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16 June 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Getting it right for every child

As the new Minister for Children, Young People and the Promise, I want to acknowledge and celebrate the 20th anniversary of one of Scotland's most successful policies – Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC). To commemorate this important milestone, the Scottish Government has been working with key partners and stakeholders, including representatives from the National Leadership Group for Children and Families, to develop fresh messaging about the future direction of GIRFEC. Please share this with your colleagues who work both with and alongside children and families.

The Getting it right for every child approach is how Scotland as a nation supports every child to have the best childhood they can, and thrive - not just now, but throughout their lives. At its heart, the shared language and joined up approach of Getting it right for every child supports and safeguards the wellbeing and development of all children and young people. It is used across all our public services, developed alongside our local communities and in partnership with families to create cultures, systems and practice with children and young people at the centre. It is our ambition for Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow up.

Getting it right for every child is the golden thread that runs through all the work that Scotland does to support and improve the lives of children, young people, and their families. The National Practice Model, the heart of GIRFEC, is a shared approach that is grounded in the UNCRC and ensures the right support is provided at the right time for every child. Getting it right for every child draws people, organisations and communities together, enabling the constant development of services to meet the needs of all children and families, whether those needs are simple or complex.

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Every child in Scotland has the right to a safe, dignified and healthy development. Getting it right for every child is a strengths-based approach that seeks to address the barriers that can impede children's wellbeing. It is the framework that underpins the commitments of the Promise and ensures that these are progressed for children with experience of care.

As Scotland looks to the future, Getting it right for every child remains central to how we support children and families to thrive. Twenty years after its introduction, GIRFEC is not standing still, it is evolving. At a time of increasing complexity and change, a renewed focus on the GIRFEC National Practice Model provides an opportunity to evaluate, strengthen and future-proof our approach. Together, we can shape a society where we all work together to understand our families' needs, provide the right support at the right time, and strive to give every child the best possible start in life."

You will be aware the First Minister reaffirmed his commitment to GIRFEC in January this year. As Minister for Children, Young People and the Promise, I endorse this recommitment and extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for all that you do to go above and beyond for Scotland's children, young people and families.

I look forward to working with you to Get it right for the children and young people of Scotland today, tomorrow and into the future.

Yours Sincerely,



SIOBHIAN BROWN

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