

Strategic Drivers for Children and Young People's Services

(Legislation, Strategies and Guidance 2004-2024)

[Curriculum for Excellence \(2004\)](#): A Curriculum for Excellence applies to all children and young people from their earliest contact with the education system through to the time they leave school as young adults. It applies to early year's centres and nurseries, schools and to colleges and others working in partnership with schools. The curriculum reflects the nation's values and should enable the young people of Scotland to flourish as individuals, reach high levels of achievement and make valuable contributions to society.

[Getting It Right for Every Child \(2006\)](#): Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) supports families by making sure children and young people can receive the right help, at the right time, from the right people. The aim is to help them to grow up feeling loved, safe and respected so that they can realise their full potential. GIRFEC is a way for families to work in partnership with people who can support them, such as teachers, doctors and nurses.

[More Choices More Chances \(2006\)](#): This strategy outlined the government's strategy for reducing the number of young people who find themselves not in education, employment or training and to instead increasing their employability and skills by working in partnership with many agencies within each local authority across Scotland.

[Delivering a Healthy Future \(2007\)](#): Delivering a Healthy Future sets out a structured programme of actions to improve services for children and young people in Scotland. The Action Framework sets out clearly the challenges, emphasises the importance of working together and defines the key elements of a health service fit for children and young people as well as the actions required to achieve this.

[Skills for Scotland \(2007\)](#): A Scottish Government strategy that sets out what objectives are required to develop a cohesive lifelong learning system centred upon the individual but responsive to employer needs. It contains the vision for delivering a system for developing skills that meets everybody's needs and aspirations and equips individuals with skills that are flexible enough to meet the needs of today and respond to the demands of tomorrow.

[Getting it Right for Every Child in Kinship and Foster Care \(2007\)](#): This Scottish Government strategy aimed to deliver a child-centred approach to kinship and foster care to ensure that children and families receive the right care, at the right time that is personalised to their complex needs.

[Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better \(2007\)](#): This report highlighted the need to improve the learning and development of everyone who works with Scotland's looked after children and care leavers. 5 key themes were identified including: working together; becoming effective life-long learners; Developing into successful and responsible adults; being emotionally, mentally and physically healthy; and feeling safe and nurtured in a home setting.

[The Early Years Framework \(2008\)](#): The Framework set out a vision for early years services in Scotland to ensure that children got 'the best start in life' by laying out the steps that the Scottish Government, local partners and practitioners in early year's services need to take to achieve this.

[These Are Our Bairns: A guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent \(2008\)](#): The aim of this guidance is to support councils and their community planning partners in closing the gap which has existed for decades between people who have experienced the care system and people who have not.

[Preventing Offending by Young People A Framework for Action \(2008\)](#): The framework outlines the Scottish Government's ambition to enable young people to realise their potential by providing the appropriate opportunities and support at the right time.

[Education \(Additional Support for Learning\) \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#): The Act provides the legal framework for the provision of additional support for learning. It is structured around the concept of support being needed for any reason, for short or long term periods as determined by the individual needs of the child or young person. Education authorities are required to identify, make provision for, and review provision for the additional support needs of children and young people for whose education they are responsible.

[Education under the Equality Act 2010](#) : The Equality Act makes it unlawful for any education provider, including a private or independent provider, to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil: in relation to admissions, in the way it provides education, in the way it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service or by excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment. They must not discriminate on the grounds of sex, race, disability, religion or belief, pregnancy or maternity, gender reassignment or sexual orientation.

[Getting It Right For Young Carers: The Young Carers Strategy for Scotland: 2010 - 2015](#): This Scottish Government strategy aimed to improve young carer identification and support within schools, colleges and the health service and to ensure that all of the needs of the child or young person were being identified and addressed, including the impact of caring on their health, wellbeing and education.

[Alternatives to Secure Care and Custody \(2011\)](#): Provides guidance on good practice for local authorities and community planning partners in relation to alternatives to secure care and custody.

[Responding To Self-Harm In Scotland Final Report \(2011\)](#): This document that outlines the Scottish Government's recommendations in continuing to respond to Self-Harm in Scotland by demonstrating the primary objectives the Government would like to achieve and setting out specific action to take in order to achieve those objectives.

[Scottish Parliament Information Centre \(SPICe\) Briefing - Kinship Care \(2012\)](#): This briefing set out what is meant by Kinship Care, the relevant legal framework and the policies intended to support kinship carers.

[Opportunities for All \(2012\)](#): The Scottish Government recognises that staying in learning or training is the best way for young people to develop the skills they need to progress to employment. Opportunities for all outlines the Government's strategy to ensure access for all Scotland's young people to a range of opportunities in education, training and employment by working with agencies such as Community Jobs Scotland and Jobcentre Plus.

[Self-directed Support \(Scotland\) Act 2013](#): The Act places a duty on local authorities to offer people the 4 self-directed support options. The options allow the supported person to decide how much control they want to have over both their support and the budget.

[Supporting Young People's Health & Wellbeing A Summary of Scottish Government Policy \(2013\)](#): This summary provides a broad overview of the key Scottish Government policies that aim to support young people's health and wellbeing. It is organised around two key life stages: Pre-birth and Early Years and Youth.

[Better Relationships, Better Learning, Better Behaviour \(2014\)](#): Developing good relationships and positive behaviour in the classroom, playground and wider community is essential for creating the right environment for effective learning and teaching. This document identifies the next steps and priority actions to support local authorities, establishments, practitioners and partners to further improve relationships and behaviour within their learning communities.

[Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#): A framework for integrating adult health and social care, to ensure a consistent provision of quality, sustainable care services for the increasing numbers of people in Scotland who need joined-up support and care, particularly people with multiple, complex, long-term conditions.

[Developing Scotland's Young Workforce \(2014\)](#): A Scottish Government plan that explores how the Government will respond to the findings of the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young workforce in working to ensure that all young people, whatever the barriers they face, have fair access to opportunities in the world of work.

[Building the Ambition - National Practice Guidance on Early Learning and Childcare \(2014\)](#): A Scottish Government document providing guidance to help and support practitioners in delivering best practice across Early Learning and Childcare. It examines key areas which make a difference to a child's Early Learning experience and the crucial role practitioner's play.

[Scotland's National Action Plan to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation \(2014\)](#): Scotland's first national action plan to prevent and tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) with a focus on prevention of abuse, disruption and

prosecution of offenders and supporting children and young people affected by CSE.

[Scottish Government National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland \(2014\)](#): All children and young people have the right to be cared for and protected from harm and abuse and to grow up in a safe environment in which their rights are respected and their needs are met. This document provides a framework for agencies and practitioners at local level to agree processes for working together to safeguard and promote child wellbeing.

[Scottish Government: Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance \(2014\)](#): This multi-agency guidance was intended to inform all frontline staff and volunteers within agencies who were likely to come across adults or children and young people threatened with or in a forced marriage.

[Preventing Offending: Getting it right for children and young people \(2015\)](#): The Scottish Government is committed to making Scotland the best place to grow up and this extends to all children and young people in Scotland. This strategy aims to deliver a child-centred preventative approach that is focussed on helping to ensure communities are safe from crime and disorder, improving life chances for children and young people involved in or at risk of offending and enabling all children and young people to be confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#): The Act was designed to help empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services.

[Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for Scotland 2015](#): Guidance for specified Scottish authorities on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism

[Scottish Government Statement on FGM \(2015\)](#): Scottish Government Statement opposing Female Genital Mutilation. Contains definitions, legislation and help and support contacts.

[Joint Child Health and Wellbeing Statement for Ayrshire and Arran \(2015-2019\)](#): This Pan-Ayrshire statement outlines a shared commitment to supporting better outcomes for children, both as individuals and as a population, across North, East and South Ayrshire.

[Universal Health Visiting Pathway in Scotland - Pre Birth to Pre School \(2015\)](#): Evidence demonstrates the importance of prevention, early identification and intervention throughout the early years of life. This document sets out the minimum core home visiting programme to be offered to all families by Health Visitors.

[Education \(Scotland\) Act 2016 \(incorporating the National Improvement Framework\)](#): Includes changes to law which aim to close the attainment gap faced by children from low income households. The Act required ministers to

establish a National Improvement Framework to ensure every child in Scotland has equal opportunities and the best possible education in order to succeed.

[National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation Update \(2016\)](#): This updated strategy reports on the progress of actions set out in Scotland's first National Action Plan (2014) and outlines the further actions that will be taken to continue to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation. The strategy is set within a much wider context that aims

[Scottish Government Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements \(MAPPA\) National Guidance 2016](#): A set of statutory partnership working arrangements introduced in 2007 by virtue of sections 10 and 11 of the Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005. This places a statutory duty on the responsible authorities in a local authority area to jointly establish arrangements for assessing and managing the risk posed by certain categories of offenders.

[Carers \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#): The Act is designed to support carers' health and wellbeing and help make care more sustainable and ensure there is more consistent support for carers and young carers.

[National Primary Care Vision \(2016\)](#): The Scottish Government's vision for the future of primary care is for enhanced and expanded multi-disciplinary teams, made up of a variety of roles across health, social and community services, each contributing their unique skills to improving outcomes for individuals and local communities. This strategy sets out the overarching national approach and principles for how we will evidence and understand the reform of primary care.

[Healthier Scotland Conversation \(2016\)](#): The healthier Scotland conversation took place because the Government wanted people to be involved in, and to have influence on, the decisions that affected their lives. Building on the knowledge and strength of people the conversation started a process of creating a healthier Scotland for everyone.

[Health and Social Care Delivery Plan \(2016\)](#): This Plan set out the framework and actions needed to ensure that our health and social care services were fit to meet requirements. The plan also aimed to deliver a Scotland, which had high quality services that focused on prevention, early intervention and supported self-management; to allow the people of Scotland to live longer, healthier lives.

[Community Justice Plan for Ayrshire: Beginnings, Belonging, Belief \(2017\)](#): Community Justice Ayrshire is a partnership focussed on preventing and reducing re-offending and they have published this Plan to help achieve this. The Plan exists for all those affected by crime including offenders, their families, victims, communities and those working in the justice system and asks that everyone works together to succeed.

[National Action Plan on Internet Safety for Children and Young People \(2017\)](#): Scottish Government Plan setting out how we have the appropriate training, support and information in place to keep children safe online.

[Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027](#): The national Mental Health strategy aimed to work on achieving parity between mental and physical health and delivering a Scotland where people can get the right help at the right time, expect recovery, and fully enjoy their rights, free from discrimination and stigma. It will focus on a series of actions to achieve this including: prevention and early intervention; accessible services; physical well-being of people with mental health problems; rights, information use and planning; and data and measurement.

[The Best Start: A Five-Year Forward Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Care in Scotland \(2017\)](#): A five year forward plan for the improvement of maternity and neonatal services in Scotland that establishes the vision for delivering high quality and safe care. This includes a family-centred approach for mothers and babies, encouraging partners and other family members to be actively involved in all aspects of maternal and new-born care and staff being supported to deliver high quality care throughout.

[Included, Engaged and Involved: Part 2 \(2017\)](#): This document is part 2 of a guidance document which refreshed the national policy on school exclusions. It has a key role to play in supporting the Scottish Governments focus on transforming the lives of children and young people, closing the attainment gap and opening doors of opportunity to all. The guidance promotes a stronger focus on approaches that can be used to prevent the need for exclusion, ensuring all children and young people are Included, Engaged, and Involved in their education.

[Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy \(2017\)](#): This Scottish Government strategy was developed to bring together and build on work undertaken previously by the Scottish government and other agencies across Scotland to provide coherent, effective support for victims and take action against perpetrators. It sets out a clear vision to work towards achieving the elimination of human trafficking and exploitation.

[Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#): The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act is a UK first introducing legislation that criminalises psychological domestic abuse and coercive controlling behaviour. The change in law recognises the multiple ways in which people are affected by domestic abuse and expands the definition of domestic abuse in criminal law.

[Every Child Every Chance \(2018\)](#): This Delivery Plan establishes a clear direction of travel towards a better future for children in Scotland by setting out new policies and proposals to help make strong progress towards ending child poverty in Scotland.

[The Promise \(2020\)](#): The Promise is the work of change that intends to strengthen Scotland's care system to become more caring and collaborative. It outlines the belief that, to do this, children's services across Scotland need to transform and that the process of transformation must be built on the experiences, views and voices of children and young people at its core. It contributes to the Government's ambition for every child in Scotland to grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.

[Redress for Survivors \(Historical Child Abuse in Care\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021:](#) The Act seeks to create a time limited scheme to provide financial redress to survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland, or, in some circumstances, their next of kin. The Act will also provide eligible survivors of abuse access to elements of non-financial redress including emotional and psychological support.

[Best Start - Strategic Early Learning and School Age Childcare Plan 2022 to 2026 \(2022\):](#) The plan sets out how we will embed the benefits of our transformational investment in 1140 hours of high quality funded early learning and childcare. It also explains our approach to expanding our childcare offer over the next four years

[Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022 to 2026 \(2022\):](#) The second tackling child poverty delivery plan due under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. Outlining action for the period 2022 to 2026.

[Criminal Exploitation: Practitioner Guidance \(2023\):](#) Guidance to support a shared understanding of criminal exploitation to help assist with early identification of those at risk from serious organised crime. This guidance also applies to criminal exploitation which is not linked to serious organised crime.

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act \(2023\):](#) The Act incorporates the UNCRC into Scots law, empowers our children and young people to claim their rights and will help to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up. We will be the first devolved government in the world to directly incorporate UNCRC.

[National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews \(published 2021, updated 2024\):](#) The guidance aims to support child protection committees to reflect, learn and improve child protection systems and practice when a child or young person dies, is significantly harmed, or was at risk of death or significant harm or where there was effective practice.

[Child Protection Learning and Development 2024: National Framework:](#) Framework to support multi-agency learning and development relevant to child protection in Scotland. This highlights key learning for all workforces according to the level of responsibility they have for child protection.

[Working with Children and Young People who have Displayed Harmful Sexual Behaviour: \(2024\):](#) Guidance to support professionals who work with children and young people to identify, prevent and mitigate harm caused by children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour.

[Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024:](#) The Act makes provision about the care of children (who are not involved in the criminal justice system) and the treatment of children within the criminal justice system, as well as about the interrelationship between the care system and the criminal justice system. It consists of eight Parts, seven of which contain substantive provision and the eighth contains the usual final provisions.

[Education: National Improvement Framework and improvement plan 2024:](#) This Plan sets out the vision and priorities for Scottish education that have been agreed across the system, and the national improvement activity that needs to be undertaken to help deliver those key priorities.