
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	18 March 2025
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/19/25/MR
Contact Officer:	Michael Roach Head of Education	Contact No:	01475 712891
Subject:	Education Services – Child Protection Guidelines		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☐ For Decision ☒ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to ask members of the Education and Communities Committee to note the Education Service's Child Protection Guidelines.
- 1.3 The guidelines were previously presented to the Education Committee in March 2024, having been drafted in alignment with the Inverclyde Child Protection Committee's multi-agency procedures agreed in 2023 and can be found here: [Information for Professionals - Inverclyde Council](#). These in turn are linked to and in line with the [Child protection learning and development 2024: national framework - gov.scot](#).
- 1.4 The procedures should be considered alongside the National Guidance and links are provided throughout the document to relevant sections in the National Guidance. In addition, the recently updated [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) - gov.scot](#) Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) Policy and Multi-agency Operational Guidance, incorporating Chronologies Guidance 2022 should also be referred to – in particular in relation to the Child's Plan and Chronologies, along with A National Risk Assessment Toolkit is a resource which integrates the GIRFEC National Practice Model in a generic approach to assessment of risk, strength and resilience in the child's world.
- 1.5 The Education Service has kept the guidelines under review and at this time there is no requirement to alter them.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to:
- note the Education Service Child Protection guidelines.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Inverclyde Child Protection Committee (ICPC) Multi Agency Procedures have been produced by Inverclyde Child Protection Committee, in partnership with six neighbouring Child Protection Committees – East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire.
- 3.2 The procedures are for practitioners and managers working across the statutory and voluntary sectors in Inverclyde. They set out the responsibilities of all agencies to recognise and consider the potential risks to a child, regardless of whether the child is the main focus of their involvement. They also recognise the importance of partnership working.
- 3.3 They have been updated to reflect the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#), the procedures provide a local focus for the national guidance, reflect practice in Inverclyde and provide links to relevant local guidance and procedures. Key local templates are also provided as an appendix.
- 3.4 The ICPC Multi Agency Procedures make it clear that services should outline their own child protection guidance, linked to them.
- 3.5 The Education Child Protection subgroup reviewed the previous 2019 guidelines and updated them in March 2024. They have continued to monitor their implementation, including implementing from August 2024 a new auditing process for reviewing compliance by educational establishments with them. At this time there is no requirement to update them.
- 3.6 Underpinning the ICPC Multiagency Child Protection Procedures and Education Services Child protection guidelines is a significant and substantial policy context relating to wellbeing and child protection, alongside general principles of participation. These can be found via the following hyperlinks:
- [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#)
- [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#)
- [#KeepThePromise](#)
- [Trauma-informed practice: toolkit - gov.scot](#)

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 N/A.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

N/A.

Annual recurring costs (savings)

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

5.3 Legal/Risk

N/A.

5.4 Human Resources

N/A.

5.5 Strategic

N/A.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
N	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
N	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
N	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
N	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
N	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 N/A.