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Dear Colleague

EARLY YEARS FRAMEWORK - DATA AND INDICATORS

Background

In December 2008 the Early Years Framework was published jointly by the Scottish Government (SG) and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA). The Framework emphasises that it is during our very earliest years and even pre-birth that a large part of the pattern of our future adult life is set. The early years are therefore a key opportunity to start to break the cycles of inequalities that blight the lives of too many of Scotland's citizens. The Early Years Framework is about giving all our children the best start in life, no matter what their background or circumstances.

The Early Years Framework contains a commitment that SG and COSLA will work in partnership with stakeholders to identify and develop a meaningful, manageable and robust set of indicators against which progress towards national and local early years outcomes can be assessed.

The Early Years Framework data and indicators group was brought together in July 2009 to take forward this work on behalf of SG and COSLA. It brought together knowledge and expertise from a range of early years partners, including the Improvement Service, NHS Health Scotland, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA), Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Care Commission and the third sector. A full list of members is available at the end of the report referred to below.

The outputs from the group consist of a report setting out the background and methodology of the work; an outcomes framework framed around the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) wellbeing themes, and a list of indicators.

General comments

The report makes clear that this piece of work is to provide useful tools to help community planning partners to think about, assess and report progress in improving outcomes for children in their area. The suggested indicators are neither mandatory nor prescriptive, and form one element of a broader programme of work looking at data and indicators across the wider world of children's services. We envisage them being used by CPPs within the Single Outcome Agreement process and for performance management. They will also be helpful in developing a picture of progress at a national level for strategic purposes.

Next steps

We are clear that this set of products will evolve over time, as new indicators become available. We hope therefore to establish an informal feedback group from amongst local partners that will help us to monitor and review the indicators over time. As an initial step in this, we are proposing that we host a workshop/seminar to assist you in developing your thinking around the measurement of local progress.

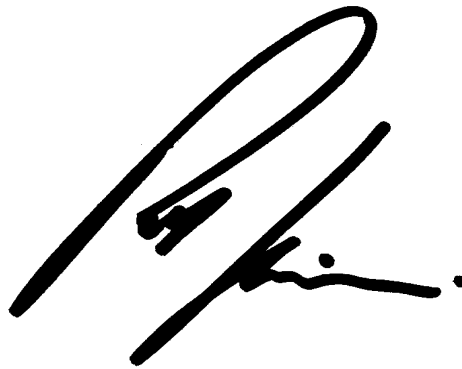
This will take place on 4 November 2010, 9.30-12.30 in Conference Room 3, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

If you would be interested in attending this seminar, we would be grateful if you would contact AnnCRIS Roberts in the Early Years Framework implementation team. (anncris.roberts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) by 25 October 2010.

With best wishes

Val Cox

Rod Harrison



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