

Education, Culture and Sport Service

CHILD PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT

Education, Culture and Sport Service accepts the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for children, young people and vulnerable adults, safeguard their well being and protect them from abuse when they are engaged with the services we provide. The Service works within the National Framework for Standards – protecting children and young people and applies these standards equally to vulnerable adults.

Standard 1: Children get the help when they need it

Standard 2: All professionals, including those in education authorities and schools, take timely and effective action to protect children

Standard 8: All agencies, individually and collectively, including education authorities and schools, demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and its effectiveness

The ECS Service aims to achieve these standards by:

- Requiring staff, elected members and volunteers to adopt and abide by the Highland's Inter-agency Child Protection Policy Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees.
- Creating a safe and healthy environment within all our services, avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse may occur.
- Raising the awareness of the duty of care responsibilities relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults throughout the Service.

Standard 3: All professionals, including those in education authorities and schools, ensure children are listened to and respected

The ECS Service aims to achieve this standard by:

- Respecting and promoting the rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Supporting staff, elected members and volunteers to respond sensitively and seriously to a child, young person or vulnerable adult who discloses information about abuse and be confident and able to take appropriate action swiftly, regardless of who the allegation is about, e.g. carer/staff member.
- Promoting the general welfare and well being of children, young people and vulnerable adults during receipt of and within Council services.

Standard 4: All agencies and professionals, including education authorities and schools and their staff, share information about children when it is necessary to protect them

Standard 5: All agencies and professionals, including education authorities and schools and their staff, work together to assess needs and risks and develop effective plans

The ECS Service aims to achieve these standards by:

- Maintaining effective procedures for recording and responding to incidents and accidents.
- Maintaining effective procedures for recording and responding to complaints of alleged or suspected abuse.
- Maintaining a level of good working practice at all times and therefore reducing the risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults under the care of our staff and volunteers.

- Ensuring that Child Protection issues are considered as part of the Service's Risk Management processes.
- Contributing to the work of the Data Sharing Partnership to ensure the Service meets the requirements of GIRFEC.

Standard 6: All professionals, including those in education authorities and schools, are competent and confident

The ECS Service aims to achieve this standard by:

- Recruiting, training, supervising and supporting staff, elected members and volunteers who work with, or make policy or operational decisions about, children, young people and vulnerable adults to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and young people from abuse, and themselves against false allegations.
- Staff, elected members and volunteers who work with, or make policy or operational decisions about, children and young people will be subject to the appropriate level of Disclosure Checking.
- Responding to any allegations appropriately and implementing the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures.

Standard 7: All agencies, including education authorities and schools, work in partnership with members of the community to protect children

The ECS Service aims to achieve this standard by:

- Participate in multi-agency training.
- Actively encouraging good practice amongst all staff, elected members and volunteers throughout the Service, across the Council and promoting wider awareness wherever possible, i.e. partnership organisations and user groups.
- Requiring organisations receiving financial or in kind support from the Service to adopt appropriate Child Protection Policies.