

What is the Scottish Child Interview Model?

The Scottish Child Interview Model is a new approach to joint investigative interviewing which is trauma informed, maintaining the focus upon the needs of the child in the interview and minimising the risk of further traumatisation, whilst seeking to achieve the best evidence through improved planning and interview techniques.

How Was It Developed?

The Scottish Child Interview Model was developed by a team of experienced social workers and police officers who drew upon national and international research and best practice. The National JII Project was set up in 2017 and, following this research and development stage, testing in practice began in 2019.

Why Was This Change Needed?

The National JII Project forms part of the response to recommendations within the Evidence and Procedure Review (2015) which set out the aspiration to remove the need for children to give evidence in court by achieving a position in which the joint investigative interview could be led as 'Evidence in Chief'.

How Will We Keep Improving?

All aspects of the Scottish Child Interview Model – from training to interviewer practice – are subject to ongoing evaluation and learning and we are linked to various research projects. The National JII Project promotes an iterative learning process to implementing the new model and we continue to learn from local sites as well as from our specialist national and international colleagues.

What Is The Connection to Barnahus?

Elements of the Scottish Child Interview Model such as the use of an evidence-based interview protocol, specialised training and adaptation of the interview according to the needs of the child support adherence to Quality Standard 6 Forensic Interview of the European PROMISE Barnahus Quality Standards. Changes that local areas make to accommodate the new model can also help to increase readiness for Barnahus.

What Does This Mean In Practice?

A new specialist training programme has been developed for police and social work interviewers to provide them with the specialist skills and knowledge for forensic interviewing of children. Parents and professionals who know the child well contribute to planning and supporting the child. Changes are made to the local child protection system to accommodate the new model.

How Are Children's Rights Respected?

Bespoke interview plans are developed, informed by the needs of the individual child. There is consideration of the child's needs before, during and after the interview. Interviewers are attuned and responsive to the child's needs, applying trauma informed principles to maximise their participation in interview. The key outcome is to ensure children are protected from abuse, harm and exploitation.



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