

Guidance for New GIRFEC Child Planning Paperwork with effect from August, 2017

Evaluation of practitioners' views of the child planning process shows the following:

- There should be fewer child planning meetings (CPMs) – schools and pre-school providers do not have capacity to sustain the current number of CPMs;
- There have been some difficulties in securing attendance of partner agencies at CPMs and finding diary dates that suit all professionals/parents;
- Not all children with Additional Support Needs require to have a full multi-agency CPM
- Duplication of information can exist in the Assessment of Need document and the CPM minute
- Some information is missing from the current paperwork

For these reasons a single planning document has been created. This document has four sections.

Part one and two - Assessment of need: for any level of planning and intervention, the first step is to undertake assessment to establish areas of need, risk, resilience and strength.

Part three – Within school/establishment planning (GIRFEC Pathways 1 & 2 child planning): Once assessment of need has been undertaken, the Named Person should determine if Pathway 1 & 2 planning is the appropriate level to support a child or young person. In most cases, within school planning should be considered in the first instance. Planning should be undertaken recording actions against well-being outcomes and a date set to review actions/interventions in terms of effectiveness in reducing risk and need and promoting strengths and resilience. The school EPs and ASL service lead may be consulted at the Pathway 1 & 2 planning.

Part four –Multi-agency child planning (GIRFEC pathways 3 & 4 planning): Multi-agency planning should be undertaken if intervention at Pathway 1 & 2 has not reduced risk. Planning should be undertaken at child planning meeting level, recording actions against well-being outcomes and a date set to review actions/interventions in terms of effectiveness in reducing risk and need and promoting strengths and resilience.

Referrals to the Additional Support Needs Single Access Point (ASAP), e.g. for Barnardo's or Children 1st are at GIRFEC Pathway 3.

Referrals to the Case Management Review Group (CMRG), e.g. for specialist provision are at GIRFEC Pathway 4.

SHANARRI wellbeing indicators assist with the child planning process. We have designed a matrix of wellbeing outcomes linked to SHANARRI and using a five-point scaling system. These have been added to the child planning process (please see the separate short guidance for using the wellbeing outcomes).

Anticipated changes to information-sharing protocols will be announced in the summer of 2017. In anticipation of this advice there is now a required section in the paperwork to record that parents/carers have given permission to record and share information about their child within the child planning process.

Timescales for new changes: All educational establishments, including Early Years Centres, standalone nurseries and partnership nurseries should use the new paperwork from the beginning of the new session in August, 2017.