

# NEW NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION GUIDANCE PUBLISHED



## WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

In 1998 the Scottish Office published, *Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility: Guidance on Interagency Co-operation*. This interagency child protection guidance provided the framework for services working with vulnerable children and families.

Since then, there have been significant developments in child protection policy and practice, and the landscape of child protection has changed markedly. Our knowledge has grown considerably and child protection has gained increased focus and priority.

Much more is now known about the factors and circumstances which adversely impact on children, about how agencies work together to protect them, and how effective intervention can contribute to better outcomes for children in need of protection.

In addition to a National Audit and Review of Child Protection undertaken in Scotland, and the subsequent Child Protection Reform Programme, new forms of harm to children have emerged in recent years, such as internet abuse and child trafficking.

Within the context of *Getting It Right For Every Child*, which is the framework within which children's services are now delivered, the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland has been revised in consultation with a wide range of partners from Social Services, Police, Health, Education and the third sector.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010, the Scottish Government will launch revised *National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland*. The new guidance incorporates current children's services policies and reflects the progress that has been made over the past twelve years in meeting the challenges that this complex area of practice presents.

The responsibility for the child is attributed to a wider range of organisations than in the original guidance, which now has been extended to place more responsibility and recognition with those working with adults as well as those across the private and voluntary sector pre and post birth.

There are also implications for child protection practice and procedures within the new guidance, all of which will be taken forward in the coming months.





In general terms, national guidance informs the development of local policies, protocols and procedures. It is these local procedures which have the most direct impact on child protection practice and there will now be an exercise in reviewing how our child protection procedures are affected by the new national guidance. This process has already begun.

The *West of Scotland Interagency Child Protection Procedures* have been updated alongside the national guidance and these web based procedures are available at:

[www.online-procedures.co.uk/westofscotland](http://www.online-procedures.co.uk/westofscotland)

## WHAT IS HAPPENING NEXT?

The new National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland is relevant to all staff whose work involves contact with children and/or their families, across departments and agencies in Scotland.

North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee will roll out implementation of the new National Guidance as part of a phased process that will take several months.

Our child protection business will continue as normal in the interim and all staff should continue to follow current child protection procedures.

You can expect to see regular updates on the changes that are going to occur. This will include opportunities to receive more briefings, be invited to attend workshops and, for some staff, training sessions will be required. This will ensure you are prepared for the changes in practice and is likely to begin in early 2011.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information with regard to the implementation of the National Child Protection Guidance, please visit our website regularly.

[www.childprotectionnorthayrshire.info](http://www.childprotectionnorthayrshire.info)

You can also speak to your line manager, or contact the Child Protection Development Team using the details below:

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