

What happens next?

The new law means that the Scottish Government must write detailed guidance about how wellbeing should be assessed. This will be published during 2015.

The part of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 covering the Named Person and the single Child's Plan is expected to come into force in 2016.

Find out more online:

About the Named Person:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright/named-person

What young people think about the Named Person:

www.wellbeingforyoungscots.org/named-person

What young people say about the Child's Plan:

www.wellbeingforyoungscots.org/extra-support

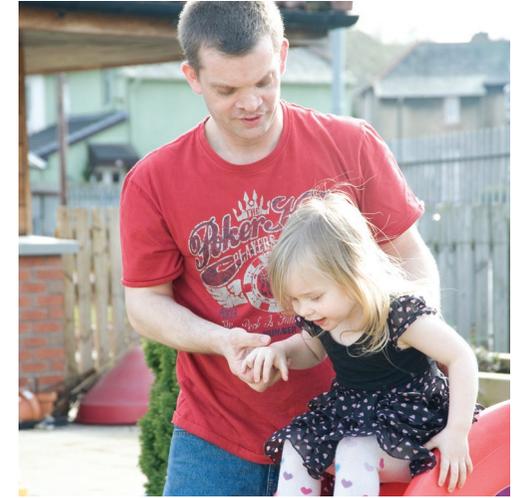
About Getting it right for every child:

www.scotland.gov.uk/girfec

Named Person and Child's Plan

Understanding the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Parents and carers nearly always know best how to raise their children but being a parent can be tough at times. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act is a new law that says that every child and young person from 0-18 will be entitled to a 'Named Person'. This will be a first point of contact if a child, young person or their parents want information or advice or if they want to talk about any



worries and seek support. The Named Person would also be a first point of contact for other professionals if they had any concerns about a child's wellbeing. This approach is already working in some parts of Scotland – the new law formalises things and brings consistency across the country.

A Named Person will only offer advice or support in response to a request from a child or parents, or when there are concerns that the child's wellbeing may be at risk.

The Named Person will usually be the person who co-ordinates information about concerns and can ask another service for help to support the child's wellbeing where appropriate. (For example, a health visitor might ask for help from a speech and language therapist.)

The idea is to do something as early as possible to try and prevent more serious problems developing.

Who will the Named Person be?

The Named Person will be someone already known to the child and their family – someone whose job already involves working with children, like a health visitor for younger children and a head or guidance teacher once children reach school age. Local authorities and health boards will be the main organisations that will have a legal duty to make sure there is a Named Person available for every child, regardless of whether they are educated at school or at home. They will also have to make sure people know about the Named Person service and what it means for them.

Some other organisations, like independent or grant-aided schools, or the Scottish Prison Service for young people held in secure accommodation, will also have a legal requirement to make a Named Person available to the children and young people in their care.

Sharing information to support children's wellbeing

The new law says that other organisations or professionals like the GP or a careers officer must share information with the Named Person if they think it is likely to be relevant in helping to promote, support or safeguard a child's or young person's wellbeing, particularly where children, young people and families may need more extra help than they are currently getting. This will nearly always be done in discussion with the child or young person, and with their parents.

The new law also encourages information to be shared initially with one person – the Named Person. If that person has the whole picture about any concerns this can help sort problems out before they become more serious.

The new law sets out a clear set of steps for professionals to follow to make sure information is always shared in an appropriate, timely and proportionate way to support the wellbeing of the child where concerns arise or a need has been identified.

When is a Child's plan needed?

Lots of children receive help or support from health services or from their school from time to time, and this will continue to be the case. However if a child or young person does need some extra support, which is more specialist (like access to mental health services or respite care), the new law says that the professionals working with the child will need to prepare and co-ordinate support through a Single Child's Plan.

This will be done in discussion with the child and their parents and families, and reviewed regularly.

It will use eight words to describe wellbeing ('safe'; 'healthy'; 'achieving'; 'nurtured'; 'active'; 'respected'; 'responsible' and 'included').

These are a starting point to identify strengths and pressures in a child's life. The law says that services must work together to put the Single Child's Plan into practice.

