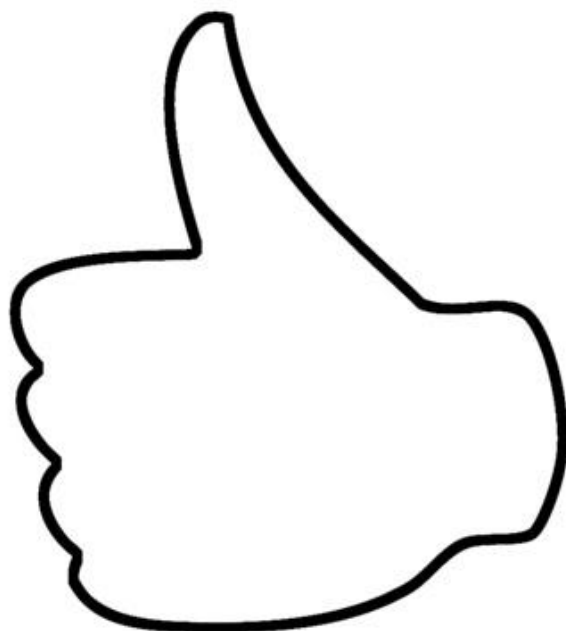


# Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) Guide on the role of the Named Person



**Easy Read version**

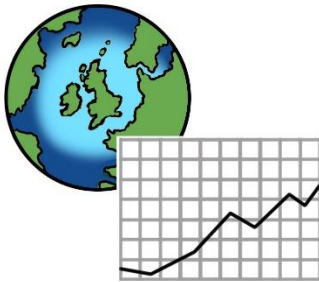
## Introduction



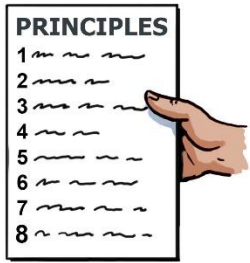
GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is a global agreement to protect children.



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.



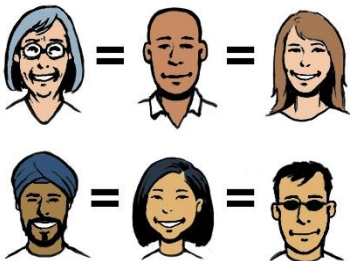
GIRFEC has key principles:

- 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 Named Person



The Named Person is a clear point of contact for times when children and families need information, advice or help.

## Who should be the named person?



The named person is usually from health and education services. It is someone who knows the child and family. They will develop a supportive relationship with them.



A named person will work together with services such as social work, police and mental health services.



Information should be clear so the child and family know who their named person is. They should know how to contact them if they need support or guidance. The named person has to contact the child and family to offer support.



Children and families do not need to accept advice or support from a named person



Before children go to school the named person is usually their Health Visitor or Family Nurse.



For school age children, the named person is usually a teacher. This can be a Principal Teacher, Depute or Headteacher. The council will be clear in telling families when there is a new named person.



Young people leaving school education before the age of 18 will still be offered a named person. The council will find a new named person for the young person. Ideally this will be a promoted teacher who the young person has a relationship with.



The young person and their family should be informed who the named person is, and how they can contact them.



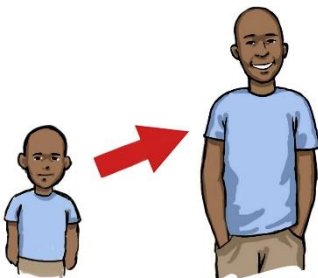
For children and young people not at school the council should find a suitable named person.



Where children and young people attend independent or grant-aided schools, the named person service follows the same guidelines for primary and secondary education. The named person should be a promoted teacher.



For children and young people who live at special schools or other places the manager will be the named person. In prison the Unit Manager should be the named person.



Children and young people who have been looked after by a local authority will continue to get support from their named person until they are 18.



There is no named person role when a woman is pregnant. However these principles are used to support families.



## The role of the named person



The named person is a point of contact for the parents, carers and all adults working with the child. All adults should know about the named person. They should know how to contact the child's named person.



Any concerns told to the named person should be dealt with.



The named person will speak and work with the child and their family. They will speak to other agencies if needed. They will find out what support is needed. Children and families should be made aware of their rights about information sharing.



If the named person has a concern about a child's wellbeing they will ask these questions.



- What is getting in the way of wellbeing?



- Do I have all the information I need?
- 



- What can I do now that is needed to help?



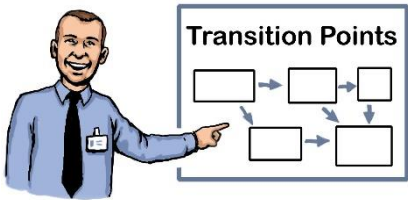
- What can my agency or organisation do now to help?
- What additional help from others is needed?



Sometimes a child and/or family may no longer want to work with their named person. They can find another person to do this.



## A key role at transition points



The named person will help at key transition points. They will make sure the correct information is shared to help the child and family.



For children and young people with additional support needs, the named person will help make sure that additional support is found and provided.



Transition should be led by one person. All of the child's additional support needs should be organised by one person. This can be the named person or the lead professional.

## When further information is known



Staff may need to provide more support as they understand a child's needs.



Children and families should be involved in discussions, gathering information and decision-making.



When the named person sees more concerns there are two options:



1. Take action. In services for everyone like health or education.
2. Take action. There is a need for other services to be involved.

## The lead professional



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



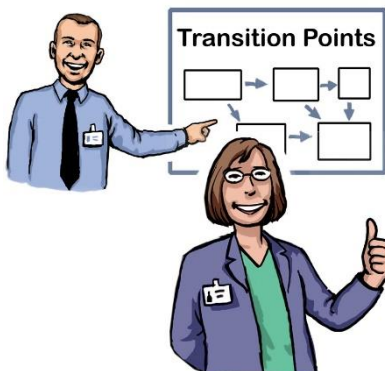
The lead professional is an agreed person when there are different staff and services working together.



This person may be different depending on the child or young person's needs. The lead professional will have the right skills and experience to make sure all services work together.



They will make sure the child and family are included in decision making. They will also be a key point of contact for the child and family. The named person is still a point of contact for the child and family.



Named persons and lead professionals know how transitions work in local areas.

The named person can also be the lead professional. However the lead professional may come from another service. It is whoever is the best for the role.



A child or young person with complex needs may need specialist services. They may have many services working together to help them. The named person should use local area guides which will help decide who should be the lead professional.



If the named person is not the lead professional, the named person will still have an important role. They will work with the lead professional to help improve wellbeing.

### **Information sharing about children's wellbeing needs**



There is an Information Sharing Charter and a guide to Information Sharing documents.