## 7-Minute Briefing – The Scottish Child Interviewing Model (SCIM)

## How will We Keep Improving?

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

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Connection to Bairns' Hoose (Barnahus)?

Elements of the SCIM such as the use of an evidence-based interview protocol, specialised training and adaptation of the interview according to the needs of the child support adherence to Quality Standard 6 of the European PROMISE Quality Standards. Changes that we make locally to accommodate the new model can also help to increase readiness for Barnahus. More Info: Bairns' Hoose

## How Are Children's Rights Respected?

Bespoke interview plans are developed, informed by the needs of the individual child. There is consideration of the child's needs before, during & after the interview. Interviewers are attuned and responsive to the child's needs, applying trauma informed principles to maximise What Does This Mean in Practice?

> key outcome is to ensure children are protected from abuse, harm and exploitation. with the specialist skills and knowledge for

their participation in interview. The

What is the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM)?

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

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## **How Was It Developed?**

SCIM was developed by a team of experienced social workers and police officers who drew upon national and international research and best practice. The National Joint Investigative Interview (JII) Project was set up in 2017 and, following the research and development stage, testing in practice began in 2019. National JII: <u>JII Project</u>

The Scottish Child Interviewing Model (SCIM)

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A new specialist training programme

has been developed for police and

social work interviewers to provide them

forensic interviewing of children. Parents and professionals who know the child well contribute to planning and supporting the child. Changes are made to the local child protection system to accommodate the new model.

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

The National JII Project forms part of the response to recommendations

Why Was This Change Needed?