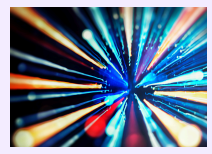
EMBEDDING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND GIRFEC IN CHILDSMILE EDUCATION

1 WHAT WE DID

The Childsmile qualification embeds children's rights, GIRFEC, and child protection into everyday dental practice through assessed learning and realistic scenarios. Learners build skills in recognising safeguarding concerns, understanding early child development, and responding to the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences. All learning is assessed by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to support confident, rights-based practice.

2 IMPACT



This approach strengthens the Childsmile workforce ability to recognise vulnerability, respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns, and adapt care to children's developmental and emotional needs.

By embedding children's rights, trauma awareness, and GIRFEC into professional learning and assessment, NES is supporting a dental workforce that is better equipped to provide safe, inclusive, and preventative care for children and families across Scotland.

3 UNCRC



This work supports key UNCRC rights by placing children's best interests at the centre of care (Article 3), strengthening safeguarding (Article 19), promoting children's right to the highest standard of health (Article 24), and supporting early prevention to aid children's survival and development (Article 6)

4 GIRFEC

The qualification is directly grounded in Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) and supports these wellbeing indicators:

Safe

- through improved safeguarding awareness and action

Healthy

- through preventative oral health care and early intervention

Nurtured

- through understanding child development and anxiety

Respected

- by encouraging practitioners to listen and respond appropriately to children and families

5 THE PROMISE



This work reflects The Promise commitment to trauma informed, preventative, and relational services. By helping the workforce understand the impact of adversity, recognise vulnerability, and respond with compassion, the Childsmile qualification contributes to getting the right support early and reducing the risk of harm.

6 REFLECTIONS



Embedding children's rights, GIRFEC, and trauma informed practice within assessed workforce learning ensures these principles translate into real world practice. This work strengthens prevention, early support, and safeguarding within dental services, helping to ensure that every child receives care that is safe, supportive, and rights respecting.

REDUCING INEQUALITIES, DENTAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
NES DENTAL DIRECTORATE