

The Scottish Government has a vision that every child in Scotland has the right to be:

- A confident individual
- An effective communicator
- A successful learner
- A responsible citizen

**'Getting it right for every child'** is the Scottish Government's agenda for achieving this vision by improving outcomes for children and their families through changes in the delivery of children's services.



## What is the Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF)?

**T**he Integrated Assessment Framework is a central component of the Getting it right for every child agenda.

At a practical level, the Integrated Assessment Framework is about a standardised model of assessment, planning and recording in which appropriate services combine together to form an integrated team which will be the most effective in meeting individual children's needs.

### **The Integrated Assessment Framework:**

- Can apply to any child and considers their best interests.
- Encourages early intervention and the most effective response to need.
- Places a responsibility on professionals to actively support and involve the child / young person and their family in the assessment and planning process.
- Takes account of all aspects of the child's life.
- Brings professionals together to work as one team around the child to ensure that assessments and plans for the future take account of all relevant information especially at times of transition.
- Introduces a standardised approach to appropriate information sharing between agencies.

In Aberdeenshire, the Integrated Assessment Framework aims to combine the assessment and planning processes carried out by professional agencies working with children, young people and their families. Steps are being taken to develop one planning process that will support statutory planning processes for children and young people across Education, Social Work and Health and other partners.

The IAF also places great emphasis on actively supporting and involving children and their families in this process.

### **Key components / principles of the IAF:**

- a) The Child's World Triangle** - a standardised integrated assessment tool for use by everyone working with children / young people to structure thinking when assessing and identifying a child's needs.



- b) **Children/young people and families must be placed at the centre of any assessment, planning and intervention processes** and actively supported to be partners within these processes **No action planning meeting should take place without the child / young person and parents/carers being present.**
- c) **There should be consistent high standards of inter-agency co-operation, joint working and communication.** Where more than one agency is involved in assessing and meeting a child's needs, they should operate as a single team around the child. Effective joint working and communication should not be dependent on informal, personal relationships.
- d) **A Lead Professional** will co-ordinate and monitor multi-agency action plans. In developing and agreeing the action plan, the lead professional has a responsibility to ensure the requirements of the plan are delivered.
- e) **Streamlined assessment, planning and decision making processes** that lead to the right help at the right time for the child and avoid duplication of meetings and action plan.

- f) **A common approach to gaining consent to, and appropriate information sharing.** Professionals must have discussions about the potential for information sharing with children, young people and their parents when they first identify a need. When appropriate, a signature on the Multi-Agency Consent Form (available on Hi-Net to be printed off as required) is obtained. Information can still be shared when consent has been withheld when there are Child Protection issues or it is considered to be in the child's best interests to share information.
- g) **Sharing of appropriate core record, assessment, chronology and planning information electronically.** The Scottish Government intend to share their plans for the electronic sharing of Children's Services information in April 2009.
- h) **A single Action Plan.** Plans should be as simple as possible and relevant to all the needs of the child/young person. A child/young person should not have more than one plan relating to different aspects of need.

More information can be found on [www.hi-netgrampian.org/People & Networks/AberdeenshireIAF](http://www.hi-netgrampian.org/People & Networks/AberdeenshireIAF)

Information for everyone  
working with children,  
young people and their  
families in  
aberdeenshire on the  
**Integrated  
Assessment  
Framework**

