

Inverclyde Council area

Good practice: Improving child-centred practice through joint self-evaluation.

What was the identified issue ?

Key child protection processes and standardised formats did not adhere to the principles of *Getting it Right to Every Child*. They required to be more child-centred and better linked to an integrated assessment framework.

What have staff in services done together?

The initial risk assessment report format and integrated chronology following child protection investigations was revised and piloted over a six month period. An evaluation of the impact of the revised formats on practice took place at the end of the pilot. Staff sought to triangulate their findings by using a range of methods. A sample of completed formats prior to and during the pilot period were audited to identify practice change. An audit tool was developed using the indicators of well-being. Questionnaires were issued to staff from social work, health and education to ascertain their views about the changes to practice. These were collated and analysed. A focus group was held with social workers who had experience of using the revised formats. Further improvements have been identified and another evaluation is planned supporting continuous improvement. Staff are reviewing other key child protection processes building on the success of the work to date.

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

Evaluation found that initial risk assessments and integrated chronologies in response to child protection investigations had improved practice. There was a stronger focus on the child and a more holistic view of their needs. In addition, there was greater consensus across partner agencies about thresholds and a fuller assessment of the nature and level of risks.