

## Local Implementation

It is anticipated that the local implementation of this guidance may take up to two years. We will work together children, families and the workforce to shape how this is done in Moray. Our commitment is to make sure that any changes are well communicated and reinforced through local inter-agency guidance and access to training.

## Key changes to note

A 'child' defined as being a child or young person up to the age of 18 years, where appropriate, in line with UNCRC.

It now includes a more detailed section on Interagency Referral Discussions (IRDs), with a shift in emphasis from an initial meeting a co-ordinated inter-agency process.

The importance of continuity and consistency across organisational and sector boundaries is emphasised

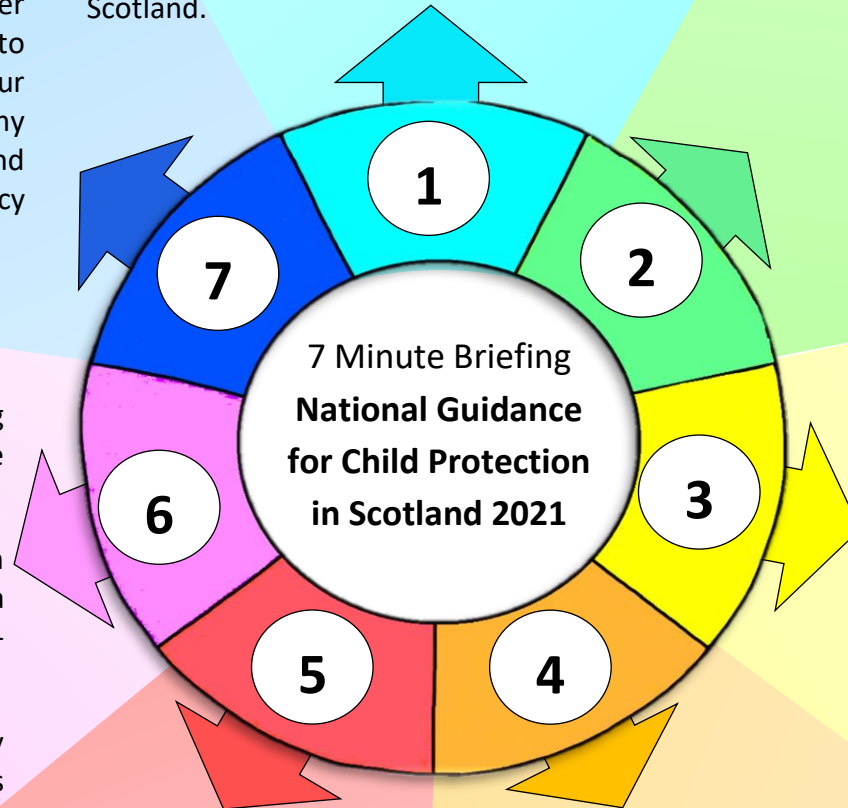
## Practitioner Resources

The Guidance acts as a useful resource for practitioners on particular areas of practice and signposts where additional information can be found. It incorporates national knowledge of best practice and 'what works' from various sources, including practitioner and stakeholder experience, inspections, research and learning from Case Reviews.

[National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021: Practice Insights](#)

## New National Guidance

The Scottish Government has published new [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#). This more comprehensive guidance, replacing the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland last published in 2014, describes the responsibilities and expectations for all involved in protecting children in Scotland.



## What is it for?

The Guidance sets out how agencies should work together with parents, families and communities to prevent and protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. It aims to provide a national framework for services and local leaders in child protection to further develop local multi-agency protocols, training plans and procedures.

## Supporting children and families

The new guidance has a shift in content and tone that better integrates child protection within the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) policy and practice model and alignment with United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It places a stronger emphasis on a broader range of issues that affect the wellbeing and safety of children and young people, such as the impact of poverty and poor housing, and encourages more holistic approaches in how we can all offer greater support to families, and reduce harm to children.

## Keeping the Promise

The guidance seeks to integrate the ambitions of The Promise of the Independent Care Review by placing a greater emphasis on supporting practice that embeds children's experiences, needs, wishes and feelings, and which underlines the critical need to engage with families and communities to reduce the risk of harm to children.