**Guidance for Professionals re Bairnshoose Project**

**The Bairnshoose Project wants to hear from children, young people and families who have experience of the child protection and/or justice systems in Scotland**.

Information about this project is being shared with professionals who have a role within these systems, e.g.

* Police and social worker who undertake a JII (Joint Investigative Interview)
* Paediatrician, physician, other health professionals who undertake medical examination or evaluation for child protection/justice processes
* Social worker, pastoral care teacher, support workers from a wide range of organisations that offer support/advocacy through the justice process or support to recover

**What is a Barnahus/Bairnshoose:**

Barnahus (which literally means Children’s House) is a child-friendly, interdisciplinary and multi-agency centre for child victims and witnesses. Barnahus is internationally recognised as an evidence-based model of excellence for children and families. The Barnahus model was developed to make sure the legal system responds to the specific needs of children about whom there is suspicion that they have been subjected to violence or abuse.

There are two key aims of any Barnahus: -

1. To ensure that children and young people who have been exposed to various types of abuse and crime receive appropriate assessment, treatment and support from the moment they disclose abuse.
2. To avoid subjecting children to multiple interviews by different agencies in different locations.

Bairnshoose is the name used by Children 1st to conceptualise the Barnahus model for Scotland. The ambition of Bairnshoose is transformational change for children, young people and their families when they experience child protection and justice processes.

**Bairnshoose Participation Project:**

The Bairnshoose Participation project aims to engage with and amplify the voices of children and young people who have experience of child protection and justice processes, to enable them to be part of transformational change.

To achieve this, we will create opportunities for children and young people, alongside their parents/carers to give their feedback and have their views heard, in a range of ways.

We know that many young people are keen to share their experiences and offer feedback on this and that their motivation is often that they would like to ensure that the experience is improved for other young people in the future.

**Gathering views and Feedback from Young People:**

We have developed a range of accessible, safe, child friendly and trauma sensitive and empowering ways in which children and young people can give their views and feedback. Children and young people can choose to share their experience and give feedback: -

* face to face (when permitted),
* via video/phone chat
* or via a feedback pack that can be sent to their homes.

**Connecting with Children & Young People with stories to share:**

We have already gathered feedback from a number of young people. However, we know that there are many more young people who have experience of our current Scottish child protection and justice processes, who could give feedback if they were told about our project.

**We hope you will be able to help us by telling children, young people and parents and carers about the project and inviting them to take part**

We are keen to hear from children of varying ages, ethnicities, abilities and experiences at various points on their journey.

We appreciate that there may be children or young people for whom participating in this project may not be in their best interest, due to the context or trauma in their lives, and rely on other professionals to use their judgement.

At all times, Bairnshoose workers will work ethically and with consideration of children’s and families individual support needs.

**Referral to the project:**

If you are in contact with a child, young person or parent or carer, as a result of a child protection investigation or within the justice process, we would ask you to: -

* give them a copy of the Bairnshoose leaflet to keep
* let them know the different methods to participate (on leaflet)
* ask if they would be willing to be contacted by Claire, the Children1st worker
* if they agree, complete a request for follow up form and send this to Claire (details on the request form)
* If the young person or their a parent/carer prefers, they can take the leaflet and contact Claire directly
* We are also very happy to receive enquiries. If you or the family would like any further information before making a request for follow up, please contact: -

Claire O’Donnell, Project Worker

Text or Call Mobile: 07920531525

Office: 01750-22892

Email: bairnshoose@children1st.org.uk