

2022 FOLLOW UP QUESTION Q5 - S DAVIES

5. We note that you advise on page 146 of your Part C response that there were no policy reviews following any specific investigation. Are you able to advise if any significant or serious case review or internal practice review was carried out after the convictions referred to in your response? If not, why not? If so, are you able to advise us of the lessons learned and shared and provide us with a copy of the findings?

No, as far as the Council are aware no serious case review or internal practice review was carried out after the convictions referred to.

The charges and subsequent convictions took place in 2018, some fourteen years after Ms Davies resigned from her role as a foster carer. Ms Davies faced de-registration in May 2003 and resigned prior to this. Prior to Ms Davies resignation, the Council had assessed that it was not appropriate to place children in Ms Davies care, due to concerns about her ability to offer the level of care required for our children. Ms Davies had not fostered any children since 2003.

In the period that followed Ms Davies ceasing to foster children, policy and practice guidance led to much more robust scrutiny of and support to our foster carers. For this reason, the practice within this area had changed significantly. It was therefore felt that a formal case review was not necessary at this time.

The National Care Standards are a set of standards for care services in Scotland. They were set up by the Scottish Government, as required by the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001. The standards were devised after consultation with service providers, service users, various expert bodies and individuals, and the public. The standards are subject to regular review and revision as necessary. They were first published in September 2002 but formally revised in 2005 and then 2011.

The Council's current scrutiny processes for the assessment and approval of carers are now much different and greatly improved with the safety of children at the core; the management of concerns and complaints in relation to carers conduct and care of children is also well established; children who make complaints regarding the care they receive from foster carers are now supported through a formal complaints process and initial referral discussion (multi-agency meeting when there are allegations of harm/potential harm against a child) if allegations merit this. The interagency referral discussion is the formal stage in child protection proceedings where social work discusses with police, health and education, child protection concerns and make decisions on action needed.

The Council's Local Operating Procedure for Initial Case Review and Significant Case Review 2017 – 2021 was superseded on 2 September 2021 and the Council now use the National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews included herewith Q5 S Davies Annex C and evidence documents Q5 S Davies 01-04:

- 01. Local Operating Procedure for ICR and SCR
- 02. National Guidance Child Protection Committees
- 03. National Guidance Annex-1-2-1
- 04. National Guidance Resources

The role of supervising social workers is to oversee and ensure foster carers are providing the care they should be and there are also mandatory expectations on carers regarding training with their 'registration' as carers being considered on an annual basis via Foster Carer Reviews.

Views on the care offered by foster carers are also sought from the multi-agency team around the child. The team around the child is dependent on the age of the child e.g. children and family social worker (and possibly child practitioner), community midwife/health visitor/school nurse, nurse/teacher via Looked After Children's Reviews and also parental views are sought formally prior to any Looked After Children's Review but also for the carer's Foster Carer Review.

The Council's current practice around the recruitment, assessment, and supervision of foster carers as referenced above is included in our follow-up response of 14/02/2022, Q5 - 5.8 + 5.13 ACC Annex C and evidence documents Q5 - 5.8 + 5.13 Current Practice 01 – 08:

- 01 Form F Pre-Approval Assessment
- 02 Foster Carer Chronology
- 03 Foster Carer CPD Portfolio 2022
- 04 Foster Carer Handbook
- 05 Prospective Foster Carer's Homework Book
- 06 Referral and Initial Interview Form
- 07 Schedule 3- Placement Enquiry Form
- 08 AFC Training Calendar January - June 2022