



EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

PRACTITIONER BRIEFING NOTE

NO 26

TOPIC: AGE ASSESSMENT PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR SCOTLAND

BRIEFING: The Scottish Government have produced revised good practice guidance to support social workers, their managers and others involved in undertaking and contributing to age assessments in Scotland.

Assessments cannot be made solely on the basis of appearance and should be holistic, taking account of appearance, demeanour, background and interaction with others. Adopting assessment practices in line with the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) national approach in Scotland puts the rights and wellbeing of children and young people at the heart of the process, so avoiding unnecessary distress. It is recognised that there is no conclusive way to determine a person's age but assessments are important as age determines what a person's rights and entitlements are, especially if they may have been trafficked.

The guidance (link below) provides details on: whether to undertake an assessment; additional issues and potential vulnerabilities; how to prepare, plan, analyse an assessment; and the actions to be taken following completion of an assessment. There are also several useful appendices, including sample formats, relevant legislation, case law and additional sources of information etc.

[AGE ASSESSMENT PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR SCOTLAND](#)

FURTHER

INFORMATION: For Further information please contact:

Dougie Robertson, East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee Lead Officer, Tel. No 01563 576935, Email

Dougie.Robertson@east-ayrshire.gov.uk