

7-Minute Briefing: D&G Multi-Agency Child Protection Guidance



1. Background

The **D&G Multi-Agency Child Protection Guidance** has been reviewed and updated following the publication of the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 - updated 2023](#).

Our local guidance has been developed collaboratively by representatives from social work, health, police, education, Improvements & Quality, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, and Third Sector.

7. Useful Contacts

- Social Work Single Access Point (SAP) 030 33 33 3001
- Social Work Out of Hours 030 33 33 3001
- Police Scotland 999 (in an emergency) or 101
- Clare Cowan, Public Protection Lead Officer Child Protection Clare.Cowan@dumgal.gov.uk

6. Questions to Consider

- Do you know what to do if you witness, or are told about a concern for a child?
- Do you know who to contact for help or advice if you are unsure about the steps to take?
- Have you discussed the new Dumfries and Galloway Child Protection Guidance with your line manager either directly or within a team meeting?

5. Collaborative approach

Child protection is considered within a continuum of prevention and protection, with multi-agency support beginning with early intervention informed by the GIRFEC model of policy and practice. Multi-agency assessments are set in the context of rights, resilience, and relationships.

There are therefore collective responsibilities to work together to prevent harm from abuse or neglect from pre-birth onwards. The implementation of this guidance will support greater consistency in what children and families can expect in terms of support and protection across Dumfries & Galloway.

2. Why it matters

[Protecting Scotland's children and young people: it is still everyone's job.](#)

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.

Our local guidance 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).

3. Focus and Principles

Our local Multi-Agency Child Protection Guidance:

- Aligns with our strengths and relationships approach, therefore has a strengthened focus on children's rights, engagement, collaboration with families, and on building on existing strengths.
- Ensuring the voice of the child/infant is heard.
- Recognises that physical and emotional safety provides a foundation for wellbeing and healthy development.
- Aligns with [GIRFEC](#), [UNCRC](#), [The Promise](#) and the [Children's Charter](#).
- Considers cultural sensitivity and the need for a trauma-informed approach.

4. Practice Considerations

- Revised definition of child abuse and neglect
- Focus on specific groups – Pre-Birth; Disabled Children; Migrant Families and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking and Trafficked Children
- Guidance on Interagency Referral Discussions – purposes, components and process
- New model of Joint Investigative Interviews - [Scottish Child Interview Model \(SCIM\)](#)
- Requires consideration of children up to the age of 18
- Needs, rights and mutual significance of a child's siblings
- Structural factors (e.g. poverty, housing) that may contribute to risk of harm