

**getting  
it right**  
*for every child*

West  
Dunbartonshire  
COUNCIL

NHS  
Greater Glasgow  
and Clyde

West Dunbartonshire  
Health & Social Care Partnership

**Getting it Right  
for  
Parents and their Children  
in  
West Dunbartonshire.**

**Improving Outcomes  
for Children and  
Young People in Scotland**

## **Legislation and policy.**

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 to be implemented by August 2016 across Scotland.

- Its aim is to incorporate the responsibilities of GIRFEC and other key government objectives into legislation to ensure a consistent application of its principles and practice for key features.

Getting it Right for Every Child policy (GIRFEC).

- Introduced early in 2007 with the aims of improving outcomes for all children across Scotland.

Both Getting It Right for Every Child (2007) and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 have their foundations in already existing rights of the child through the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which seek to ensure that:

*Article 2. a child's best interests must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.*

*Article 6. children have the right to life and governments must do all they can to ensure children survive and develop to their fullest potential.*

*Article 12. every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. The Convention recognises that the level of a child's participation in decisions must be appropriate to the child's age and maturity.*

West Dunbartonshire Council, like every other local authority in Scotland and the UK are signed up to and respectful of these rights and other rights including the rights of parents.

## **What does Getting it Right for Every child mean for me as a Parent or Carer?**

At the heart of this policy is the respect that parents and carers are primarily responsible for the care of the child or children and young people they look after.

Parents are required to be consulted about their children's care and decisions made about their child via this consultation process.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the decision making process and to have their views recorded and taken into account.

Parents will have a single point of contact when they or their child or children need support.

This single point of contact reduces the need to 'tell the story' repeatedly to agencies and services.

## **What does Getting It Right for Every Child mean for my child or young person?**

It provides that same single point of contact with a professional who knows your child.

It ensures your child's rights are respected and they are included in decisions that affect them.

It ensures their voice is heard and their views recorded about their care.

It brings the 'team' around the parent and child when needs are complex and an identified professional to coordinate that care.

It reduces the need for the child to tell 'their story' to different agencies and services.

It provides a single child's plan managed by the single contact person and coordinated by a professional who knows your child.

## **I've heard about a Named Person – what is this?**

A Named Person does not replace or change the role of a parent or carer.

The Named Person is your single point of contact. The person who will ensure your child or young person gets the help they need, when they need it.

If your child is not yet at school the Named Person will be your child's Health Visitor.

If your child is at school the Named Person will be your child's Head Teacher (Primary School) or Pastoral Care Teacher (Secondary School).

These are the professionals that will know your child best and are best placed to provide the opportunities for support that you may need.

The Named Person will ensure that the GIRFEC approach is applied and your views, and the views of your child, are recorded and considered when any decisions are being made

## **What is Wellbeing?**

Wellbeing sits at the heart of the Getting it Right for Every Child approach and reflects the need to tailor the support and help that parents, children and young people are offered. A child or young person's wellbeing is influenced by everything around them and the different experiences and needs they have at different times in their lives.

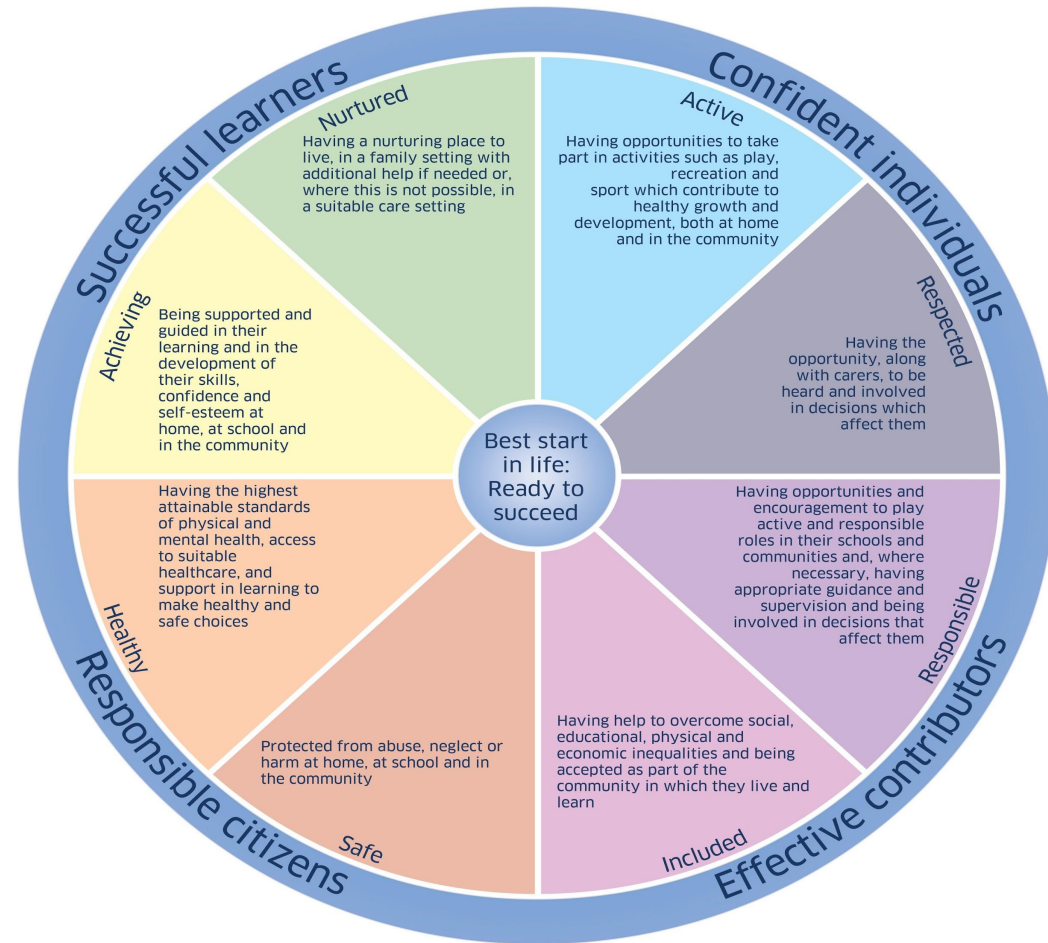
If you discuss a concern about your child with a Named Person they will consider the issue in terms of how it affects all aspects of the child's life using the Wellbeing Indicators:

**Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included**

All Named Person's take this approach as by doing so they consider what aspects of your child's world are affected and can plan with you any support your child needs.

This is the Wellbeing Wheel used by professionals to refer to when considering any concern.

Depending on the discussion and considerations your Named Person may work with you to draw up a plan to address your concerns.





# How will parents know who is their Named Person?

Named Person in *Saint Patrick's Primary*  
Breege Bean (HT)

Pastoral Care Responsibilities:

- P.1 Michelle Lang(PT)
- P.2-4 Shona Gardiner (DHT)
- P.5-7 Julie Reilly (DHT)

# What if the Named Person is absent/on holiday?

- There will be a central named person service to cover during school holidays



**If I want to know more about Getting it Right for Every Child where should I look?**

Find out more about Getting It Right for Every Child at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

or ask at your local Health Centre, Primary or Secondary School or Social Work Office.

Leaflets are also available from your local Council Offices, Health Centres and Schools across West Dunbartonshire.