
Report To:	Health & Social Care Committee	Date:	25th February 2016
Report By:	Brian Moore Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)	Report No:	SW/17/2016/SMcA
Contact Officer:	Sharon McAlees Head of Children's Services and Criminal Justice	Contact No:	715282
Subject:	SOCIAL WORK SERVICES SINGLE AGENCY CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Health and Social Care Committee of the duties and responsibilities outlined within the updated Social Work Services Single Agency Child Protection Procedures.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The current update in Social Work Services Single Agency Child Protection procedures is to align them with the Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach, and its implementation through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is a significant piece of legislation that introduces the role of the Named Person and the Lead Professional.
- 2.2 These procedures have been considered and agreed by Inverclyde Child Protection Committee.
- 2.3 These procedures offer a framework for good professional practice and outline actions that might be taken in child protection work. The procedures clearly outline the response to child protection concerns in line with the GIRFEC approach, which will always have social work services as the Lead Professional.
- 2.4 The procedures aim to ensure that social work staff are clear about what is expected of them, gives guidance with regard to who does what, in what order, when and to what standard. They highlight the importance of social work services collaborating with other agencies throughout the entire process. They also give strong support to staff operating in an area of work that demands a high level of skill, professional commitment, and which is characterised by stress.
- 2.5 The role of managers in the provision of clear guidance, effective supervision and support in child protection work is highlighted clearly, and particularly in ensuring that it is given the highest priority over all other workload commitments within the HSCP.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Health and Social Care Committee note the duties and responsibilities outlined in the Social Work Services Single Agency Child Protection procedures.

Brian Moore
Corporate Director (Chief Officer)
Inverclyde HSCP

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The current update in Social Work Services Single Agency Child Protection procedures is to align them with the Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach, and its implementation through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is a significant piece of legislation that introduces the role of the Named Person and the Lead Professional.
- 4.2 These procedures offer a framework for good professional practice and outline actions that might be taken in child protection work. The procedures clearly outline the response to child protection concerns in line with the GIRFEC approach, which will always have social work services as the Lead Professional.
- 4.3 The procedures aim to ensure that social work staff are clear about what is expected of them, gives guidance with regard to who does what, in what order, when and to what standard. They highlight the importance of social work services collaborating with other agencies throughout the entire process. They also give strong support to staff operating in an area of work that demands a high level of skill, professional commitment, and which is characterised by stress.
- 4.4 The role of managers in the provision of clear guidance, effective supervision and support in child protection work is highlighted clearly, and particularly in ensuring that it is given the highest priority over all other workload commitments within the HSCP.
- 4.5 The response to child protection concerns is legislated through the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011. It places a role on the local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and outlines their duty to make enquiries into the circumstances of children and young people, and provide information to protect them from harm.
- 4.6 The Social Services Council (SSSC) outlines the role of the registered social worker. It states that where children are in need of protection and/or are in danger of serious exploitation or significant harm, a registered social worker will be accountable for:
 - Carrying out enquiries and making recommendations where necessary as to whether or not the child/young person should be the subject of compulsory protection measures;
 - Implementing the social work component of a risk management plan and taking appropriate action where there is concern that a multi-agency plan is not being actioned; and
 - Making recommendations to a Children's Hearing or court as to whether the child should be accommodated away from home.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

FINANCE

5.1 Financial Implications:

Training costs as part of staff member's continuous professional development are part of the HSCP Training Plan.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

LEGAL

5.2 There are no legal issues within this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES

5.3 There are no human resources issues within this report.

EQUALITIES

5.4 There are no equality issues within this report.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES (see attached appendix)
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment required.

REPOPULATION

5.5 There are no repopulation issues within this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report has been prepared by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Social Work Services Single Agency Child Protection Procedures.