

Table 13.1 GIRFEC and Child Protection and the Dental Team Example

GIRFEC question	Guide for action	Action required	Suggested team member(s) responsible
What is getting in the way of this child's wellbeing? and Do I have everything I need to help this child or young person?	Gather information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather a thorough social, medical and dental history • Complete a thorough clinical examination 	Dental receptionist, dental nurse, dentist
	Keep accurate records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep accurate clinical records 	Dentist and/or other team members
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep accurate administrative records of appointments and attendance 	Dental receptionist
What can I do now to help this child or young person?	Raise concerns with parent/carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain clinical findings, the possible impact on the child, and why you are concerned 	Dentist
	Explain what changes are required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain treatment needed and expectation of attendance 	Dentist
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give advice on changes needed in diet, fluoride use and oral hygiene 	Dentist, therapist, hygienist or dental nurse
What can my agency/profession do to help this child or young person?	Offer support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider giving free fluoride toothpaste and a tooth brush 	Dentist, therapist, hygienist or dental nurse
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer the parent/carer a choice of appointment times 	Dental receptionist
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen for indications of a breakdown in communication or parental worries about the planned care, and offer to discuss again or to arrange a second opinion 	All team members
	Continue to liaise with parent/carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep up open communication with the parent/carer and repeat advice, so that they know what is expected of them 	All team members
Monitor progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange a recall visit and keep accurate records of attempted contacts 	Dentist and dental receptionist	
What additional help, if any, may be needed from others?	If necessary, involve other agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and offer to arrange community/home based dental health support via the child's Health Visitor, School Nurse, General Medical Practitioner or Childsmile Dental Health Support Worker 	All team members
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree and liaise with the child's Health Visitor/School Nurse to ensure preventive advice is being reinforced in the community/home setting 	All team members
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If concerns for the child's wellbeing continue or increase, consider a child protection referral 	All team members
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If at any stage there is concern for a child's immediate safety, or that the child is suffering significant harm, follow local procedures to make a child protection referral 	All team members

<http://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/caries-in-children/>