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Dear Colleague,

I am writing to provide information about the work of the Getting It Right For Every Child Practice Development Panel ('the Panel') and to give you notice of how you can engage with our work and share your views.

Getting It Right For Every Child Practice Development Panel

The Scottish Government established the Panel in February 2018. I was appointed as Chair of the Panel by the Deputy First Minister to ensure the Panel meet their objectives and fulfil the Terms of Reference. The Panel is independent and membership is made up of individuals from the education, health, third sector and legal professions.

A Legal Advisory Group has been established alongside the Panel to provide legal insight into the Panel's work. This Legal Group includes members from the Panel and various legal organisations from the public and third sectors.

The Panel was set up to develop and produce, by consensus, an authoritative draft Code of Practice for information sharing and provide recommendations on Statutory Guidance and other materials required to support commencement of Part 4 (Provision of Named Persons) and Part 5 (Child's Plan) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act').

The authoritative draft Code will be presented to the Deputy First Minister, who will then forward on to the Education and Skills Committee, enabling them to resume Stage 1 of the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill (the Bill).

The Panel's objectives are to ensure the authoritative draft Code of Practice and Statutory Guidance required under the 2014 Act, supported by other materials, properly reflect relevant

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legal requirements, are workable, comprehensive and user-friendly for children and young people, parents and practitioners.

The Panel will make sure that the information sharing experience, expertise and practical knowledge of those in public services and rights holders (i.e. children and their families) are the foundation for the development of the authoritative draft Code of Practice, Statutory Guidance and other supporting materials.

Authoritative Draft Code of Practice

The Children and Young People (Information Sharing) Scotland Bill as introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 19 June 2017, places an obligation on Scottish Ministers to issue a binding Code of Practice on information sharing under Part 4 (Provision of Named Person) and Part 5 of the 2014 Act.

The purpose of this Code is to explain how the provisions about the sharing of information relating to children and young people, by or with the named person or in connection with a child's plan, should be lawfully applied in practice. The Code will bring consistency, clarity and coherence to the practice of sharing information about children and young people's wellbeing across Scotland.

Since February 2018, the Panel and Legal Group have met on a number of occasions and work on an authoritative draft Code of Practice is progressing well.

Key issues which the Panel have considered include:

- *Who the Code of Practice is for*
- *How the Code of Practice can provide clarity and safeguards in relation to information sharing*
- *How the language of the Code of Practice can be made as accessible as possible*

The Panel have also discussed recommendations on the requirements for Scottish Ministers to issue Statutory Guidance for Parts 4 and 5 of the 2014 Act and wider support materials ahead of the resumption of Stage 1 of the Bill. This guidance will be required to support full implementation of the named person service and child's plan provisions. The Panel are of the view that these must be made to work for front line staff and parents, children and young people themselves.



Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

I want to ensure the widest possible engagement with the work of the Panel and will shortly launch a consultation and engagement process on the draft Code of Practice. To ensure that everyone with an interest can fully engage - and ensure that the Panel has sufficient time to consider properly responses and feedback shared - I wrote to the Deputy First Minister on 05 July asking that the time available for the completion of the Panel's work be extended into the Autumn. The Deputy First Minister agreed to my request and updated Terms of Reference can be found [here](#). My letter and the Deputy First Minister's responses can also be found [here](#).

I want this consultation and engagement process to be an open conversation on the Panel's proposed authoritative draft Code of Practice and on wider matters relating to the implementation of Getting It Right For Every Child policy to inform the recommendations the Panel will make to the Deputy First Minister.

It is also my intention to seek views through the consultation and engagement process on the financial resources, including training and development needs, associated with implementation of Parts 4 and 5 of the 2014 Act.

I also want to ensure that the Panel hear views on the sort of information and communication which parents and children and young people want now and ahead of implementation.

Finally, the Panel wish to highlight work underway by the Scottish Government to restate the policy on Getting It Right For Every Child in the current context. This work is being delivered in consultation with a range of stakeholders in the public and third sectors. The Panel see this as a helpful way of supporting current practice ahead of the implementation of Parts 4 and 5 of the 2014 Act. The Panel is working closely with colleagues on the National Implementation Support Group (NISG) who are key drivers of the implementation of the wider Getting It Right For Every Child policy on an on-going basis.

What next

The Panel will launch a consultation paper, providing an opportunity for everyone with an interest to respond. This consultation is currently being developed and I anticipate that this will be available later this summer. The consultation will be open for responses for 8 weeks.

During this period, Panel members and I will host a number of engagement events providing opportunities for face to face discussion and the sharing of views. We have commissioned the Scottish Government to co-ordinate and support us in delivering these events.

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The Panel will consider all responses and feedback shared at events and prepare a final draft Code of Practice and recommendations for the Deputy First Minister in Autumn 2018.

I will ensure that details of the consultation paper and engagement opportunities are shared with you as soon as possible. In the meantime if you have any queries please do get in touch with either myself at Ian Welsh Ian.Welsh@alliance-scotland.org.uk or the Panel Secretariat at Philip.Canavan@gov.scot.

You can find view minutes from Panel meetings at the [Practice Development Panel](#) webpage.

Yours Sincerely



Professor Ian Welsh, OBE
Chair, Getting It Right For Every Child Practice Development Panel

