



**EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 28 OCTOBER 2009**

**INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update members of the Child Protection Committee on progress in respect of implementing the Integrated Assessment Framework in East Ayrshire.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 As members of the Child Protection Committee are aware, the development of an Ayrshire Integrated Assessment Framework is being implemented across the three local authority areas. East Ayrshire is now in a position that it has agreed the roll out of the Integrated Assessment Framework and associated documentation to support the development of *one child; one assessment; one plan*, in line with *Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)*.

**3. PROGRESS**

- 3.1 In taking forward a fully co-ordinated, systematic approach, to gathering, assessing and evaluating information in relation to children in need or at risk of harm, it has been agreed that the roll out of the training and associated paperwork to support these processes will take place on a phased basis.
- 3.2 The framework is based on health, educational and social work services working together with shared responsibility. It aims to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children through a better integration of children's services. The assessment model promotes a systematic, early identification of concerns about a child by all agencies from pre-birth onwards.
- 3.3 The challenge in taking forward such an integrated assessment process has been enormous and will continue to be significant. Although in East Ayrshire there is a long history of very good joint working across professionals, each profession has up until now had aspects of its own paperwork, process and systems. Although there will still be individual assessment processes in some instances, the challenge is to bring the vast majority of these systems better together.
- 3.4 The Senior Manager, Locality Services (Children and Families) is ensuring that the paperwork and guidance meets all the requirements as set out in respect of child protection processes.
- 3.5 In taking forward the framework, training for all agencies is essential. It has been agreed that the roll out will be will be phased as set out below:
- Auchinleck, Doon and Cumnock Learning Communities
  - Loudoun, St Joseph's, James Hamilton Learning Communities

## Agenda Item 4.1

- Kilmarnock, Grange, Stewarton Learning Communities
- 3.6 The first two Learning Communities will be rolled out before June 2010, followed by the third in the new academic session. It is not realistic to encompass all children initially and therefore the roll out will focus on those children subject to child protection processes; children whose needs require a multi-agency discussion through Community Assessment Team meetings; Pre-birth Assessments; preparation on social background reports and LAC reviews.
- 3.7 The Education (Additional Support for Learning) Act 2004 placed new statutory responsibilities on education authorities in respect of children and young people with educational additional support needs. The development of a Co-ordinated Support Plan, for certain children, is set in statute, as part of this legislation. There are elements of this process and paperwork which will be integrated within the new assessment framework, however there are also key aspects which will require the retention of some separate paperwork.
- 3.8 The roll out of the assessment processes and paperwork is led by the Community Health Partnership: Officer Locality Group for Children and Young People. A specific Sub Group looking at the implementation of *Getting It Right For Every Child* has the lead responsibility on behalf of the Officer Locality Group to take the process forward. Representation on the sub group is multi-agency and there are key members of the Child Protection Committee who also attend both the Officer Locality Group and the Sub Group.
- 3.9 Training will commence in November and colleagues have already started to collate information in respect of key posts which should be attending the training. An overhead presentation has also been prepared which can be used in team settings to cascade information generally about *Getting It Right For Every Child* and the associated Integrated Assessment Framework.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Child Protection Committee is asked to:
- (i) note progress to date in respect of the roll out of the Integrated Assessment Framework;
  - (ii) to ask for an update in six months time; and
  - (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

**Susan Taylor**  
**Chair of the Child Protection Committee**  
**22 October 2009**

**Report prepared by Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support**