

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is meant by 'refresh' of the Guidance?

These can be broadly categorised into three areas

1. Points of clarification or further expansion
2. Ensuring links and references are still live and relevant
3. New areas for insertion – these may be dependent on work taking part in other areas e.g. the 'Pink Book'

Who is the Chair of the Group?

Beth Smith (Director) WithScotland

Who are the Group Members and how do I contact them?

Eni Bankole, Scottish Government	eni.bankole@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Catriona Laird, National CPC Coordinator	catriona.laird1@stir.ac.uk
Ross Drummond, Child Protection Inter-Agency Coordinator, Perth and Kinross	Rdrummond@pkc.gov.uk
Kevin Quinn, Coordinator, South Ayrshire CPC	kevin.quinn@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Susan Maclaren, Moray Council	susan.maclaren@moray.gov.uk
Sean Byrne, Lead Officer, City of Edinburgh CPC	sean.byrne@edinburgh.gsx.gov.uk
Bob Driscoll, Head of Child Care and CSWO, Aberdeenshire Council (ADSW)	Robert.Driscoll@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Anne Mitchell, ELBEG Strategic Development Officer (ACPOS)	anne.mitchell@lbp.pnn.police.uk
Dr Kate MacKay (NHS)	Katherine.Mckay@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Peter Diamond (ADES)	peter.diamond@orkney.gsx.gov.uk
Jacqueline Pepper, Senior Inspector, SCSWIS	jacqueline.pepper@scswis.com
Alan Crawford (ACPOS)	alan.crawford@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Scottish Government 'Refresh' of National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland

What is the role and authority of the Chair?

- To facilitate and help steer the process of the refresh
- To offer oversight
- To reach decisions by consensus wherever possible
- If no agreement then Chair will decide recommendations to Scottish Government

What is the role of individual group members?

- Individual members bring expertise
- Liaison via Child Protection Committee (CPC) Consortia
- National CPC Coordinator will liaise with others in the third sector, faith communities
- Individual members liaise with wider stakeholders

What is the intended timescale before first 'refresh'?

- Responses by 31st March 2013 and recommendations made by June 2013

What is meant by 'supported by evidence'?

Any proposed additions or amendments to the Guidance need to be supported by evidence. Evidence can come from a variety of sources. It can be

- Research based – practice is based on sound theory informed by a growing body of empirical research
- Evidence based – practice has been rigorously evaluated and has been consistently been shown to work

How will the Guidance be updated and by whom?

- Recommendations will be made by the reference group
- Report will be drafted by the Chair (with assistance from the group members)
- The group will be responsible for making recommendations to the guidance and the Scottish Government policy team will be responsible for editing the document and publishing the final document.

What about the hard copies of the Guidance – how will changes be communicated and by whom?

- The guidance will remain a web based document and changes will be communicated by the Scottish Government.

Whose decision to accept/reject recommendations from Reference Group?

- Scottish Government Child Protection policy team
- Scottish Ministers

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Do we accept proposals for change from individual professionals or organisations only?

- Organisations only

Should proposals for change from local areas be routed through CPCs?

- Child Protection Committees are locally based, inter-agency strategic partnerships responsible for child protection policy and practice. Local community groups are therefore encouraged to contact their CPC Chair or Lead Officer, however, can complete and submit the respondent form on behalf of their own organisation.

How do we facilitate children and families views?

- While this Guidance is a professional tool for practice, it is based on the premise that the interests of the child is at the centre of every process and decision. We would welcome the views of children, young people and families who have been through the child protection process.
- Suggestions for improvements from children, young people and families should be made via existing networks, organisations and Child Protection Committees.

How does this work fit into the work on Children and Young People bill?

- The Scottish Government want to see all aspects of the GIRFEC approach applied in practice. In doing so, SG will ensure as far as possible that children and young people's rights are being respected in the way we all work with and relate to children and young people. The Scottish Government see the Bill as only part of the package of measures to implement the GIRFEC approach. The proposals in the consultation paper set out what is most suitable for legislation, with other elements of GIRFEC falling out of these duties (e.g. the lead professional).

Will the changes to the guidance reflect the principles of GIRFEC?

- Yes, any changes to the child protection guidance will be underpinned by the principles of GIRFEC.

Where can I get a form to record my response?

- This form is similar to that used by Scottish Government in formal consultations and is available to download ([link will be added](#))

Where will I return this?

- You should use the WithScotland mailbox address withscotland@stir.ac.uk