

PE1775/A

COSLA submission of 18 February 2020

Local authorities are dedicated to providing every child and young person with a safe and nurturing environment to ensure they get the best education possible, equipping them with the right skills, qualifications and experiences to allow them to achieve and attain throughout their lives.

Local Government supports the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach, which:

- is child-focused - it ensures the child or young person, and their family, is at the centre of decision-making and the support available to them.
- is based on an understanding of the wellbeing of a child in their current situation - it takes into consideration the wider influences on a child or young person and their developmental needs when thinking about their wellbeing, so that the right support can be offered
- is based on tackling needs early - it aims to ensure needs are identified as early as possible to avoid bigger concerns or problems developing
- requires joined-up working - it is about children, young people, parents, and the services they need working together in a coordinated way to meet the specific needs and improve their wellbeing

The GIRFEC approach puts each child's wellbeing at the centre of how we deliver education, early learning and childcare and other services for children.

Safety is paramount in all of our classrooms and every Local Authority has detailed guidance for each school to follow, setting out clearly the approach to supporting young people, their health and the use of medication within schools and early learning and childcare settings.

This guidance approach is informed by the Scottish Government's guidance on [Supporting children and young people with healthcare needs in schools](#) which clearly sets out the policy context and has detailed considerations on the use of medicines and training for staff to support children and their healthcare needs. This includes a specific annex which details the use of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors.

As we take an holistic approach to supporting our children and young people and the detailed existing framework for all healthcare needs, we do not believe there is there is the need for separate legislation on allergy care at this time.

COSLA would be more than happy to provide clarification or further information on the above if that would be helpful to the Committee's continuing deliberations on the petition.