

# **Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)**

## **Guide to Assessment of Wellbeing**



**Easy Read version**

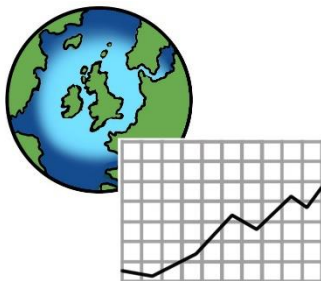
## Introduction



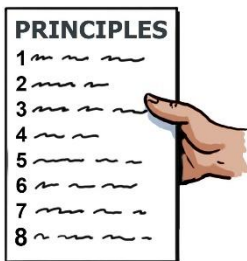
GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is a global agreement to protect children.



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

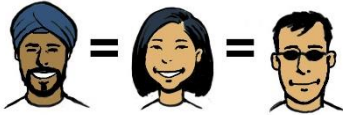


- Work in partnership with families

- 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

## Assessment of Wellbeing



The Assessment of Wellbeing is part of GIRFEC. It looks at the whole of the child's life and their world.



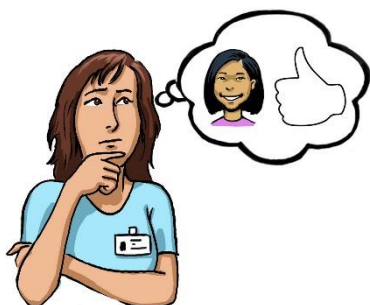
Children's rights should be respected and protected. Then their wellbeing will improve. If a child has good wellbeing then they are able to enjoy their rights.



All children should have rights on health and education, leisure and play, fair and equal treatment, protection and the right to be heard. We want to make every child's wellbeing as good as possible.



Wellbeing is complex. A child's wellbeing in one area may impact on another.



There are times that staff should do a wellbeing assessment. This guide says what the wellbeing indicators are.

## Indicators of wellbeing



Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) supports children and young people so that they can grow up feeling loved, safe and respected. At home, in school or the in the wider community.

The needs for good wellbeing are:



1. **Safe** - protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home.



2. **Healthy** - having the best physical and mental health possible. Access to good health care. Support to make healthy and safe choices.



3. **Achieving** - supported to develop skills, confidence and self-esteem.



4. **Nurtured** - a family setting to support and encourage. This can be with help if needed. If this is not possible than the most suitable care.



**5. Active** - having opportunities to take part in activities, such as play and sport. This helps healthy growth and development.



**6. Respected** - have a voice and be involved in decisions that affect them.



**7. Responsible** - have opportunities. Be encouraged to be active and responsible. This should be with guidance and supervision.



**8. Included** - help to reduce inequalities. Be accepted.

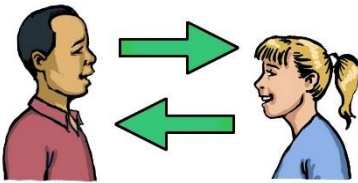


The indicators can connect and overlap. They give a full view of each child. They let adults support them. They can address barriers to growth and development.





Certain things such as sleep, play and a healthy diet have a positive impact on wellbeing. The effects of poverty and social isolation can have a negative effect on wellbeing.



Communication is important. Decision making needs to be accessible for people to take part.

## Assessment of wellbeing



The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 refers to assessment of an individual child or young person.



The assessment is based on:

- a) **Promoted** – actively encouraged or further developed
- b) **Safeguarded** – protected from harm or damage
- c) **Supported** – given assistance, approval, encouragement
- d) **Affected** – influenced or changed
- e) **Subject to an effect** – affected by circumstances.



An assessment of wellbeing must look at all factors in a child's life. This will show how best to support them. Their age, stage of development and their environment will be looked at.





The assessment will be completed with the child and their family using the National Practice Model.

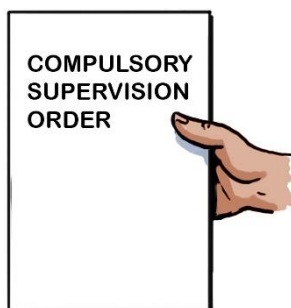
The National Practice Model helps people that work with children and young people think about how to help them. The views of the child or their family may be different to staff views. All views will be listened to.



Communication or learning impairment should not be barriers to giving views. Sharing decision making is very important.



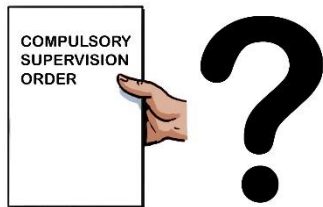
Staff know that children can do well in different environments. They must respect and respond to the parents' education, communication, life experiences, lifestyle, culture and beliefs. This links to all wellbeing.



The assessment can show that a child needs protection, guidance, treatment or control. A compulsory supervision order can be made. This is an official order and a referral is made to the Children's Reporter.



A Children's Reporter is the person who decides if a child or young person needs to come to a Children's Hearing. A Children's Hearing is a legal meeting for children or young people in need of help, support or protection.



We do not always use a compulsory supervision order at an early stage. However, they can help.



A wellbeing need can lead to a child or young person being at risk of harm. Child protection guides say how to know when a child needs protected.

## Who should add to an assessment of a child's wellbeing?



The person assessing the wellbeing of a child could work in the council, the NHS or another service.



A range of staff have to think about children's wellbeing in their job. Staff working with children and families must have the correct training.



If a child needs a specialist service, staff will use information about this.

## The wellbeing of groups of children



The wellbeing of groups of children will be used in planning services and reporting.

Council and the NHS should make Children's Services Plans that:



- promote, support and protect the wellbeing of children



- take early actions to stop problems
- listens to children
- and is the best use of resources.



The council and the NHS will report together. This is to be done yearly. The law says public services must report every 3 years about the UNCRC.



The law on carers has rights for young carers. These are based on GIRFEC principles. They support their wellbeing and allow them to be children first.