



## YouthBank and GIRFEC

### YouthBank

A YouthBank is a community enhancing youth led decision making model that involves young people working with partners to establish a grant fund that is distributed to other young people for community benefit. YouthBanks in Scotland are located in urban, rural and island communities in Scotland. Some serve whole authority areas, or islands, parts of cities or a town or village. Young people involved are aged 12 – 25 years. Each YouthBank is licenced by YouthBank Scotland. The licence means they have demonstrated that they have committed to work within the value base (Golden Rules) YouthBank Scotland. YouthBank Scotland provides accredited training to enable young people to formally articulate the skills and knowledge they have developed through their YouthBank activity. YouthBank Scotland endeavours to create skills exchanges and training events to assist young people share their local practice and skills nationally within and out with the YouthBank Scotland network.

### Getting it Right for Every Child

GIRFEC is the national programme by the Scottish Government that promotes better outcomes for all children and young people. It threads through all existing policy, practice, strategy and legislation affecting children, young people and families. It aims to ensure that services for children and young people will become more flexible and responsive by sharing a common language, understanding and business processes.

The GIRFEC approach is enables you to contribute towards three national outcomes:

- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

GIRFEC wheel can be viewed at <http://tiny.cc/yj55g>

### GIRFEC in a YouthBank setting

**Youth Chex**, the Scottish Borders YouthBank, ask each applicant to explain how their project will help young people to be:

- **Safe** – projects which will help you to be stay safe in your community, school, or local areas
- **Healthy** – projects which help you and others to feel good and well
- **Achieving** – projects which will help you to learn something new or improve a skill or talent
- **Nurtured** – projects which will help you feel happier, safer, and supported at home, in school, or your community
- **Active** – projects which will increase your physical activity, through sport, leisure and recreation
- **Respected and Responsible** – projects which will increase your citizenship and the positive image of young people in your community

- **Included** – projects which offer an opportunity to all young people in your community, and break down barriers to ensure that everyone can take part if they want to

**Youth Chex** can measure all of the grants they make against GIRFEC wellbeing indicators.

**Each local authority** has its own way of incorporating GIRFEC but all adopt the *Getting It Right* approach based on ten 'core components' an organisation can say it is doing to meet the needs of children and young people.

1. A focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families, based on shared understanding of well-being
2. A common approach to gaining consent and to sharing information where appropriate
3. An integral role for children, young people and families in assessment, planning and intervention
4. A co-ordinated and unified approach to identifying concerns, assessing needs, agreeing actions and outcomes, based on the well-being indicators
5. Streamlined planning, assessment and decision-making processes that lead to the right help at the right time
6. Consistent high standards of co-operation, joint working and communication, where more than one agency needs to be involved, locally and across Scotland
7. A named person for every child and a lead professional to co-ordinate and monitor multi-agency activity where necessary
8. Maximising the skilled workforce within universal services to address needs and risks as early as possible
9. A confident and competent workforce across all services for children, young people and families
10. The capacity to share demographic, assessment and planning information electronically within and across agency boundaries.

### **Making practice young-person centred**

Practitioners need to take a whole child/young person approach to practice. They need to think creatively about consulting young people and involving them every step of the way. They should listen to what young people have to say about what helps them best and act on this to build effective practice. (Implementing *Getting it right for every child*: summary for practitioners)

YouthBanks contribute to this assets-based approach by empowering young people and their communities and placing young people at the centre of decision-making. YouthBanks build on young people's existing skills and strengths to enable them to become fully active and engaged citizens.

YouthBank Scotland is a youth led project hosted by YouthLink Scotland, the national agency for youth work.

**For further information** [www.YouthBankScotland.org](http://www.YouthBankScotland.org)