

Good Practice Form

Good practice: Revising child protection guidance Highland Council Area

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Involving staff in revising staff guidance and reviewing the effectiveness of services. Ensuring staff work consistently to meet children's needs. Demonstrating support for child protection from Chief Officers.

What was the identified issue ?

Chief Officers and members of the Child Protection Committee wanted to provide staff and managers with up-to-date guidance to help them in their work to protect children and meet their needs.

What have staff in services done together?

Staff from different services worked together to revise staff guidance. They took account of a wide range of views to ensure guidance was clear, easy to follow and would help staff achieve better outcomes for children. More than 400 staff working directly with children and families contributed their views about strengths in services and what could be done better. Chief Officers showed their support by leading events to launch the new guidance across the council area.

What are the benefits for children/young people and families?

Staff across services have clear guidance about how they should work together to protect children and meet their needs. The model of working is based on what has been shown to work in other areas. Staff know that Chief Officers and managers are supporting them in their work. They have had appropriate training, and are clear about what is expected of them. This means children's needs are assessed and met more effectively. As a result of collecting staff views, managers have a better idea of what is working well and what needs to be done to ensure outcomes for children continue to improve.

http://www.protectinghighlandschildren.org/CP_Guidance/PR09%20-%2068%20-%20k%20-%20Child%20Protection%20Policy%20Guidelines%20-%20May%202009.pdf