

## Executive Summary

This guidance summarises our values and principles, our 10 aims and provides an overview of how all agencies will use *Jersey's Children First*.

This guidance sets out how we will work together to ensure children and their families can access the right help, at the right time and from the right services. This will be co-ordinated when needed. The child's needs, strengths and risks will be identified in a timely way and information shared appropriately. This will result in a plan of support for the child and family.

*Jersey's Children First* will contribute to achieving the four outcomes for children in the island's *Children's Plan* – that all children in Jersey grow up safely, live healthy lives, learn and achieve and are valued and involved.

This approach ensures focus on all Jersey's children, grounded in evidence that early intervention works more effectively to ensure better outcomes for children than later statutory intervention. This formalises the good practice evident in our universal services such as health visiting and schools, in identifying children with needs for help, support and protection and ensuring they access the right help and services.

*The Child and Family Assessment and Plan* used within this guidance replaces multi-agency assessment processes (*Early Help Assessment, Children's Services Single Assessment*). This ensures children and their families tell their story only once and that their information and plan moves with them, responding to changing needs and situations.

We know that parents and carers generally want what is best for their child and some families need support to achieve this. Collectively, we share a responsibility to ensure children experience a childhood which is nurturing, enabling and free from abuse. We work in partnership with parents and each other to achieve this. This includes the responsibility to share information where we are concerned a child may be or is at risk of harm or abuse and to take action to prevent this from happening or continuing.

The guidance sets out the language that we will use such as 'Lead Worker'. It provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities, an outline of key processes and helpful tools to support you. Several of the shared tools such as the *Child's Chronology of Significant Events* and the *Child and Family Assessment and Plan* may be familiar to you.

The model builds on and supports the good practice that is already in place – where we work together irrespective of our job titles to ensure that we support children to achieve the best outcome possible.

It is important to remember that most children make their way from birth to adulthood with only the support of their family and the universal services such as health visiting, nurseries and schools. A small number of children (between 10% and 20%) will need more help and our agreed multi-agency approach will ensure that vulnerable children get the appropriate, proportionate and timely help, as speedily as possible.

This guidance is intended to ensure the child's needs are our shared paramount consideration.