

**District Partnership
Highland Parenting Framework**

Report by Area Children's Services Manager

Summary

The report sets out the Highland Parent Support Framework, and seeks discussion about its implementation within the District.

1. Background

- 1.1 Highland Community Planning Partnership supports the Government's ambition to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up in, by improving outcomes and reducing inequalities, so that all children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- 1.2 Highland Council's commitment to work together for our children and young people, involves a range of commitments to support parents and families.
- 1.3 These commitments reflect the Scottish Government's National Parenting Strategy (2012), which is about valuing and supporting parents as one of the single biggest ways of giving children the best start in life. This includes anyone with a parenting role, and parents of children of all ages.
- 1.4 A multi-agency reference group has developed the Highland Parent Support Framework, which is attached, based on the principles set out below.
 - All children have the right to grow up in an environment that enables them to have happy, positive childhoods and to develop to their full potential
 - Parents have the most important role in bringing up their children and are their prime educators
 - Parents are entitled to:
 - be empowered to look after their children to the best of their ability
 - be treated as active contributors to the development of services
 - be offered accessible information and advice
 - be able to access appropriate additional support services
 - to be helped by practitioners who work to an appropriate standard and are suitably trained and supported
 - The wide engagement of individuals and organisations, both within communities and across agencies, is recognised as a vital element of a strong, sustainable support structure for families.

- 1.5 Oversight of implementation will lie with the Supporting Parents Improvement Group, but implementation will take place at a District level, and will be one of the key drivers of the new Family Teams, and specifically for the Practice Lead (Early Years).
- 1.6 The Service Manager for each of the Family Teams will have responsibility to ensure a comprehensive approach to supporting parents, as part of both universal and targeted service delivery. This will range from links with maternity services and mothers prior to birth, through the early years, into school ages, and planning for transitions.
- 1.7 It is envisaged that each Family Team will have access to a commissioned community-capacity building and peer support service, to support work in the early years. This is about to be trialled in some Districts as part of a Public Social Partnership involving CALA, Home Start and Action for Children, funded through existing commissioning arrangements and additional time-limited Scottish Government funding. It is envisaged that this is fully rolled out from 2015.
- 1.8 Through these formal and informal services, and as part of an integrated approach in the new Care and Learning Service, it is intended that each District gives a very high profile to local support for all parents, and that the District Partnership is able to bring a local focus to this activity.

Recommendation

The District Partnership is asked to consider the local implementation of the Highland Parent Support Framework.

Area Children's Services Manager

Date: