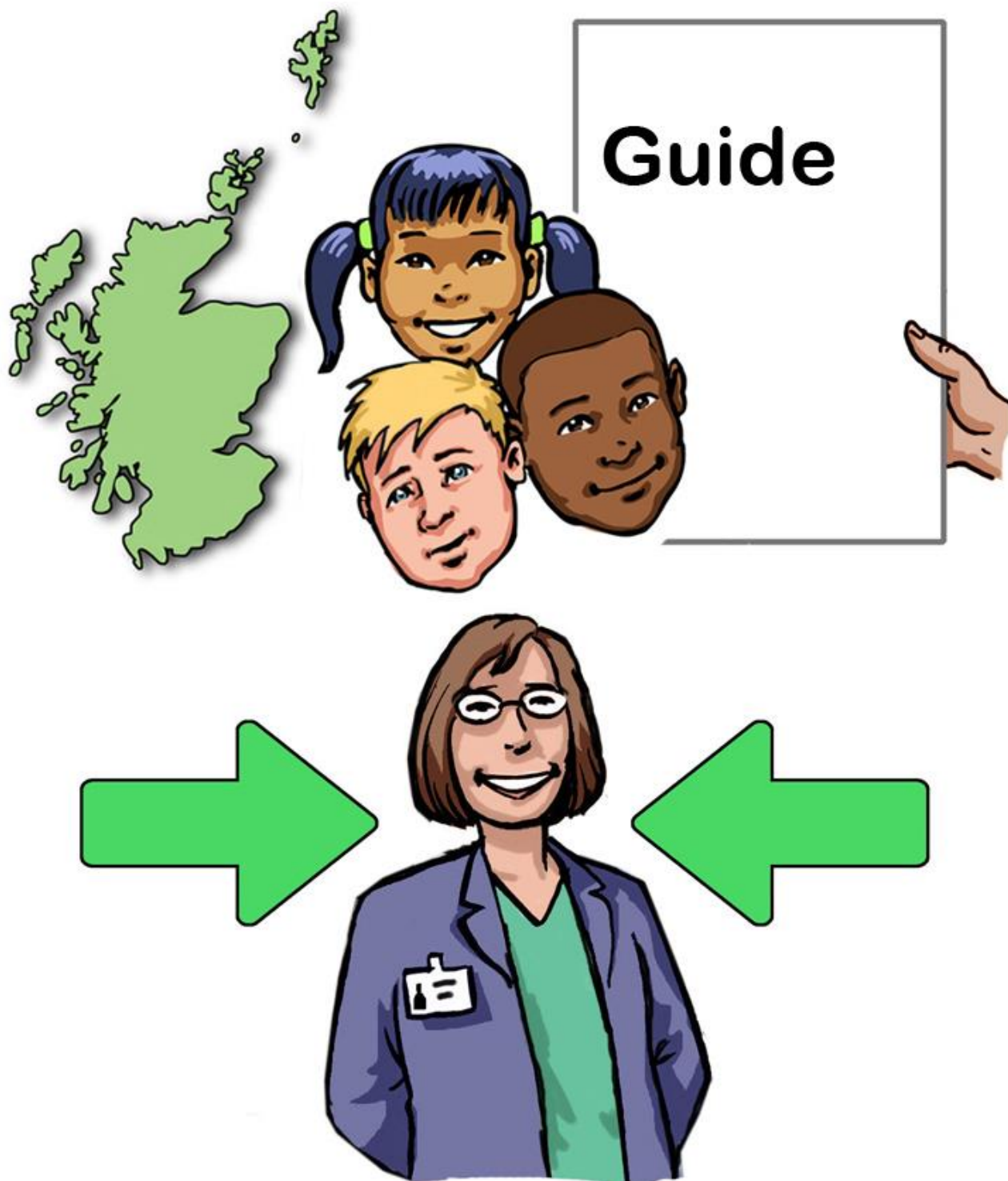


Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) Guide on the Role of the Lead Professional



Easy Read version

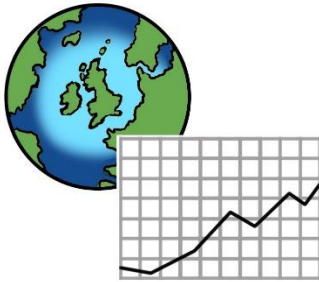
Introduction



GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is a global agreement to protect children.



It gives Scotland a plan to support and protect the wellbeing of children and young people. A Child/young person is an individual who is not yet 18 years old.



Getting it right for every child is based on evidence. It is based on rights. However we need to do more to protect the rights of children in Scotland.



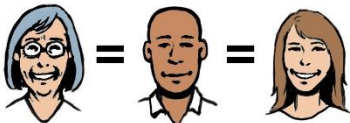
GIRFEC has key principles:



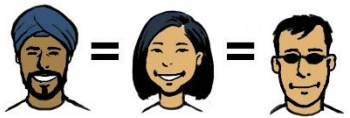
- Place the child and family at the centre of work

- Work in partnership with families

- Understand wellbeing as being about all areas of life



- Value diversity and no discrimination



- Tackle inequality



- Offer support earlier

- Services work in partnership both locally and nationally

The lead professional



The lead professional is an agreed person when there are different staff and services involved.



There may be times children and families need support from two or more agencies. This is where a lead professional will be needed.

Who should be the lead professional?



A staff member that provides support to the child could be the lead professional. This includes any person working in health and education, including from a third sector organisation or service.



The named person may become the lead professional if agreed by the child, family and staff involved. The lead professional will have this role for as long as it is suitable. This should be checked regularly.

What is the role of the lead professional?



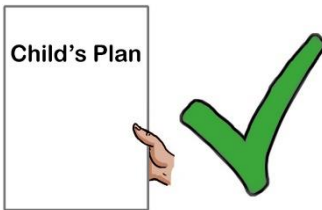
The lead professional will have the skills and experience to make sure services work together. They will:



- make sure the child and their family understand what is happening. Include them in all decisions.



- be a main point of contact. The child and their family do not have to tell their story over and over again.

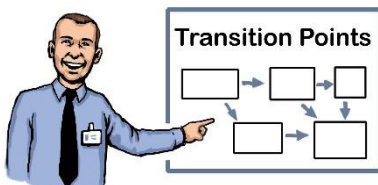


- oversee the child's plan and check it. They should make sure it is correct.



- make sure support is helping to improve wellbeing.

- make sure services work in partnership with the named person.



- support key transition points.

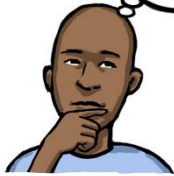
- understand the work of other services.



The lead professional reports to the service they work for.



The lead professional is not responsible for the actions of other staff or services. The lead professional must have support and supervision. This should be made available for their work with the child and their family.



Sometimes a record of the child's needs is required. The lead professional should know about the law and what is needed.



There may be times a child and/or family no longer want to work with the individual who is the lead professional. They can help to choose another person to do this.

Choosing the most suitable lead professional



A lead professional should lead. They should know about different services that can help.

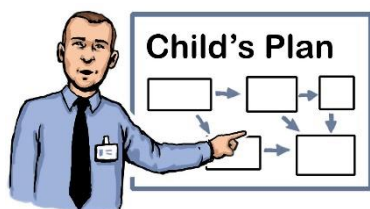
Children and families should be involved in any decisions about who is the lead professional. They should understand why this person is the best person for this role



Choosing the lead professional will be affected by:

- the child and/or family's needs
- what the child and family's ask for
- knowing the child and family.

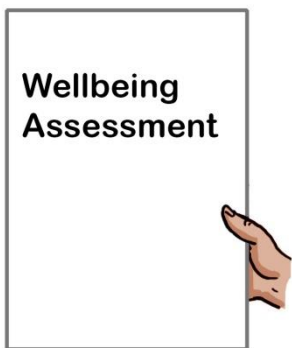
The lead professional and the child's plan



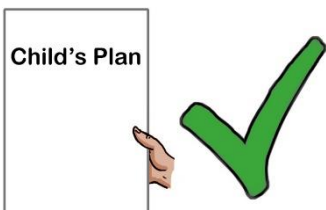
The lead professional will have a key role in making the child's plan.



Information is gathered from the child and their family and from other services involved with the child.



The lead professional will oversee the wellbeing assessment. The wellbeing assessment helps the child, their family and everyone working with them understand what the child might need help with.



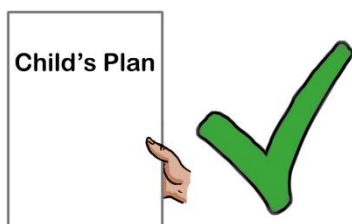
All agencies must make sure the plan moves forward. It should be checked so it meets the needs of the child.

Roles and tasks of the lead professional

When the child's plan has been agreed, the lead professional will:



- be a point of contact with the child and their family to make sure the plan is working



- be a point of contact for all staff who are delivering support



- make sure that the support matches the child's plan
- ask people to work as a team



- work with the child and family and staff to make sure that the child and family's rights are respected. Their views and wishes should be heard.



- support the child and family to use help from staff and services.



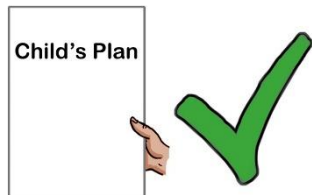
- check how well the child's plan is working
- organise other support that may be needed



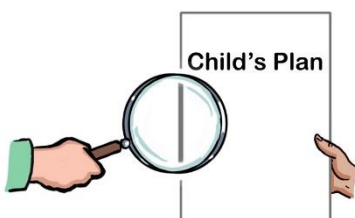
- arrange a review with all services involved



- support the child and their family in key transitions.



The child's plan will look at strengths, needs and risks. It will have actions from plans the child had before this one.



The plan will say when it should be checked. The lead professional will arrange the materials needed for a review.

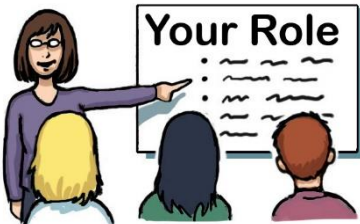


Materials will be given to everyone involved, including children and families. The lead professional is only responsible for other staff if it is part of their main job.



It is not the Lead Professional's job to do all the work with the child and their family. They do not replace staff or jobs who carry out direct work or specialist assessments.

The relationship between lead professionals and others



It is the lead professional's job to make sure everyone is clear about the different roles they have.



Work will be done by other staff and not just the lead professional. The lead professional should have contact with the child and their family so they know everything is going well.



Things can change and a different member of staff may take over as lead professional. When this happens the child and family need to be involved in any decisions and changes. They need to be supported with the move to a new lead professional.