and Galloway Child Protection Multi-Agency Process Flowchart



1. Introduction

Everyone who works directly with children, young people and their families has a responsibility to make sure that when children and young people are in need of protection, they get the right kind of help when they need it.

In light of the recent publication of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021, we have reviewed and updated our child protection multi-agency process flowchart.

The flowchart brings together single and multi-agency procedures, clearly setting out what needs to be done and when for child protection action.

2. Background

The recent publication of the National Guidance for Child Protection **replaces** the previous 2014 guidance incorporating a number of important policy, legislative & practice developments. It sets out the responsibilities and expectations of everyone involved in protecting children and young people (e.g. practitioners working in health, police, social work, third sector, local authority and education settings).

The guidance integrates the principles of GIRFEC, strengthens the focus on children's rights (UNCRC) and aligns with the ambitions of The Promise.

7. Useful contacts and links

Social Work Single Access Point 030 33 33 3001

Social Work Out of Hours 01387 273660

Police Scotland 999 (in an emergency) or 101

You can access the flowchart by clicking [here](#)
[National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#)

3. The New National Guidance

While the publication of the National Guidance for Child Protection is a key milestone, it is not an end in itself.

The Scottish Government recognises that frontline staff in all agencies continue to experience unprecedented pressures & demands from the pandemic, and therefore an 18–24month implementation timescale has been given

6. If you have a concern about a child.....or if the child or another person tells you something of concern, it is vital this information is shared.

• Make a referral to Single Access Point (SAP)

• Take responsibility to familiarise yourself with your own single agency procedures

• Speak to your line manager /child protection co-ordinator/advisor/officer if you need advice or support

REMEMBER - if in doubt shout

4. What's changed?

The 2021 guidance builds on the four-part structure of the 2014 guidance, by adding a new section.

Part 2(b): Approach to multi-agency assessment in child protection (**new section**)

The key differences include some changes in terminology which we will be adopting locally, for example, Initial Referral Discussions will become Inter-Agency Referral Discussions and Child Protection Case Conferences will become Child Protection Planning Meetings

The new guidance changes some child protection timescales which will not affect us locally as these now align with our Signs of Safety timescales, previously agreed through Public Protection Committee. It incorporates the new model for Joint Investigative Interviewing of Children, requires us to consider children up to the age of 18 and includes detail on Health Assessment and Medical Examination.

5. Next Steps

The National Guidance Implementation Group has been formed to undertake detailed implementation planning and to support each local authority. D&G's implementation group met on 11.11.2021 and agreed its membership, roles & responsibilities. Monthly meetings will be arranged as of January 2022 to initially identify the challenges and opportunities. This revised child protection flowchart will be the interim process until full implementation of the 2021 National Guidance.