

The aims of Stop to Listen can be achieved in a number of ways. These include:

- targeting prevention and early identification of need
- slowing down the pace of how we work with children and young people and offering them more control of what happens when they come forward to share their experiences
- ensuring that the systems and processes we use to protect children are child friendly
- working in close collaboration with each other and making the best use of staff skills and knowledge
- building staff knowledge and confidence to work with child abuse and exploitation
- providing high quality trauma and recovery services

Stop to Listen shares the Getting it Right for every Child principles of prevention and early intervention and the focus on children and young people's wellbeing. By progressing the areas set out above, Stop to Listen hopes to contribute to improving children's long term outcomes by ensuring that children and young people get the right help at the right time.

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www.children1st.org.uk/campaigns/public-policy-and-influencing/the-impact-of-trauma/stop-to-listen/



Stop to Listen



**Getting it right for sexually
abused and exploited
children and young people**

The Aims of Stop to Listen

Children 1st along with a range of other organisations have listened for many years to children's experiences in the child protection system. One key message from children and young people is that the system can be unhelpful in responding to concerns about child sexual abuse. This has led to an agreement across statutory services and third sector organisations that we need to improve the provision of joined up services and systems that respond to children affected by sexual abuse and exploitation in a way that better meets their needs.

Stop to Listen is a national multi-agency initiative which aims to develop, and improve, prevention, early intervention and child-centred responses to children and young people who may be at risk or have experienced sexual abuse and exploitation. This initiative includes both statutory and third sectors, and is being rolled out in four Scottish local authority pathfinder areas. These pathfinder areas will identify changes to practice and culture in their local context, which can make the aims a reality. The changes will then be implemented and evaluated, and any learning will be shared widely across Scotland.

The four Stop to Listen pathfinder local authority areas are; Glasgow, Renfrewshire, North Ayrshire and Perth & Kinross. Funding was secured for a development officer (managed by Children 1st) to take the proposal forward, assist the work of the 4 areas and to share good practice and progress. The initiative is governed by a multidisciplinary steering group including Police Scotland, COPFS, SCRA, Education, Health, third sector organisations, Social Work, BASW and Scottish Government and is chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm Graham.