

Postcards

from the fringe



After a health visitor refused to leave our family alone, to the point of stalking and harassment, we found through a subject access request that she had been agitating for a child protection referral based on the fact they we home educate our children and would not engage with her (optional, as we pointed out) service. We have three disabled children with a rare condition who are regularly seen by specialists and we work happily with an excellent educational psychologist. I withdrew all consent to process our personal data after becoming concerned about the obsessive behaviour of the health visitor and submitted SARs to all the agencies involved with my children. It required a court to obtain my records from the council and the SARs (unredacted due to the unannounced arrival of sheriff officers with the court order) revealed secret multi agency meetings with "Do not tell mum" on records and email correspondence that showed how my child's former head teacher discredited me for deciding to home educate, lied about the law and colluded in sharing information to undermine my parenting decisions. The SARs showed that only the ed psych refused to disclose information requested by the 'named person' (my child's ex head teacher who had already lied about home education and the law and

had previously resisted handing over school records). The others actually shared *my own and my children's* medical records with a teacher!!!! I have been offered an out of court settlement but would prefer to name and shame the players involved in this attempted stitch-up of our family. I am still talking to (expensive) lawyers and will never again trust a teacher or health visitor.

Postcards

from the fringe



The Scottish Government wish to bring “consistency and clarity and coherence” to the sharing of information re Children and Young People. They still don’t appear to understand. Families do not want information shared on their children’s Wellbeing without full consent. Which has always happened anyway, for example to access a speech therapist or other service. Information of course can be shared for Welfare, at-risk children with or without consent, and rightly so. The Supreme Court have ruled the thresholds for info sharing MUST remain, what then is the point of continuing with the unwanted Named Person scheme? Practitioners will also need to abide by the GDPR coming into force soon. This scheme is now unworkable and pointless. As a parent I completely object to the Named Person scheme and the shanarri being used on my child, as a tax payer I complete object to any further waste of money being placed in the direction of this defunct scheme.

Postcards

from the fringe



When my daughter was born pre SHANARRI, I enjoyed engaging with the Midwife/Health visiting teams. They did home visits, gave me advice on cradle cap, etc, it was a reassuring service and appropriate. If I choose to have another baby in today's climate, having witnessed first hand some of my friends experiences I would reject completely the Health Visitor Service. They are using the SHANARRI indicators which are a ridiculous framework in my opinion, ruled notably vague by the Supreme Court, they are more intent on data collection and tick boxes, it is an intrusive so called service nowadays, I have discovered Health Visitors, thankfully are not compulsory. I have no respect for the Named Person scheme and have every intention of rejecting anything to do with Named Persons which are also data collecting and using the SHANARRI. Having just watched a video produced by North Lanarkshire Gov on SHANARRI in Nurseries using Health and Wellbeing Web/Woods, I would strongly consider rejecting any Nursery place as well. Why can't this Government see this condescending nonsense is not what families need? Some families require support and help, the vast majority are perfectly capable of taking care of their children's Wellbeing. Stay out of family life.

Postcards

from the fringe



We had 4 years of trying to have support put in place for our child. There was no consistency at all, we had been in and out of the school on a weekly basis. The bullying got so bad she started having suicidal thoughts, she suffered anxiety so badly that they could not provide suitable support and eventually we had to remove her from school, we hoped they would find a solution, this was november 2016. **South Ayrshire** are testing out this **Named Person**. It seems that the key staff who were her named persons were absolutely clueless as to how to help her. We advised them on many times about how serious her issues were. She would not talk to any of these named persons so kept everything in. They seemed to be more concerned about the bullies and just tell her to ignore them and get on with things. At one point one of her bullies kicked her in the back twice, all he got was a telling off, she got into an argument with another boy and threw something at him, she was excluded for 2 days!!!!!! **Surely all a child needs in school is someone they can trust and talk to that is NOT a teacher but someone understanding to listen.**

After 2 days in secondary we withdrew her and de-registered her, she had bullies from both 1st year and 3rd year pick on her and the school could **not** give her a safe place to be. **GIRFEC ,SHANNARI and NAMED PERSON are a waste of time.** Why not take on board what the kids who live through this on a daily basis say ask for their input!!!!!!!!!!!!!! SAC are failing drastically.

Postcards

from the fringe



The education and skills committee should stop this vanity project before it ends up back in court for another humiliating defeat at public expense. The court of public opinion has already spoken. MSPs have failed to represent constituents and supported breaching children and families' human right. This latest bill is just a desperate attempt to force through a social engineering policy that relies on data sharing without consent to profile the population. Judging by MSPs' incompetent performances, they are confused and/or in denial about the limits imposed on them and the government by the Human Rights Act and the Data Protection Act (to be superseded by the GDPR). There is a precise legal threshold for non-consensual data processing (from initial collection to deletion) which is not wellbeing but risk of significant harm. That was upheld in an English judgment in 2013 (ignored by MSPs despite being flagged by lawyers) and the Supreme Court had the final word. The ICO guidance that was covertly cooked up with the GIRFEC team in 2013 (wrongly sold as reflecting current law) led to a culture of data mining and sharing at a threshold lower than is legally permissible.

The lower Scottish courts also failed to spot the blindingly obvious, calling into question the impartiality of judges. Thousands of families have been undermined and destroyed by the intrusion in to their lives by zealots trained to break the law, including midwives, health visitors, childminders, teachers, charity workers and the police, who have fabricated facts and recorded 'risk' using a vague notion of wellbeing. We are a hair's breadth away from the GDR (with technology courtesy of IBM). Our family's taxes pay for services we cannot now access due to the SHANARRI barrier, so we are preparing to leave Scotland (with no forwarding address). Dump this bill and hold a public inquiry into the whole debacle so that the perpetrators of this assault on families can be named, shamed and held accountable.

Postcards

from the fringe



When I was attempting to get practical help via carer's assessment the social worker would not entertain the idea of me having a carer for my disabled children so I could catch up on paperwork. Respite was only to be used for such things as going out for a coffee. Catching up on paperwork would have improved my wellbeing enormously. Going out for coffee, spending money I didn't have on a drink I could better make myself, would have been detrimental to my wellbeing. Who is a social worker to decide what is best for MY wellbeing????

Postcards

from the fringe



For evidence of multiple incidences of illegal data processing, please see this report which was prepared for the Scottish Government's Data Sharing and Technologies Board in 2013:

<http://www.shb.scot.nhs.uk/board/foi/2013/05/2013-133a.pdf>

Postcards

from the fringe



The Scottish Government were repeatedly warned about the illegality of the scheme. This consultation submission, for example, is remarkably similar to the Supreme Court judgement: <http://www.home-education.biz/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Allan-Norman-Submissions-on-GIRFEC-final.pdf>

Postcards

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I have many concerns re The Named Person Scheme. This should not be introduced for every child. So many children are in need of support and they should be the ones that are focused on. There is a lack of support teachers, lack of mental health facilities, it is incredibly hard to access help with long waiting lists. Many parents I know have been very let down by the system and have chosen to remove their children from School as a result to Home Educate instead. Added to this there have been cases in the press of Named Persons abusing their positions, filming children in compromising situations, chatting to sexually active children re their sex lives in an inappropriate manner to mention a few. How can parents be expected to trust the system? The legislation was flawed from the outset, data sharing has been going on liberally at wellbeing thresholds for over a decade and children with Named Persons have even perished in awful circumstances. It is time the whole debacle was scrapped. I have no confidence in this scheme and will actively fight against it. If I was to become pregnant again, I would choose to reject the Health Visitors services as is my right. There should be a full independent public inquiry.

Postcards

from the fringe



When the Named Person scheme first came to my attention, I was horrified that a democratic Country would consider such a scheme acceptable. I felt sure it would never be introduced, yet here we are. It has been implemented with an almost secret agenda, 'The culture change', adopted for EVERY child, regardless of need, pushed forward by Charities that have their own agendas. The Supreme Court thankfully kicked the data sharing into touch, too late for all the abuse of Human rights that has already taken place. I feel so strongly opposed to the scheme, I do not want a non family member attached to my daughter in this way, overseeing her 'Well-being', that is quite frankly, my job. My husband and I have reached the point of considering leaving Scotland as a direct result of this scheme. We are high rate tax payers, our child attends a private school, we are no burden to the State, quite the opposite, my husband runs a national service, after 30 years of training he is irreplaceable, yet we are having conversations about putting our house on the market and simply existing stage left. The Named Person scheme should be an opt in service at most, remove the attachment for EVERY child. It is insulting.

Postcards

from the fringe



The whole idea is unbelievable...why on earth is this happening? Disgraceful. My children are the responsibility of myself and my husband. I did not give birth to them and devote my life to them for some stranger to tell me what is best for them. What a world we live in...

Postcards

from the fringe



I had an extremely pushy health visitor on the phone demanding a visit. We recently moved and have registered with new GP and dentist. I was waiting for a letter from the new area HV so I could decline their services in writing, instead I got a call from a rude HV. I asked for a letter but she kept saying they don't do letters. ONLY AFTER COMPLAINING I had a very apologetic phone call from the health visitor's manager confirming we had opted out of the service. Health visitors are not compulsory and those who infer otherwise should be subject to disciplinary action. We are so concerned by GIRFEC snooping that we will not use nurseries or schools until it is binned. If Scotland persists with this we will leave the country in order to protect our family.

Postcards

from the fringe



The Scottish Government have stated parents have asked for Named Persons? This is far from true. The objection numbers alone should tell them otherwise. I have fought against this scheme since it first hit my radar, to my horror I discovered my child's School in Edinburgh secretly introduced the scheme, it was running for years before I found out my child has been appointed a Named Person, there was no consultation, no information given out to parents, nothing. I strongly object to having a State appointed official connected to my child like some unwanted relative, there should be an opt out as Ms. Sturgeon herself declared was possible, saying the scheme was an entitlement not an obligation, this was a lie, there was no opt out. It is an outrageous way for any Government to behave. I know first hand of many parents who have since had problems with the scheme, those unable to access help for children needing support, some that have been intimidated and abused, in light of Police Scotland's admission of data sharing at illegal thresholds, added to that of Practitioners, the involvement of ico in all of this, I strongly believe we now deserve a full public inquiry. Questions must also be raised in Holyrood re Police Scotland's Vulnerable data base.

Postcards

from the fringe



Health Visitor lied to the Child Reporter about my children not attending school. Daughter was bullied at school. Daughter had mental breakdown off school with Dr's letter. Nine year fight to get Autism diagnosis. Told by Social Worker two assessments isn't that enough. Social Worker entered house without permission nor court order, said social worker never identified as SW just adviser. Was told daughter would be in special unit, she was put into class of thirty. Daughter wanted to self harm by getting run over by taxi - was told children say these things. School staff had daughter cornered in changing room - she wanted to escape - my daughter was like a wild cat in the likes I've never seen before. Daughter's mental health damaged by Health, Educational and Government services. Only support we got was from now retired GP and Educational Psychologist. My late wife was wanting to leave Scotland due to Named Person legislation because the system doesn't work. My late wife's lifetime of living with Autism never taken into account. The named Person is another shield that bad/corrupt people can hide behind - just like child protection policies.

Parents have no leg to stand on against people that can't do their jobs. I raised issues with school about my daughter's development only to be told that "if it was this time next year then I would be worried." As parents we know our children better than a stranger who does not know the family. Schools also put too much pressure on children to go to University. My daughter is now deceased and free from the anxieties that was worsened by our so called good Public Services. The Named Person and State Guardian is against my families' Human Rights. We enjoy ourselves as a family and Home Education is vital to us and love what we do - we don't want to be looking over our shoulders all the time - that's not Freedom.

Postcards

from the fringe



Before my cancer diagnosis, local education management snowballed a social work process through their administrative processes (presumably Named Person scheme trials at that time, from the research I did then). This was at the biopsy stage which had a huge knock on impact for me personally and without any 'common sense' communication with myself direct. Communication was then left until after the treatments had already taken hold and had already affected my abilities to write as coherently as I am able to again now (after much work to be able to do so). This resulted in communication difficulties and a very real cynicism dealing with that particular educational establishment, in an area that has suffered in terms of educational disadvantage when looking at league tables throughout the years previously. Retrospectively, I can say that this is an unhelpful approach at forging relationships in community schools. In my own experience, how it was managed completely undermines the wishes of the person with the illness and the immediate family themselves - it is not offered as a service that might be helpful. Social work was simply imposed and the answers I received from the HT then were unapologetic until much later down the line and with the help and support of others.

For years, I tried to gently get help and support for my child's dyslexic spectrum qualities, which were ignored and batted back as a "homework issue" and now only weeks into being at the academy my child is being offered and will be receiving this support as the patterns identified are now being recognised. Many might refer to this as a 'management issue' at local level but as language and communication goes, policies and procedures are often open to interpretation, particularly where training is lacking. Meanwhile, there have been very real teacher shortages and when compared with workplace stress statistics, I struggle to see how this particular trial hasn't resulted in increased stress-related conditions for both parents and teachers alike.

Postcards

from the fringe



I am pregnant with my fourth child, but after a horrendous experience with a bullying health visitor who's unprofessional conduct was a complete disgrace, I have no intention of letting one of these snoopers into my home or near my children. I am now putting in subject access requests to every service I deal with every 6 months to check for fabricated records and defamatory opinions, but correcting the inaccuracies and challenging the prejudices of 'professionals' is not straightforward and the ICO is an unfunny joke. I will not now disclose any personal information or details of my partner, other children and family members as what they don't have they can't misuse, and anything they do get will be subject to confidentiality and consent agreement. I now record all meetings with 'professionals' and retain the recordings for private use in order to avoid any future 'misunderstandings' and in case I need to defend myself against malicious reports and referrals. I have spoken to other parents who say they've been told they won't get the services they need for their children unless they hand over sensitive information about their entire family and agree to it being shared with multiple unknown others. The Supreme Court said that was illegal so they must think they are above the law.

I want to see the whole poisonous GIRFEC policy scrapped and I also want to see professionals prosecuted and jailed for data offences. Also a public inquiry into who was responsible for creating this culture of state snooping on families that is modelled on the East German Stasi. If I could leave Scotland I would.

Postcards

from the fringe



Lying about the law is a major problem we and others have encountered when dealing with named persons and other ignorant professionals, especially in education. They don't seem to realise nurseries and school are optional (and can't even grasp that compulsory education age is 5+) and that some parents choose to care for and educate their own children. The state only has a role to intervene in the event of parental failure and should stick to getting their own corporate parenting house in order before throwing stones at law abiding families. Many have had no choice but to remove their children from the national failure that is the Scottish state schooling system (and increasingly the independent sector which has also been infected by the SHANARRI virus). I have no intention of allowing the government to dictate my own and my children's lifepathways and outcomes. State control of children, which is what all totalitarian regimes aspire to, is what the (struck down) named person scheme was always about, as the Supreme Court itself pointed out.

By all means, promote 'wellbeing', offer services that people want, respond to requests for support, and take action in cases where children are suffering neglect or abuse. But for goodness sake, stop data mining the population without consent, stop lying, and start to respect the rule of law which protects citizens from arbitrary interference by wellbeing crusaders without a clue. It is time to name and shame miscreants in the public domain and we would also like to see a public inquiry into how Scottish 'education' came to be destroyed by the CfE/GIRFEC.

Postcards

from the fringe



We have sold our house and bought a motor home, so the named person is welcome to tag along with his/her/its clip board as we travel the UK, Europe and maybe further afield. It'll have to be someone who doesn't need to get home of an evening and they must be prepared to share basic facilities with two adults, a toddler and a teenager. Just think of the data collection opportunities, and all these extra brownie points for unsocial hours might even earn a promotion because it seems nobody is monitoring the itinerant royal kids' wellbeing. Now there's a family chronology that should concern any self-respecting (as no one else respects them) GIRFEC convert. Or are privileged sorts not on the database? Au revoir from us, Scotland, or should that be 'non revoir'? (We learned French before academic standards dropped off a cliff)

Postcards

from the fringe



I was given 24 hours notice of a multi agency meeting by my son's head teacher which my advocate couldn't attend and they refused to change the date so I had to go on my own (but I recorded it all). There were a lot of people there, most of them I had never met and I had to listen to them discussing my whole family, my late mother's illness and my sister's health issues. They also talked between themselves about me being assaulted by an ex (not in the picture for years and 500 miles away) and had details of my baby's father that he had not given any permission to share (I was pregnant at the time and we split up for a while due to the stress of being targeted by that teacher). They decided I needed support even though I didn't ask for any and education wanted a social work report. The social worker said there were no concerns about my child and unborn baby but then came back to say education insisted on a full report about my family and my parenting. I complained but got nowhere because the council and NHS all said they were allowed to share all this information if they had wellbeing concerns and I had no say in any of it.

It was humiliating and I felt like I'd been completely abused. Their policies turned out to be illegal and they are still treating parents like dirt, but nobody seems to care. I have been too scared to tell the health visitor to get lost and can't stand her attitude but I record every meeting. I would never ask for help as they can't be trusted. I have friends and an advocate to support me who do not abuse my trust and know my children are loved and happy.

Postcards

from the fringe



As a parent of three, I am deeply concerned about State intrusion into private, family life. It is not government's role to set the benchmark for State determined happiness, health, confidence, resilience, wellbeing and so on. Every family will have differing ideas and it is this diversity that leads to varying experiences and inputs to society. Nothing has changed with regard to State intervention in cases of Child Protection. This will, sadly always be necessary. Therefore, what purpose does NP/ shanarri serve other than data collection and mass surveillance? Surely this will lead to a distrust of public bodies and people withholding concerns, for example from their HV? My teenage girls know not to discuss anything now with school as it will be stored and may come back to haunt them as parents. If they ever feel worried or stressed, they know I will arrange a private counsellor for them. They no longer trust teachers or school. I'm considering home education for my youngest. This all links in to CfE and that led me to choose private education for my eldest. This not only infringes on parental privacy, but that of my children. Their emotions are not the property of the State, to be discussed and observed and judged. They are theirs alone and it is their right to have a private life.

The roll out of Sid and Shanarri in nursery saddened me. It portrayed the grandmother as wreckless and uncaring for adding salt and sugar to food. Children encouraged to confide their worries to shanarri, (the State) and tell tales on the family members not living up to State dictated perfection. Health is normal and all ranges of emotion are normal. Anger, sadness and anxiety don't need fixed. Children don't need labels and monitoring. They need fun, love, laughter, friends, outdoors, EDUCATION in the old fashioned sense and the opportunity to take risks and grow a sense of independence. Shanarri created neurosis. Don't fix what isn't broken.

Postcards

from the fringe



You haven't followed the law. How can we respect your authority? It is illegal and morally wrong.

column 2...

Postcards

from the fringe



As a teenager, I feel completely let down. I no longer feel I can confide in any of my teachers because I worry that all of my personal information is being stored and shared against my will. I have a very loving family, but occasionally I might want to chat to school about feeling sad if I'm bullied or stressed with work. I won't do this now. I don't want labels stored on a system with my details. My family's income and my parent's health and mine are nobody's business but ours. This policy makes me feel unsafe and that I cannot trust school. I heard they store all our test results and judge our behaviour and even my little sister will have her behaviour analysed in nursery. It reminds me of horror films. I want to move out of Scotland when I leave school and finish uni.

Postcards

from the fringe



My child's guidance teacher has told him that every bit of information about him is logged on a system, e.g. if he had a bad night's sleep, looked a bit off in class, everything. We don't know what system. Can this be legal? It is weird.

Postcards

from the fringe



I'm almost 40 and a mother of three children, (close call as four would deem me a risk in the eyes of the Shanarri Stasi). Very private and personal medical info from 22 years ago during two years in my teens was shared by a wicked midwife after giving birth. I found out and thankfully a sensible consultant shredded this with me there and rewrote it. It was done because I had put in a complaint about a particular midwife during antenatal care who clearly had a drinking problem. I think my midwife was her friend. I still don't sleep at night worrying my private and sensitive medical info may now be known to my childrens' headteachers, professional friends, (we live in a village and I'm friends with the Practice manager and nurses). I have a professional career and it is utterly humiliating. I am still summoning the emotional courage to put in an SAR. I'm an otherwise extremely happy, healthy, loving mother with a happy, laughter filled family life. This is the only issue causing me not to sleep at night.

I'm so angry with the lack of respect for the law. I fully support state intervention for children at immediate risk from harm, neglect or abuse and am the person who again will lose sleep and cry after reading news reports of the heartbreaking things that happen. I'd love to foster. I support fully, child protection. This is not about that. It's about data collection. What struggling, but loving parents need is support and practical help, not state intervention and judgement. Your policy is flawed hugely. You will widen the gap and cause a distrust of those who should be there to help.

Postcards

from the fringe



Our named person (Head Teacher) prevented a diagnosis of autism on two occasions for our child (5) while he attended school (ASCA & FAST). We had been trying to get a diagnosis from nursery and while in P1 emails were sent from our named person to our paediatrician advising of no challenges whatsoever in school, reports for assessment team were completed on 2 separate occasions by teachers (under instruction from our named person/emailed) advising of no challenges yet in less than a year at school our child was falling apart mentally and becoming ill physically, his end of year P1 folder consisted of 4 pages of partially completed work and one art piece that was completed during a parent morning. 6 months after withdrawing him to home educate and with strictly no input from our named person (at our request) we got a diagnosis and our child finally gets the support he needs.

Our school tried to pretend our child didn't have a disability as they couldn't fund the support despite a previous nursery teacher being very supportive (as part of the same school). This nursery teacher took early retirement (a quick exit) and we suspect was disciplined shortly before, her views were not heard by our named person and neither were our views as parents. Our named person's views influenced the whole health team working with our child and we were treated like trouble makers just because we wanted our child's disability recognised so he could get the support he required to thrive. Our child is now very much thriving but has no contact with a named person.

Postcards

from the fringe



My daughter was allocated an NP at the end of the last school year, it was to be the deputy head at her school, even though I had complained about her behaviour and abuse of position the year before, when she asked my daughter for personal information including parents and grandparents employment and asked her if she attended church. She then went on to ask why we don't go to church. I was horrified, that she had asked a 5 year old these questions, and even more horrified that they would suggest this same person to be my daughter's NP. I complained again to the head who has now stated that this women won't be her NP but not told me who, if anyone, will be her NP.

Postcards

from the fringe



An educational psychologist accused a mother of "subjecting her son (6) to a number of unnecessary, invasive and unpleasant medical procedures" during a Children's Panel hearing and implied that she had mental health problems. There was no truth in this. The medical procedures were sanctioned by a team of GI experts from the Sick Kids as an investigation into gastric difficulties being experienced by this autistic boy. She also over-ruled the diagnosis of a paediatrician by stating that the boy did not have hypermobility. She was not qualified to make either statement, and not qualified to judge the mental health of the mother. There are medical matters and in accessing these, the ed psych made highly damaging and unfounded allegations. The child was removed from his mother - who has done no harm to him at all.

Postcards

from the fringe



Named Person Scheme was easily abused by professionals.

Collusion between professionals - libellous comments and wellbeing concerns invented in an attempt to hide assault, abuse and intimidation of our children by school staff.

Data gathered and shared with many, without our knowledge or consent, where there were no true concerns, wellbeing or otherwise.

Medical records for both parents and two of our children were accessed by GiRFEC Team, without our knowledge or consent.

Letter regarding our children went missing/opened by an unknown member of public and included our children's private details.

All our names entered onto VPD, the invented concerns shared without our knowledge or consent. Social work investigation to look for longterm wellbeing (as opposed to welfare) concerns. To avoid doubt, we have never consented to data processing in relation to Named Person, GiRFEC, SHANARRI or wellbeing. I have documentation and audio recordings supporting all of the above, and more.

Copies are with our Legal Team of our allegations against Scottish Government in enabling/allowing the following to happen: forfeiting of our children's rights as stated in UNCRC. contravening of all of our rights to a private and family life. recording of 'wellbeing' data, which is not one of the aims of Article 8 ECHR and cannot legally be processed (including conception of, sharing of etc.) unless subject's consent is given. forfeiting of our family's Data Protection Rights, without our knowledge or consent, including: accessing sensitive medical data, recording all family members on VPD, recording and sharing inaccurate GiRFEC/SHANARRI data, and malicious concerns, losing letter to unknown member of public containing our children's details. Intrusive Social Work investigation, looking for 'longterm wellbeing' concerns. There were no concerns of any kind. Implementation of Named Person Scheme whilst being challenged in Supreme Court and before it became statutory. Implementing this corrupt Named Person Scheme will force us to leave our own country. Newspaper and television media are aware, have documentation and are ready to go.

Postcards

from the fringe



Our children (then 5, 7 and 8) - assaulted, bruised, abused, intimidated by school staff. Afterwards, Named Person (Head Teacher or Deputy Head, we were never informed who, both) INVENTED wellbeing and parenting concerns. I have never met the Head Teacher. These concerns were requested by new Named Person as Child Assessment Reports and shared with Children's Reporter without our knowledge or consent. During investigation, school staff shared incorrect information and OPINION, and purposefully lied to Police several times. Fifteen months later school staff admit to Local Authority to dragging one son down school corridor by both wrists whilst he was on the floor and that he clung onto table legs one of the times he got free: Police refuse to record this. I visited MP's office, requesting help from assistant to speed up process of removing our children from school to return to Home Educating. Nearly three weeks into this process, the assault etc., happened. I asked they contact Education Board due to safety concerns in school. After I left office, MP's staff telephoned school, discussed me and "shared" INVENTED concerns.

MP's staff share surnames with school staff. New Named Person blackened our name with MP by stating "fears there were difficulties with our family"; there are none. MP said his staff share the same concerns about my ability to Home Educate, later disclosed as concerns about my mental health! There are no such concerns! I have never met this Named Person, nor my MP. Education Board knew there were no immediate concerns for our children's wellbeing, and manipulated Social Work investigation TO LOOK FOR "longterm wellbeing" concerns. We underwent intrusive investigation into our parenting skills, education provisions, daily routines, whilst not knowing exact nature of concerns at that time. Social Work found "no concerns whatsoever, the complete opposite", because there never were any true concerns - only INVENTED concerns to protect school staff. All involved ABUSED NAMED PERSON SCHEME for their own needs.

Postcards

from the fringe



Police did not attend our report of assault by school staff for two days, did not take notes or statements, did not interview our children, one of whom witnessed the full assault for ten minutes. Police were shown the resulting bruising but did not record this. Police stated that because recording the incident would involve Social Services, it would have been detrimental to our children's wellbeing, yet shared inaccurate data regarding us with Social Services and others, without our knowledge. Officers did not carry out satisfactory investigation. We are not entitled to find out which Officers attended school as 'they' are entitled to a private life (this right not afforded to us). Officer gathered fabricated information from school, recorded false information against us and recorded opinion not based in fact and without evidence. Our family were recorded on VPD, one as subject of concern, four as "no concerns". Officer reported us for "molly-coddling", said she 'felt whatever the children wanted they got' (our children did not ask for anything during Officer's visit), and other false concerns

Our son was reported for non-attendance at school without reason whilst they knew of assault. Whilst attempting to bully me into meetings, the Named Person used Police reports to refer us to Children's Reporter to look for 'longterm wellbeing concerns'. Police attempted to access medical records AFTER dropping their investigation. Officer was spoken to for raising unsubstantiated concerns. Our names will be removed from VPD as soon as ICT is in place to "weed". Lead VPD CI stated the Officer's concerns were disproportionate and irrelevant. Agencies reports are now unattached. Officer has professional and PERSONAL relations with school and staff. She was Community Officer at the time of assault, attended school to give presentations about Police, participated in school 10k runs dating back many years, her family used school hall for personal functions, her children are in same school, she lives in same village. Named Person Scheme is CORRUPT

Postcards

from the fringe



Appointment with Paediatrician meant our son, then aged 9, being questioned about school, despite it stating on screen that our son is Home Educated. Paediatrician asked who our son's best friend was. Son replied he has loads of friends but could not choose the best. The Paediatrician told him, "that's a bit sad isn't it, not having a best friend?" Our son didn't know what he meant. Paediatrician appeared to be conditioning our son into believing he should feel sad, when in fact our son has friends he pairs up with in each different group and club he attends, therefore has loads of 'best friend' type of friends and rightly could not choose the best. Son left, I stayed with Paediatrician, asked him not to ask son questions about school as I didn't want him reminded of assault and abuse in school a year before. I explained the abuse, assault and bruising. Paediatrician called our son back and checked his wrists for bruising! Paediatrician did exactly what I feared, reminded son of school and assault that I'd asked him not to mention. I let Paediatrician know I was not happy with what he'd just done. Paediatrician threatened me with Social Services referral. I told him we had been investigated; they have no concerns.

He threatened me with Psychologist referral. I asked why, our son doesn't need one. He agreed son appeared happy. He threatened me with Community Paediatrician referral. He seemed desperate to refer to someone, he misunderstood, then invented wellbeing concerns. This information was shared with others including Social Work, without knowledge or consent. This was extremely worrying as the Children's Reporter said we would not hear from him again "unless he has another referral" about our son. Last referral was maliciously done by Named Person in an attempt to cover up abuse in school by staff. Paediatrician recorded on medical notes, problems: psycho-social issues and educational concerns! There are none!

Postcards

from the fringe



Our family have successfully opted out of Named Person Scheme. We do not, and have never, consented to the processing of wellbeing, shanarri, GiRFEC Data. We refuse to have a Named Person as the professionals that have been involved in our case were completely corrupt. I have documentary evidence and audio evidence of lies, misrepresentation of facts, hiding of data sharing, and now do not trust these professionals. A scheme which is optional does not seem to fit with the Scottish Government's plan to appoint a Named Person for every child, young person, young adult. The data collecting and sharing, databasing and acting upon is worrying and rife throughout services. We have personal experience of all of this, to ours and our children's distress and detriment. Our experience shows that this Scheme is completely against families. The perpetrator of abuse and assault got a slapped wrist while our family was reported for mollycoddling and investigated/actively searched for longterm wellbeing concerns. Investigation showed there were no concerns with our family, only malicious opinion, comments, concerns and a full load of data sharing without knowledge or consent.

If children's wellbeing were truly at the heart of this Scheme, this would never have been allowed to happen to us. Wellbeing is a cover. This Scheme is about collecting data. If we had treated our son as he was treated in school by staff, our children would have been removed from us and we would be facing criminal charges. Our children's wellbeing was trampled upon by these professionals. This Scheme has nothing to do with wellbeing, which cannot be defined anyway and is not one of the aims of Article 8. This scheme is appalling, provides abusers with cover and protection and gives them full information about a family. It is dangerous.

Postcards

from the fringe



My daughter didn't have the correct support in school for her autism. Professionals failed to understand how to manage and teach coping strategies. Information was shared without my permission. School refused a flexible learning plan and punished for having a disability. Any advice asked for from specialist school was not shared to me and I do not know what information was disclosed about my daughter. No autism specialist support was provided. Early intervention was not sought for proper agencies and an opinion was made that my daughter was not on the spectrum by the school so boundaries needed to be used rather than sufficient support. 7 years later I removed my daughter due to the distressed state she was in from being restrained and locked out of class. Threats of involving police by staff made her more distressed and refusal to listen to staff and withdrawing. Was denied but school clearly shows police threats were used. Daughter was made out to be a liar. Information of PDA in diagnosis report was sent to school but due to not wanting to support her needs they lied and said they had never received this despite using the PDA strategies and showing clearly in paperwork and staff written notes that PDA report

had been received but then refused to use the strategies. My daughter could not deal with blame but heard staff do this on many occasions and then causing meltdowns. Daughter refused school attendance due to police threats, restraints and being locked out of class. Named person allowed for lack of support due to wanting to control how things were done and made it clear even if it would help she wouldn't allow it. One class teacher was prevented from doing her job and I was lied to by a deputy head saying class teacher was invited to a meeting when they hadn't invited them. Was made to wait for a teacher that wasn't coming and lied to. Was supposed to trust these people

Postcards

from the fringe



My son has been in the system since the age of 3 he is now 10 years old. Named person has done nothing for us at all in fact has been to the detriment of my family if anything. Battling for them to listen that my son had ASD/PDA. But getting knocked down at every turn that it was my parenting etc, he was bad, challenging behaviour. Education refusing to do referrals etc Until lately he was only getting 1hr of mainstream education a WK!!! Yes a WK!! Disgraceful that my child who has NO learning diff but yet who couldn't cope in mainstream due to mismanagement wasn't getting his right to an education. My child has never refused to go to school they have refused him!! We had to wait 7yrs for a diagnosis and even then we had to travel to Glasgow for 5wk assessment. As all we were getting locally was ATTACHMENT!!! The wasted time etc has had a massive impact on him and all of us as a family which could have been avoided. Named Person, SHANNARI, GIRFEC never helped us one bit!!!

Postcards

from the fringe



My daughter had school anxiety. She was physically unable to go. The school were clueless. After gaining a new Named Person we were finally referred to the appropriate services. CAMHS didn't want to know they said anxiety was a school issue. I have this in writing. The Educational Psychologist referral was January 2017 we are still waiting. We were referred to the Children's Reporter by the School. We've had 2 Hearings and been to Court. My daughter is now on a CSO. She has had threats of Foster Care by her Social Workers while I was present. All because there was no-one willing to help or support her. There is still no support only threats. My daughter is back in school and doing very well all thanks to myself and private Therapy sessions. During this nightmare our Named Person remained pretty useless. She thought she had done her job by referring us and sitting back. Admitting herself she was no mental health expert and that she didn't earn enough money to be doing this job!! Very reassuring for everyone. I also discovered after submitting my SAR that data had been shared between all agencies that were meant to be involved. Without any consent or knowledge from me.

There was fabrications and everything had been twisted to make myself look like the person to blame for my daughter's school anxiety. There was things written about me by people that I have never met. In my personal opinion these people seem to have nothing better to do when they most certainly should have. They nearly succeeded in ripping my family apart. We have had to fight with every breathe. It stopped me from gaining support from my GP as I knew my confidential records would be very likely shared. This is an extremely intrusive scheme and also has no working order to any child or family in need. GIRFEC is an extremely ironic term.

Postcards

from the fringe



I strongly object to young children being indoctrinated into fascist ideology, such as is evident from the latest 'wellbeing wood' propaganda currently being promoted by North Lanarkshire Council (and lauded by the now ex childcare minister just before he resigned). Thankfully not all of us NLC parents zip up the back and we have already removed our children from the clutches of the early years 'collaborators'. We are also now seriously considering homeschooling them as there appears to be no opt-out from the invasion of children's minds by untrustworthy box-tickers with no consideration for their privacy or security. The steady decline in academic standards is bad enough, but arbitrary interference in family matters and covert collection of data on everyone to satisfy the government's wellbeing obsession is frankly sick. Mr Swinney is obviously the puppet of opportunistic junk scientists and technology corporations who have promised him 'solutions' in return for data. IBM springs to mind as they have a track record in profiling and eugenics.

Postcards

from the fringe



I'd like to submit the minutes from the Girfec Programme Board: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright/programme-board> Who see Girfec as an opportunity to "support development of services for adults: initially as in how they impact on children but the potential exists to go beyond this "getting it right for everyone": <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00489674.pdf> For reasons made clear by these "highlights": <http://www.home-education.biz/forum/67244-post239.html>

Postcards

from the fringe



My son been diagnosed with FND but the latest health report is being withheld from me before a TATC meeting. This is the first meeting after being diagnosed with a neurological condition that is due to intolerable amounts of stress at school. The nurses we have dealt with have said they know he's not being supported properly but the doctor seems reluctant to come out and say it, preferring to infer I'm the issue. I asked to see the report last week as I have raised concerns about how he represents me in his post appointment letters when other reports state I'm a good advocate for my child and give him strong support. I'm not backing down on this, but it will be me on my own up against 8 professionals and I had to practically tear the invite list off his guidance teacher. I think it's because I told the nurses and school that I didn't subscribe to named person in any way. It's useless and anytime there is a problem it's not NP who deals with it it's me. So as far as I'm concerned I'm his NP. He's been off school 6 weeks already this term. The only thing I've done wrong is listen to their lame excuses for failing to support my son for so long.

I've even got letters from previous teachers stating they are failing him as they don't have the staff for support. I have never felt so disrespected in my life as I do over this. I'm not taking any of it lying down though and I'll go to the press if I have to.

Postcards

from the fringe



We have had a two year long battle with agencies to clear our names after Named Persons and their professional friends colluded to raise false wellbeing concerns about our family. All agencies involved collected and stored this inaccurate data. After being completely exonerated through Social Work investigation, agencies who were happy to share against our family were reluctant to share when faced with allegations against themselves. To clear the incorrect data is a challenge as each agency will not share against another agency. I have had to approach each agency separately with repeat requests and threats to ICO to amend or remove the incorrect data. Police refuse to amend it. The Local Authority is too busy covering up to examine the evidence of contradictory statements by school staff. Each agency will not look at the involvement of another agency with themselves. Eg. Police Inspector stated that school staff colluding with Police to raise concerns and lying to them during investigation, which altered the outcome, is not a crime nor an obstruction of justice and is something I have to take up with Education Board. Police state they did not consider anything school told them so cannot be obstruction. Eg. The Named Person colluded with Assistant to

Children's Reporter to instruct investigation whilst knowing there were no wellbeing concerns, yet could not consider this in my complaints as they are separate. Only when data is AGAINST a family do they share, eg, it was not shared between agencies that there never were any concerns. And when the data compromises agencies, it is not shared. This is an abomination against families. I am still trying to clear the shambolic mess that Named Persons caused. Two years in and I have only recently been told the entries on VPD, entered without our knowledge or consent, will be weeded as priority as they are disproportionate and irrelevant. Other incorrect data, including incorrect police report is an absolute nightmare to try to amend.

Postcards

from the fringe



Getting It Right For Every Child? It seems that only applies to children with no additional support needs. My eldest child received no state education for 3 years as due to her disability she could not attend school, my middle child suffered with no support for her unrecognised specific learning difficulties and my youngest received no support for his autism. So whose children are they getting it right for? Certainly not mine.

Postcards

from the fringe



Nowhere, in any of the legislation, does it state that children will only get support if they have a recognised, diagnosed, disability. Why then do schools not put in support until you have that precious piece of diagnostic paper? Do the child's needs suddenly change the day a doctor diagnoses them? GIRFEC should be for every child, not just the ones with papers from a doctor.

Postcards

from the fringe



My 4year old is in P1 (not yet of compulsory education age). Due to her being exhausted by school, I informed the teacher in August that she would not be doing homework but playing and spending time with family. The teacher agreed that she would issue the homework the same way she would to the other children and would not expect it to be completed. Last week, I was asked to complete topic homework with my child between now and Xmas (what she wants to be when she grows up). This was to be a joint project with parent and child researching how the child would reach that goal. I laughed and said no as it was ridiculous. I was then called to a meeting with the head teacher, which included a lengthy chat about GIRFEC and SHANARRI. The HT had concerns my 'lack of cooperation' was in contravention of Included, Responsible and Achieving aspects; thus, a wellbeing concern. He, also mentioned the class teacher had been approached by other parents unhappy that their children were using mine as a reason not to do homework and suggested I was not being

responsible towards the education of her classmates. They should all be working together for "the greater good and wellbeing of all the children" (so much for GIRFEC, eh?) I refused and asked what would happen now and the HT said he would have to speak with the Education Dept about his legal responsibilities because, as a Named Person and partner in MY child's wellbeing, he has to ensure that the best is done for her. He said he would discuss with them the actions that he can take to ensure this. I am about to make a formal complaint as a NP has no statutory duty to ensure wellbeing, which is not defined in law anyway, and I'm within my rights to decline as per the Supreme Court ruling, I will also submit a SAR to school and LA.

Postcards

from the fringe



My children's named person would have been someone they were uncomfortable with and who had caused problems for their family. They had previously asked for help which then resulted in intrusive and unnecessary social work interference for eighteen months. The latter ended with a complaint that was whitewashed and our family being dropped without any help. Council officials cannot be any more reliable or more likely to provide a child with a port of safety when they are unknown to a child and when their priority is covering their colleagues' behinds. In most cases and most families the children's safety is the priority. How can it be right for children to have a named person forced on them and have no say in who that is? I have taught my children to run if they are in a situation that makes them uncomfortable. I felt very powerless when my daughter was given a named person, a person with power over her which I could not supersede, that she felt uncomfortable being in the same room as. In Moray we've already had one named person to be convicted of child sex offences. That should have served as a warning as how dangerous this policy, in its current form, could be to children.

Postcards

from the fringe



I contacted my health visitor as I was concerned about my son not being able to talk at age two years, so I asked for speech and language therapy. All my other children had begun talking very early but he seemed to have difficulty, and we later discovered a physical cause. After a year of waiting and my son having several assessments from linked health agencies, and paediatricians agreeing he needed speech therapy, we were denied any help. Instead, I was being told that I should go on a parenting course for me to learn communication skills with my children. It seemed that, without even knowing our family, they were deciding it must be the mother's fault. The course was in a different town and at a difficult time and I would need to find childcare for three children. The kind of advice given was very basic and patronising; obvious things that we already did at home. I made another request for therapy, only to be told there was no point if I didn't go on a parenting course.

Assessments would be offered every few months, but no therapy would be given. I was then copied in with another report, shared between agencies, about my son, which labelled him officially delayed, and which stated that I had refused to engage with services. He is now two and a half and has caught up with language. He is actually well ahead of milestones and is not therefore 'delayed', but he officially has that label. He overcame the physical problems on his own without any help from 'services'. The letters that were written about him are all headed with the 'Getting it right for every child' motto yet it is apparent that the whole system is about assessing families, not listening to parents, labelling children, and any actual help is refused. Quite clearly this is not getting it right for every child.

Postcards

from the fringe



I spent 13 years fighting for support at school for my son who has epilepsy, cerebral palsy and learning disabilities. Who have I been "fighting with"? Oh Yes... the head who for the last few years has been my sons "named person"! So please don't patronise me by saying this person will help me get the "services" my son deserves. The fact is, there is no money for supporting children like my son. This is about data mining- end of! £2m spent already, thats a lot of extra support staff for the children who need it. Also, what really angers me is the inference that the named person "legislation" assumes that every parent in Scotland is a potential child abuser, yet every "named person" is 100% trustworthy? This is absolutely not the case. Just look at the amount of abuse cases in schools & care settings. The state makes a terrible parent. Schools attract staff who want access to vulnerable children. My son already has a named person, she is called "mum" I do not want or need a "named person" in my life. I have a right to a private family life.

My husband and I are the best people to care for our family. I do not want my child's sensitive private medical information shared with anyone. That is between myself and the doctor. This is nothing but "big brother" You have made parents wary of sharing anything with any professional now in case information is reported wrongly in the wrong context using language that places unnecessary suspicion on the family. Finally, as far as SHANARRI, GIRFEC and the Wellbeing Wheel is concerned, its all very well but where does it say "except when a child is in school"? SCHOOLS are failing our children every day. Parents are not the ones who should be targeted here. Get it right in more schools FIRST!

Postcards

from the fringe



My daughter entered school a v. happy, sociable, bubbly, 5yo. who enjoyed reading and writing several years above her age. We had to take her out of school after 6 months because she became exhausted, depressed and full of anxiety. She had even drastically dropped off her growth curve. The school muddled lunches so several times she went without food; neglected to see she could use the bathroom so she developed a UTI; She had falls in the playground that went un-noticed and came home with wounds congealed with clothing inside; Staff separated her from friends she made at nursery and when she tried to make new friends bullies from an older class intervened and told her she could not play with anyone. She would stand alone shivering in the cold every playtime wishing she had someone to play with. I asked staff to help but was not listened to. Some classroom activities made her so anxious she cried. She became bored with learning as she was never given appropriate level material.

After school she was so tired that she could not talk, she just cried. She missed sleep because of pain caused by combination of a genetic illness and standing shivering on the playground. There was no spark left. The opposite of the bubbly 5yo who had entered school. She regularly caught infections but %attendance was still in the high nineties and the school were always informed by telephone and follow up letter for absence. Nevertheless, we kept finding threatening attendance letters in her school bag. In one month she had norovirus, and attendance fell to 95%. Another letter swiftly appeared with escalating threats, summoning me to explain myself. We were close to the stage of social workers calling at our door. Ill and desperately unhappy, my daughter asked to be home-educated. Through home-educating she is once again, a bubbly, happy, motivated and advanced learner. Her health is good and she immediately caught up to her growth curve.

Postcards

from the fringe



When I was expecting my babies I went for my first midwife appointment. I thought it was to check the health of me and my babies but instead it was an hour long data gathering exercise to assess me as a parent. I was asked a series of questions including if I had ever taken drugs or been in trouble with the law or if my husband had a criminal record. Not a nice feeling that from the first moment you see your midwife, you are a suspect and a dossier is being compiled on you.

Postcards

from the fringe



Anyone who still believes the "single point of contact" nonsense should visit Lanarkshire's Girfec pages:
<http://www.girfecinlanarkshire.co.uk/> Of particular relevance are firstly, the Girfec forms - complete with parental capacity to provide wellbeing assessments- as examples of Shanarri "wellbeing" data collection and monitoring:
<http://www.girfecinlanarkshire.co.uk/forms/> And secondly, this "process map" poster which "is not seen as helpful for children and families":
<http://www.girfecinlanarkshire.co.uk/2011/06/item-15-the-childyoung-person%E2%80%99s-pathway/>

Postcards

from the fringe



I have had to endure a torrid time of aggressive bullying and outright lying at the hands of South Lanarkshire Council and this has only been compounded by outright law breaking by the fact that my sons personal medical details had been passed to not only an intended 3rd party who had no right in seeing this information in the first instance but also a 4th party whom received this information by accident. South Lanarkshire Council have also broken the Councillors Code of Conduct by asking a high ranking Labour party official to approve a response being sent to us on a CSP refusal, this email was also sent to an unintended person whom passed the email to myself. The original response also came to us undated and this suggests to me that this was because the refusal and response had been typed up before the meeting we had to discuss the CSP and someone forgot to input the "new" falsified date on something that had already been decided weeks before any meetings took place.

ICO and Public Standards Commissioner both decided to do nothing as South Lanarkshire Council admitted this and promised it would not happen again????????? This adds to my belief that such organizations are just there to pretend that the people have a voice and they have no intention of looking at any reports and just agree with Councils anyway and this has been further proved to me because the SPSO have also just decided to agree with South Lanarkshire to the extent of lying about the content of a Police Scotland. So I have a mass of proof and in the form of police reports and emails and yet nothing has been done because justice is only for the rich who can afford £300+ p/h legal advice.

Postcards

from the fringe



“A duty to consider sharing information on wellbeing grounds”
So, how exactly would that work? The now infamous GIRFEC leaflet gave a clue as to what was in the minds of the originators of the Named Person scheme: the Named Person would check that children had a say in what TV they watched and how their room was decorated. That’s what it said. How was the Named Person to collect that information? The equally infamous GIRFEC Cluedo suggested that Mum enjoying a bottle of wine was a clue that the Named Person would need to piece together. So, every time we see a parent enjoying a bottle of wine, we are to report it to their children’s Named Person, just in case! The author of GIRFEC Cluedo tweeted happily about his own drinking habits, but that was OK, because he “wasn’t a parent”. Quite. If the threshold is so low, would, say, having to resign because of alleged impropriety raise a wellbeing concern? Perhaps the former Minister responsible for GIRFEC and SHANARRI in the early years could be consulted? Well, surely an obvious case is failure to turn up for a medical appointment? Then are teachers expected to tell parents, “So, I heard wee Johnnie didn’t go to the dentist last week”?

In what parallel universe is that conversation going to lead to mutual trust and respect? OK then, surely another obvious wellbeing concern is a child who is bolting from the class? It’s due to undiagnosed ASD, but maybe an ignorant and judgemental Named Person decides it’s down to poor parenting. And how is the Named Person to keep track of all this hearsay, sorry “Information”? One head could be responsible for hundreds of children: they’ll need to store it somewhere. Perhaps some large government IT project (what could possibly go wrong?) with hearsay about hundreds of thousands of families across Scotland, although the police seem to have led the way here!

Postcards

from the fringe



Our son has been seeing CAHMS for three years now, and was diagnosed by a clinical psychologist as having Asperger's. This makes his behaviour challenging at times, making it all the more necessary for parents and school to work together. However, prior to seeing CAHMS, his first head teacher (identified prematurely on a GIRFEC form as his Named Person) had her own explanation for his behaviour: it was due to "lack of parental consequences". I fail to see how not punishing a child sufficiently could lead to them having fixations and literal thinking! The head teacher's attitude was ignorant, judgemental, patronising, smug and self-righteous! And this was the person who is to be responsible for our son's 'wellbeing'. Eventually, the situation became intolerable, and we removed our son from the school. At one point, the head teacher observed that she had 400 other pupils to think of - absolutely correct, but an illustration of how even were there not bad practice, Named Persons have an inevitable conflict of interest.

In contrast, we encountered other professionals whose advice we respected, including his health visitor, whose role would sadly be altered by the Named Person scheme to include hour-long family surveys: search for "Health Visiting Pathway". There were also teachers who would say "I know what it's like to get the phone calls [from school]" or "My son gets a taxi to school", giving confidence that the person would have some insight and wisdom, and was not running on SHANARRI wheels and self-righteous judgement. The point of this submission is not about individual cases of bad practice, or that Named Persons need to be trained in autism awareness. The point is that no individual should be given that power or responsibility, and that relationships between families and professionals should be based on trust and confidence in the professional's relevant wisdom and experience, not their ticking boxes and sharing SHANARRI checklists in areas outwith their expertise.

Postcards

from the fringe



Dear Education and Skills Committee,
Please Can you not go through with The Named
Person because they shared mine and my family's data
to all the agencies when they shared our data
Without given Consent.

The data they shared was mostly Lies.
They made-up wellbeing concerns about us.
And they put the five of us on the VPD (Vulnerable -
Persons Database).

So these are the reasons why I hope the Named Person
Scheme does not go through.

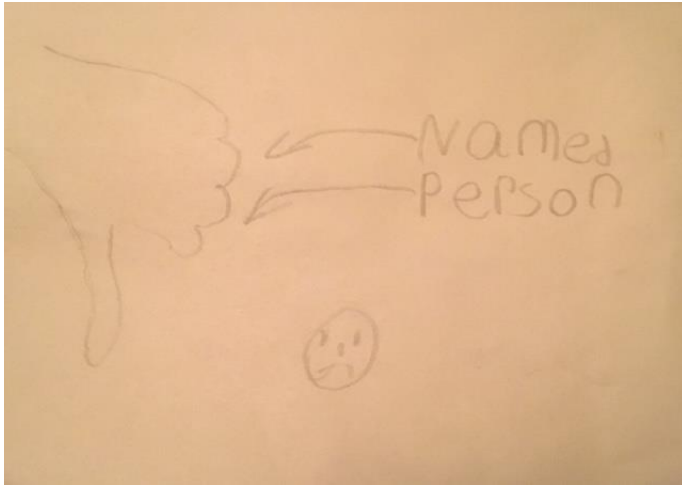
I think that GIRFEC should not be called GIRFEC
it should be called GIWFEC (Getting It Wrong For
Every Child).

**I DO NOT WANT A NAMED PERSON
EVER!**

I hope you listen to my views.

Postcards

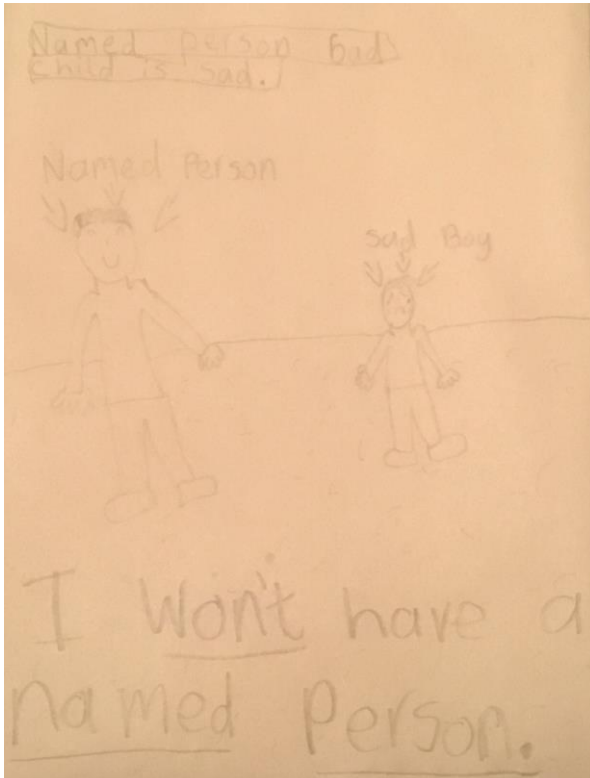
from the fringe



Evidence submitted by a 7 year old

Postcards

from the fringe



Evidence submitted by a 9 year old.

Postcards

from the fringe



Scotland appears to be grappling with a fundamental confusion about what is, and what is not, a child protection issue. The Named Person policy is not officially about child protection - it is about well-being. Obviously, our 'well-being' is a private matter! However, the whole Scottish political system appears over influenced by social workers who are simply pushing for more and more information about our children on the 'just in case' principle. This is nonsensical as all they will do is overload the child protection system with irrelevant information about children. The vast number of children who have low level problems will not end up on the child protection register. The needless screening of greater numbers of children, without consent, erodes trust in public services and is counter productive. It is also against the Human Rights Act Article 8 the 'right to respect for private and family life'. This issue will not be resolved internally in Scotland. It needs to go back to the Supreme Court for a clear adjudication of what is, and what is not, information that can be shared without consent.

Postcards

from the fringe



My child attend a North Lanarkshire school and I have never received any information from the school in relation to the Named Person scheme. I am aware that the scheme being run by them has been discussed with the children.

Postcards

from the fringe



I have heard stories of Councils infiltrating social media and 'closed social media' groups for parents to effectively spy on parents, passing sensitive information back to Named Persons. I have heard of a police data base which collects names of people who they consider vulnerable, what qualifications or training the Police have to decide this is unknown and a major worry. I have heard of parents having no option but to remove children from School settings due to lack of support or bullying, especially for children with problems such as autism. I have heard of Head teachers being removed from the teaching register for intimidating children and parents and others acting in an inappropriate sexual manner with children. I have heard the Scottish Government say, "Parents have asked for this service", I can only presume they are deluded. No parent I know and I know of many have EVER asked for a State Guardian. If there are any that would like a one point of contact, then that should be an opt-in service, not a forced snooping service for every single child. That is something I will never co-operate with. I have heard of School surveys which have been massively intrusive into family life. Education seems to be going down the tubes, it is a postcard lottery with lack of teachers and large class numbers, no support teachers

and low morale. Don't be surprised if Home Education figures rise. It is certainly beginning to look incredibly attractive to me.

Postcards

from the fringe



I am very concerned that the Scottish Government have failed to listen so far to the vast majority of parents, practitioners and experts raising their objections over the years in opposition to the Named Person scheme. Mr. Swinney is under the impression he can dance around the edges of data sharing without consent at the threshold of 'wellbeing' by producing a 'code of practice' for practitioners to use, a code that could be altered without consultation once implemented. The scheme has been operating outwith the law for many years and as a result families have been abused, some Named Persons, in many cases, have acted inappropriately, in some cases practitioners across services have acted together to do little more than bully many families, intruding into family life in an unwanted fashion. The scheme is incomparable with ECHR, the quest for a code of practice I fear will not bring clarity, it cannot do so based on Wellbeing and must further comply with GDPR. The Scheme should be scrapped, it is unwanted, insulting and unnecessary, has resulted in a loss of trust and a climate of suspicion, with NP being viewed as little more than 'hostile against of the State'. There should be a move away from shanarri, which does little to address the problems real children in need face.

Vast majority of parents already GIRFEC. Funding should be targeted at Social Services. There should be a full independent public inquiry into the whole debacle, exposing all those who have promoted this scheme for their own agendas such as Barnardo's and many other Charities involved, and finally there should be some form of compensation for all those families that have been abused by this scheme over the past years, particularly in light of Police Scotland's admission of unlawful data sharing and the Vulnerable Police data base, which they have liberally added names onto, based on their own presumptions of vulnerability, flagging people's data and all without their knowledge or consent.

Postcards

from the fringe



I have had it described that certain areas have different thresholds, Angus for example has a lower threshold. How can that be so? Surely where wellbeing ends & welfare begins should be the same nationwide & not open to interpretation of each region. But I guess if you keep the lines blurred it's easier to interfere in people's lives.

Postcards

from the fringe



My child with additional support needs was ostracised and bullied by the adults who should have protected her in Highland Council and Health Services. The named person met with others, shared sensitive information and made detrimental decisions which have excluded her from education and made her ill. Consent to this was never sought and complaints have not been answered... What a waste of time and resources and a lot of damage to a child's life

Postcards

from the fringe



For me there are two fundamental problems, one is the term "wellbeing". This is so vague it has not been defined in the legislation and actually opens the door for abuse by the authorities and an ill-intentioned named person (who watches the watchers?). The second is that is the state that appoints this named person. The definition of wellbeing can be completely different depending on who is assessing the situation, the parents, the named person, a doctor or any number of people who interact with the child.

Postcards

from the fringe



My son started high school August I received as part of his enrolment a letter asking for permission for anyone working with or in the interests of my son to have direct access to my sons medical and social records and information to be shared as an when they deemed appropriate it does ask me to sign consent however if the letter was returned late or not at all then they state they assume consent anyway?!

Postcards

from the fringe



We had a physio and OT make up stories. Said that i had been so nasty to her when she came to visit , that she brought someone else with her the next time for her safety and that I let them in with no problem. Advised others never to go alone, always go in twos. A senior member gave me a copy of the notes on this, as they thought i should be aware of what was written, knowing I am a very quiet person. I then sent for more notes and what they were writing was horrendous. Either lies or twisting things. I now trust no one. It took months of advocacy to sort it all out, and now they have to let me see all the notes they are writing at the time for me to look at and sign. Which is fine, as at least i have signed for so much....but im not stupid, i know they can also still write things i dont see.

Postcards

from the fringe



We have this already in Highland, and I still end up stressed out of my head with the pressure heaped on me to attend this meeting, or an appointment, or several in a row. The named person does nothing except, allegedly – put all the information in one place. I can tell you this doesn't work.

If there was more time and effort spent in meeting the most urgent needs of those children who so desperately need it... rather than time wasting on political point-scoring by the insistence that this scheme will benefit all children, some kids, like mine, might not be in limbo land.

Postcards

from the fringe



There has been some problem with my child's speech and therefore he's been seeing a language therapist and some professionals for 2 years. Every single report I have received so far has a Named Person in it. I never asked for it but my child is forced to have one anyway! So it's compulsory not entitlement! What's worse is they try to sneak in social worker to get involved! Shocking!

Postcards

from the fringe



I am so glad that I'm out of teaching now because I know I would be in big trouble for not implementing this fascist legislation! In nearly 40 years in the education service I did not meet any teacher who was not vigilant and sensitive to possible welfare issues or abuse. I did however meet a few who could be best described as vigilantes! Every mood swing was sexual abuse, every bruise was physical abuse, every child in the huff with a parental decision was evidence of parental bullying, every child who ate with gusto was underfed at home!! The vigilant teacher noticed patterns (if they existed) the vigilantes jumped to conclusions. Inexperienced teachers felt confident to raise issues with management now they are terrified in case their lack of experience causes them to either miss something. The relationship between families and professional, educational, medical or social care is being damaged. Whereas in the past parents felt safe in discussing issues now they are scared, how does this benefit children? Every professional is now expected to be a vigilante. For those of us old enough to remember, think about the Orkney sex abuse scandal of the early '90's. If you're too young to know, look it up. That was the work of professionals!!

Postcards

from the fringe



I have formally opted out of the much lauded Highland Council 'pilot'. The 'pilot' the council never told parents they were running. The 'pilot' the council never published in advance measurables or targets that would be used over the years to assess if it was a success, or not. The council were polite and acknowledged that my child was now not included in the ongoing 'pilot'.

Postcards

from the fringe



The whole idea is unbelievable...why on earth is this happening? Disgraceful. My children are the responsibility of myself and my husband. I did not give birth to them and devote my life to them for some stranger to tell me what is best for them. What a world we live in...

Postcards

from the fringe



We have had very bad experience from a so called named person already making up baseless accusations to get us into trouble, so want nothing to do with the scheme because it lets so called professionals say what they want & you are left having to prove your innocence! The most infuriating part is through their actions our children suffered emotionally....it's just wrong

Postcards

from the fringe



Im alarmed by nps as my new baby at time was removed on wrong information by power mad professional staff. Infact the agency involved admitted they lied to get court order to take my son only hours old. I truly hope no family has to go through what i did as mother by power hungry people. The system is flawed i exposed the agency involved in all papers but with named scheme it only takes one teaching professional or doctor to get something wrong and social services are involved and children removed by system. I live in Scotland but because i know how easy it is for false information to be given and believed over parents we will never stand chance. This is what is going to happen if this law gets pushed through. It took my son 2 years to cuddle me i lost 8 months of his life on false information by so called professional people. I did nothing wrong and to hear a professional person stand up in court and confirm my son was to go for adoption to cover there tracks makes me sick. They lost there licence there job cid is now trying to prosecute them in court but i will never have my 8 months with my baby they stole from me. Named person scheme is a dangerous act to pass

Postcards

from the fringe



I am a grandmother and a retired nurse and I am very against the named person. I think this SNP should concentrate on things that do need looking at, too many to name here. If they put more into the social work to give them time to spend on children and their families that need them, it would be more use.

Postcards

from the fringe



Disgusted that Shannari wheel is on first page of my maternity notes when my first child is not even here yet, would love to refuse hv service but don't see how I can, can't trust any of them, more damaging to kids & parents that need the support, fuming is not the word

Postcards

from the fringe



Highland Council never, ever, wrote to parents/guardians advising them that a 'pilot' was to be undertaken. They never made public, nor published, 'success criteria' against which the pilot could be assessed and transparently deemed to be a success, or not. It is a classic case of administrators dreaming up and implementing a scheme which then takes on a life of its own. By which point, it is beyond the ability of any sensible council employee to stand up and say, 'the Emperor has no clothes,' without damaging ones career. This is not about politics or Nationalism, it is simply about civilisation and morals. And this legislation is uncivilised and morally wrong.

Postcards

from the fringe



The named person scheme is still being implemented in many areas around Scotland especially in Dumfries & Galloway where Health visitors are not fully aware that due to the last legal battle & the ruling means that gathering & sharing any information they are doing is illegal and in breach of the court!

Postcards

from the fringe



During a recent supervision contact with a child protection advisor in D & G I challenged this policy. I was told that D & G we're pushing ahead with Named Person and that I had to stop putting on any referrals that parents had to be informed and permission sought before sharing any information. When I pointed out that D & G we're breaking the law the response was "well it's child protection and we are going to continue sharing information regardless".

Postcards

from the fringe



Chaos.... what a waste of time, money and effort on an ill thought out , unworkable and ultimately ineffective scheme, when all these resources could go to cash starved family support services

Postcards

from the fringe



Totally sick of this now. They should just accept that they're wrong. Nobody wants it but them and there's no justified reason for it. Think of the money and resources they'll save for something else if they just hang up this Draconian idea!

Postcards

from the fringe



We had a terrible visit from the health visitor last week who claimed to be Named Person. She claims the NHS are rolling it out despite the concerns of the Supreme Court. Her supervisor said the Named Person HAD been implemented!!! Apparently NHS have implemented a non-statutory Named Person Scheme but they aren't telling people it is no -statutory! It's a complete scandal!

Postcards

from the fringe



The scheme is now so toxic that there will never be support for it among parents - the only thing it requires is scrapped.

Postcards

from the fringe



It's more a case of families refusing to comply with it. More & more of us are now aware of what is going on & taking steps to keep our private lives exactly that. My son has just started S1, he has already told his teacher that he cannot give them any information about his family members without their consent. We have already told them 1) we will be exercising our right to privacy, 2) information will be on a need to know basis only & we will decide what they need to know & 3) If we discover information has been collected, stored or shared without our prior written consent, we will take legal action. It's awful - I used to have no problem with my children being completely open about their home lives as I feel we have nothing to hide. However as long as what we feel is acceptable may differ from the state mandated method of parenting, what happens in the home stays in the home.

Postcards

from the fringe



There clearly is no universal formula for parenting. There are however parameters of what would be regarded as "good enough" parenting. Generally speaking parenting styles are learned from our own role models, our own parents, and to some degree societal norms, as with all behaviours. These parameters are interpreted and implemented by each family of each generation, in their own unique way, and they certainly don't want need a Government to prescribe some academic, standardised blueprint of their perception of how one should relate, interact, live, love, laugh and be happy, in the context of their family life or parenting style. There is no blueprint. Not even in the context of individuals in the same family. There are of course shared views and values, but we are not parenting robots. The internal dynamics are infinitesimal, as any parent will confirm. We are parenting all different, interesting, wonderful, beautiful, astonishing individuals, and guess what we love them.

Postcards

from the fringe



Well we are voting with our feet and moving back to England. Although it would be wrong to say we have made this decision because of NP it was one of a number of factors we considered and which has resulted in the end of our 20 year love affair of living in Scotland. We will miss all of our friends but not the heavy handed state interference in our lives.

Postcards

from the fringe



We thought the ruling would mean that this would stop until a review was undertaken. The homework our son has had over this week felt like they were collecting information on the family. it was asking where they felt safe and who they felt safe with, then onto rites of a children. My wife put a letter in with his homework, and funny enough he could read a book tonight. We completed them as we have nothing to hide. It's just the intrusion into family that's insulting

Postcards

from the fringe



I'm all for protecting children from abuse but I'm completely opposed to the collecting and sharing of personal information when there has been no cause for concern. Where there is concern we have child protection laws which, if resourced properly, are already more than adequate to step in and manage those cases. All the money wasted on this folly of a scheme could and should have been invested in the social care system which is at breaking point. The majority of local authorities in Scotland are short staffed with social workers trying to manage caseloads at least twice the recommended level per worker. This legislation will only endanger children. I'll give an example. Many years ago I had PND after my 3rd son was born. My health visitor was a great support and I felt confident confiding in her. She only disclosed her concerns about my mental to our GP after she had broached the subject with me and even then the GP made the decision that no other body needed to be involved as my HV was able to offer support. Under this scheme a HV would be the named person. They would not only have to share those concerns with the GP (possibly behind a mothers back) but would be under pressure to inform the social work dept. Knowing that will I still seek help from my GP and HV? If I don't my baby could be at greater risk but if I do they might take my child (bear in mind that with pnd worst case scenario goes through your mind).

I personally have experienced the very worst of social work when, to protect their own backs, they turn on parents, when the real problem is they have failed to put in adequate support when it's been requested for months, even years. There are parents in our area who have been waiting for a social work assessment for 2 yrs!! Their children have disabilities and they need support but cuts to services means they are being ignored. The possibility of the children becoming 'at risk' because of LA failures is very real. Parents should not be penalised for that but this is what happens. This legislation also talks about 'well being'. What does that mean? Its subjective. For example I had a social worker who thought I was wrong to expect my children (aged 10-16) to do chores without being paid. I don't think doing jobs as part of a family to look after your home merits payment. Doing extra chores could earn you something but not the day to day stuff. That SW was most put out by our more traditional conservative parenting. The reports they write can come across as very damning when they're trying to find a problem that isn't there. This legislation, as it's written, will put more children at risk while those who need help slip through the net - as did in Fife where the scheme was already being piloted.

Postcards

from the fringe



My daughter was walking home from the shops with her 4-month old baby who was literally inconsolable for a few minutes. My daughter hugged and comforted her while also worrying that some onlooking busybody could misinterpret the situation and report her to her Named Person!!! FFS!!! What are we doing to young parents ?!?

Postcards

from the fringe



I can see an awful lot of people opting out of health visitor service, as that would be the only way to opt out of the data gathering for under 5s.

Postcards

from the fringe



After reporting a long string of suspicion bruises to my child's social worker and the police that my "violent and aggressive" non verbal child had been coming home from school with I had a police officer come interview me and then get all people together except me but including her school, they told me that as no one witnessed things happening they could not take the case further, after this I and other parents pushed for a better investigation, at this moment the case of my daughter has been passed on to the prosecuted fiscal along with other victims, witnesses have reported seeing her being strapped into her wheelchair (just for use outdoors) for as little as waving her arms. I have been told that the only school suitable for her needs is this one, she has a named person, it is in her paperwork, the person is not the social worker, not SW's boss, not her respite key worker but a member of staff from that school! Seriously?! The government need to scrap this waste of time and money and find a much better way to protect our children! With the right care my daughter is happy and healthy and her challenging behaviour is much calmer now, this does not make the devastating time go away, you live in fear for your child every day, any mark you question and a named person from an establishment that has tried to tell me it never

happened is hardly the best way to give me confidence!

Postcards

from the fringe



The government, and the media, are overconfident about how smoothly this horribly designed policy will work in normal out-of-holiday times. Following a Subject Access Request I discovered that our details were shared and queried by seven different people acting as "the named person" over a 17 month period. I don't think parents should underestimate the games that go on between agencies trying to offload their workload onto neighbouring agencies. Some of the people signing I know for a fact were at their jobs only for a few months before moving on. The datasharing provisions in the legislation were perhaps designed with that fact in mind - that files are tossed about between entire sets of named busybodies who are on a high-turnover treadmill between jobs.

Postcards

from the fringe



My son was told yesterday "if your mum keeps saying no to the questionnaires and np... All your support will be removed". Support I may add, that they made him wait two years for.

Completely livid.

Postcards

from the fringe



I'm a single mum with 4 kids, 2 of whom have autism. Not through choice, but I have had a social worker for my boys since they were diagnosed. I'm a strong person but over the years, through various difficulties my boys faced, one if them being severely bullied followed by severe depression and suicide attempts, I repeatedly, and I mean repeatedly asked for help as I was exhausted, struggling to get my sons help, etc etc., and all I got told was "I'll take a note of it, and phone me if you need any help !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Firstly, under this named person scheme, who's to say that help will be more forth coming? (I doubt it will) and secondly, and more worryingly, who's to say that, even though I KNOW without a shadow of doubt, I am a good mum that the fact my son was bullied, suicidal, severely depressed, that this won't somehow be turned round to be my fault !!! Those of us, and that's the majority, are great parents, we know what's best for our kids, we know how they tick and what they respond to, NOT a state appointed snoop. This whole scheme, is hair brained, frightening, open to abuse, and from the outset, undermining parents is a way that will only leave us feeling like we are somehow not adequate to know what is best for our kids.

On the flip side, it is also sweepingly, suggesting that all the state appointed snoops, are suddenly guardian angels who will save our kids from anything less than the perfect childhood, when, in fact we have already seen that, the named person could indeed be a peadophile who will endanger or kids. They need to start listening to parents and abolish this disgusting, risky policy for the sake of all of us

Postcards

from the fringe



As a retired secondary school teacher who was a designated child protection officer for a number of years, words fail me. Who are the idiots who are pushing this ridiculous scheme? (as if we didn't know). It will certainly not help vulnerable children and is a totally unacceptable intrusion into the lives of Scotland's families.

Postcards

from the fringe



I tried to "opt out" as they themselves said it wasn't mandatory. Was told I just had to fill out a form. I was then told that my Health visitor's manager said I cannot opt out as long as I have a health visitor and she was told to reassure me that no one should be doing anything without asking me first. We will see about that when i put in a subject access form (I think that's what it's called anyway) my problem is right now I feel like I need my health visitor but I do not need a named person. So now I'm stuck. They lie through their teeth! There is no opt out.

Postcards

from the fringe



The UKSC raised concerns about the lack of definition of wellbeing and this has not been rectified. This failure will continue to allow an NP to attempt to interfere in a child's and family's lives when they decide not when it is necessary. The changes made also do not solve the problem of NP not being experts in when it is appropriate and allowed to share information so breaches are inevitable. Nor have I seen clarification that parents and young people will be informed that they do not have to cooperate with NP as this is about wellbeing not welfare. Then there is the problem of the information being stored on all of our children and families. This is just a brief summary of some of my concerns and John Swinney has done nothing to reassure me. I attempted to be part of the consultation after the UKSC but it appeared to be invitation only. Our DFM does not appear to have listened to the UKSC or concerned families and we will continue to object until he does.

Postcards

from the fringe



It is not as clear cut as a breach of confidentiality when the Named Person is involved. They try to justify sharing because it is a 'well being' issue. This is the problem people are finding. In our case the medical agencies involved (including the GMC) have taken action against their staff and some have been dismissed from post. However the school have presented excuses for over 2 years now and have protected their staff. Unlawful sharing is still going on. Complaints to management and to the school board have gone unaddressed and the staff are still in post making the same mistakes continuing to share information unlawfully. The code of conduct for teachers has a similar rule for dismissal if confidence breached. More recently our child was put at risk because the correct information was ignored and false information shared. The recent incident is being dealt with by formal proceedings. But for the previous incident it needs to go to court now as it all comes under civil litigation and will cost us tens of thousands unless our child takes the action herself as she is funded. But does she need the stress?! So it is not as easy as just reporting - it is a costly minefield and is extremely stressful on a family.