

Part A – Background

1. Characteristics

1.1 History of the Local Authority

- a) Over the period from 1930 to date, please provide details of the predecessor authorities for the local authority area for which the authority is now responsible, and the time periods during which these authorities were the responsible authority for the area, or any part thereof.

Name of body	Covering dates	Districts covered
East Dunbartonshire Council	1996-current	Kirkintilloch, Lenzie, Bishopbriggs, Bearsden, Milngavie, Lennoxton, Baldernock, Torrance , Twechar
Strathclyde Regional Council	1975-1996	Kirkintilloch, Lenzie, Bishopbriggs, Bearsden, Milngavie, Lennoxton, Baldernock, Torrance , Twechar
Bearsden and Milngavie District Council	1975-1996	Bearsden , Milngavie
Strathkelvin District Council	1975-1996	Kirkintilloch , Bishopbriggs , Torrance Lennoxton, Twechar
Stirling County Council	1930-1975	Campsie , Baldernock , Torrance
Lanark County Council	1930-1975	Bishopbriggs and South Lenzie
Dumbarton County Council	1930-1975	Kirkintilloch , Twechar, Bearsden , Milngavie
Kirkintilloch and Cumbernauld District Council	1930-1975	Kirkintilloch, Twechar
New Kilpatrick District Council	1930-1975	Bearsden, Milngavie
Lanark Ninth District Council	1930-1975	Bishopbriggs, South Lenzie
Stirling Western no 3 District Council (Campsie and Baldernock)	1930-1975	Campsie, Baldernock , Torrance
Kirkintilloch District Joint Committee	1930-1948	Kirkintilloch
New Kilpatrick Joint Committee for Social Welfare Services	1930-1948	Bearsden, Milngavie
Kirkintilloch Burghs (Barony Burgh 1211-1908, Police Burgh 1836-1975)	1211-1975	Kirkintilloch
Bishopbriggs Burgh	1964-1975	Bishopbriggs
Milngavie Burgh	1875-1975	Milngavie
Bearsden Burgh	1958-1975	Bearsden

All subsequent references to “local authority” mean the local authority and its statutory predecessors.

All references to “foster care” include boarding out with private families.

b) When and how did the local authority become involved in the provision of foster care for children in Scotland?

The Local Authority has been designated with varying forms of legal responsibility for the care, welfare and protection of children under different legislative frameworks at specific periods across the timespan in scope. It undertook the provision of boarding out and fostering children as part of a wider range of duties and functions which are consistent with other Scottish local authorities in this period. This is described by Norrie (2017): “PART TWO: Regulatory Structures governing particular types of accommodation. SECTION A: Boarding-out and Fostering of Children”.

https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf

Between 1930 and 1948, approval was received from the Secretary of State for Council schemes covering Education, Lunacy and Mental Deficiency, Public Assistance and Public Health. Councils were responsible for providing Public Assistance (formerly under the Poor Law (Scotland) Act 1845) encompassing the care, welfare and protection of children under the legal framework of the Children Act 1908, the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Acts of 1932 and 1937, and the Children Act 1948.

Dumbarton County Council, for example, delegated oversight of these responsibilities to Public Assistance Committee (renamed the Social Welfare Committee in 1943) and Education Committee until 1948. There is evidence that the Public Assistance Committee considered and implemented guidance within national circulars (e.g. It then established a Children’s Committee to deal with local implementation of the duties and powers within the 1948 Act. Lanark County Council and Stirling County Council made similar provisions.

- **Dumbarton County Council Public Assistance Committee – 20 April 1931**
- **Dumbarton County Council - 10 April 1943**
- **Dumbarton County Council Social Welfare Committee - 9 August 1948**

Regulations under the governing legislation during this period were

- from 1st November 1933, the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Care and Training Regulations 1933
- from 20th October 1947, the Children (Boarding-Out etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1947, and
- from 1st August 1959, the Boarding – Out of Children (Scotland) Regulations, 1959

Norrie (2017) reports that the “Boarding-out of Children (Scotland) Regulations, 1959 continued to apply until 1st April 1986, when they were revoked and replaced by the Boarding-out and Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1985. While the 1959 Regulations were based on the understanding that boarding out was a long-term solution, the 1985 Regulations perceived fostering as a temporary placement, reflecting the shift presaged by the 1968 Act from replacement families to short-term non-institutional care. This is probably why the provisions in the 1959 Regulations permitting boarding-out outside Scotland and allowing the Secretary of State to limit the number of children boarded out in particular areas, were not repeated in the 1985 Regulations”.

“One of the major innovations in the 1985 Regulations was the requirement on care authorities to establish fostering panels, whose functions were to “consider every person referred to it by the care authority as a prospective foster parent” and to make

recommendations to the care authority as to the suitability of such a person to act as a foster parent either for any child, any category of child or any particular child”.

“The other major innovation in the 1985 Regulations was that the care authority became obliged to enter into an agreement with approved foster parents regarding the care to be provided for any children who might be placed with them, including details of the financial arrangements; the care authority’s policies and practice regarding the welfare of children for whom it had responsibility, the ways foster parents would be expected to follow these policies and practices and the assistance to be provided by the care authority to that effect; and the arrangements made by the care authority to review “at appropriate intervals” its approval of foster parents for the purposes of the regulations”

Three pieces of legislation imposed statutory duties on the local authority between 1995 and 2014: the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (“the 1995 Act”), the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 and Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011. The 1995 Act introduced the concepts of the Looked After Child and Corporate Parenting. Following the 1995 Act’s implementation, the Boarding-out and Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1985 were revoked and replaced by the Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996 on 1 April 1996. On the same date, the Arrangements to Look After Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996 came into force. These regulations required local authorities to make a care plan for each child looked after by them (whether in foster care, in a residential establishment, or otherwise).

With the coming into force of the current regulations, the Looked After (Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009, on 28 September 2009, Wilkinson and Norrie (quoted in Norrie 2017) observed that “there has been no limitation on the type of family structure that potential foster carers can belong to and foster carers are assessed as suitable according to their own merits, without legally specified preconceptions about their lifestyles.”

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced provisions to better ensure permanence planning for looked after children. It also extended the provision of after-care support to care leavers by the local authority (termed “Continuing Care”) until the care leaver reached the age of 25 years.

c) How has the involvement of the local authority in the provision of foster care changed/developed over time?

See response to 1.1 b)

1.2 Funding of Foster Care

Past

a) How were the local authority’s operations and activities, so far as relating to the provision of foster care, funded?

Throughout the period under review, the local authority has mainly relied on central funding to enable it to provide foster care.

Prior to the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, parents of children in the care of the local authority would be assessed as to their ability to contribute to their child(ren)’s maintenance when placed in the care of the local authority.

There is reference in the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937 and the Children Act 1948 to “grants paid to local authorities “and to “monies provided by parliament to local authorities” to support the carrying out of their duties under these Acts.

Norrie (2017) at page 38 describes how, following the introduction of the Children and Young Persons Act 1932, fostering became “a major component of state care”. He states further “committal to a fit person was possible for any child or young person who was in need of care and protection or who had committed an offence. Every Education Authority was deemed a fit person with the Treasury bearing the cost.” and that the only mechanism available to them was “to board them out with private families- in other words, fostering.”

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/1935-03-20/debates/b5ac3e1d-76fd-4e1e-9dcb-a01f12c89bf8/Scotland>

Local Authorities undertook a budget-setting process every year whereby the Council decided on the funds to be allocated from the central allocation to individual committees/departments in respect of specified statutory services, including boarding-out or fostering. Lanark County Council records show that boarding-out allowances could vary between one district and the next.

- Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee – 3 September 1930
- Lanark County Council Finance Committee - 16 September 1959

b) To what extent, if any, did the local authority provide funding to other organisations for the purposes of provision of foster care?

1930-75

Under poor law/public assistance/Children’s Act provisions, children “boarded out” in other local authorities were chargeable to the responsible LA.

- Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee – 3 September 1930

1975-96

On 5 April 1976 the Social Work Committee of Strathclyde Regional Council approved recommendations of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) regarding supervision of children placed in other regions. Due to the lack of staff resources, it is noted that many authorities were unable at that time to accept responsibility for supervision of Strathclyde Regional Council children. The Western Isles Council offered to provide supervision for a fee of £100 a year. It was agreed that the same arrangements be made with other receiving authorities to enable them to accept similar responsibilities.

- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee – 5 April 1976

1996-2014

East Dunbartonshire Council commissioned placements from independent fostering companies, such as Foster Care Associates. From 2012, commissioning was arranged through a national framework.

- Scotland Excel (2012) Foster Care Services 26-10 Framework Agreement

c) If funding was provided by the local authority to other organisations for the provision of foster care, to whom was it provided, when was it provided and what criteria were applicable to its provision?

1930-96

When children were boarded out in other local authorities under public assistance provisions, the costs associated with funding those placement were re-charged in arrears

to the placing local authority. Under Regulation 21 of the Poor Law (Scotland) Regulations 1934, the placing authority was required to agree supervision arrangements with the host authority.

- Dumbarton County Council Public Assistance Committee – 11 September 1939

At their meeting on 5 April 1977, Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee considered a report by the Director of Social Work and agreed recommendations made by COSLA about the supervision of children placed in other regions. It was agreed that Strathclyde Regional Council would continue to be responsible for fostering allowances for children out-with their area, paying it either directly or on an agency basis per the receiving authority.

The arrangements for supervision were that:

- the receiving authority should accept responsibility for the effective supervision of children received within their area;
 - social workers from both care and receiving authorities should meet at least annually to review the progress of the child and continually plan for his/her long-term future; and
 - should exchange quarterly reports to cover the development and wellbeing of the child and the changing circumstance of his/her own home situation.
- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee – 5 April 1977

1996-2014

East Dunbartonshire Council provided funding to independent fostering agencies to provide placements via standard commissioning arrangements and subsequently through a national framework agreement. The Independent fostering agency was responsible for paying the foster carers.

- Scotland Excel (2012) Foster Care Services 26-10 Framework Agreement

d) To what extent was financial state support available to foster carers? How were foster carers made aware of that state support? How was that state support accessed by foster carers (e.g. directly or via the local authority)?

Foster carers were able to claim financial state support in the form of benefits and grants when they met the criteria for accessing such support laid out by the UK Benefits Agency and its predecessors.

There is evidence that foster carers were formally provided with information about such financial state support by Strathclyde Regional Council between 1975 and 1996; and by East Dunbartonshire Council between 1996 and 2014.

- Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Carers Handbook, 1976, pp14-21
- EDC Fostering Procedures & Operational Guidance 2011, section 15

e) To what extent was financial support from the local authority available to foster carers?

National :

Section 88(3) of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937 states that “An Education Authority may board out children and young persons committed to their care for such periods and on such terms as to payment and otherwise as they think fit...”

Local:

Throughout the period of the Inquiry, East Dunbartonshire Council and its predecessors made funding available for foster carers in line with the regulations and policy applying at the time.

1930-1948

Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee minutes show that that boarding-out allowances could vary between one district and the next.

- Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee – 3 September 1930

1948 –1975

There is evidence that East Dunbartonshire's predecessors operated on the basis of a common policy and financial framework in this period.

At their meeting on 24 October 1962, Lanark County Council's Children's Committee considered a report on Boarding-Out allowances by the Association of Counties of Cities in Scotland (ACCS). The ACCS recommended to its constituent cities that they increase the scale of allowances for the maintenance, clothing and pocket money in respect of children boarded out with foster parents. The Children's Committee decided to increase weekly maintenance allowances (including school meals) to 45/-, retain current levels for clothing allowances, and set pocket money levels for four age-group bands: 0-5 (1/-), 5-9 (2/-), 10-12 (3/-) and 13-15 (5/-).

Stirling County Council reviewed the Boarding-out allowance they paid to foster parents in October 1962, and decided to increase the weekly allowance to 40/-.

Dumbarton County Council's Children's Committee discussed a similar report from the Scottish Children's Officers' Association at its meeting on 7 January the following year. The minute noted that it detailed the Boarding-Out allowances paid by different authorities in Scotland, and that the Committee agreed to increase maintenance allowances to 45/- per week. It was also agreed that the County Children's Officer be given discretion to pay extra allowance where required. The Committee otherwise considered specific funding requests for holidays, training courses, etc.: for example, on 1 October that year, they approved a foster parent's request to fund a place for a child on an "educational cruise" on the school ship Dunera.

- Lanark County Council Children's Committee – 24 October 1962
- Stirling County Council Children's Committee – 9 October 1962
- Dumbarton County Council Children's Committee – 7 January 1963
- Dumbarton County Council Children's Committee – 1 October 1963

1975-1996

The Foster Parents Handbook (1976) states that foster parents have the right to a weekly maintenance allowance for children in their care, and other financial help to minimise out of pocket expenses. The child's social worker to explain the procedure for receiving extra help where appropriate. This might be in the form of enhanced allowance for difficult children or in special circumstance. There are also discretionary payments which are paid on application. Allowances to which foster parents have a right include payment for school uniforms, extraordinary travelling expenses for attending a hospital, and allowances which help the child develop any special interests or talent.

Other grants include Christmas; birthdays, holiday grant, also other costs; travel to hospital; provision of tools for work; playgroup fees, sports or youth club.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Parents Handbook (1976)</u> <p>1996-2014 Fostering procedures published in 2011 outline the maintenance allowances paid to foster carers at section 15.2. Foster carers could be paid an additional fee, where one of them was not in paid employment, in order to provide additional support to a pre-school child or child with additional support needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Procedures and Guidance (2011)</u>
<p>f) If financial support was available, what was the source of those funds (i.e. from local or central government)? What criteria did the local authority apply to the distribution of such funds?</p>
<p>See response to 1.2 (e)</p>
<p>g) How were foster carers made aware of any financial support available from the local authority? How was that financial support accessed by foster carers?</p>
<p>1930-1975 It is not known how foster carers were made aware of any financial support available from the local authority. No direct evidence found within available documents produced by predecessor local authorities.</p> <p>1975-1996 Foster carers were made aware of financial support available to them from the local authority and how that support was accessed through communications produced by Strathclyde Regional Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Parents Handbook (1976)</u> <p>1930-1996 The foster carer could access discretionary funding in addition to fees and allowances on the basis of the child's needs and eligibility.</p> <p>The Poor Law (Scotland) Regulations (1934) (Regulation 18 and 19) instructed placing local authorities to ensure that, in addition to the maintenance allowance, boarded out children had adequate clothing, footwear and any medical requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Western No.3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Poor Relief Register - No.542</u> <p>The responsibility for meeting additional financial needs in respect of ensuring the child's wellbeing was reflected in subsequent regulations and local policy. Foster parents applied for additional funding to the Children's Officer and applications were approved or rejected by the Children's Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Dumbarton County Council Children's Committee - 1 October 1963</u> <p>Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Parents Handbook (1976) lists the following examples at p.16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music lessons or instruments • Horse Riding and equipment • Dancing lessons

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club uniforms • Spectacles or special footwear • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Parents Handbook (1976)</u> <p>1996-2014 Foster carers were made aware of financial support available to them from the local authority by way of fees and allowances and how that support was accessed through communications produced by East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Procedures & Guidance (2011).</u>
<p>h) What other sources of funding were available to foster carers in relation to the provision of care for children?</p>
<p>1930-2014 Not known. No information found in available documents.</p>
<p>i) Was the funding adequate to properly care for the children?</p>
<p>1930-1948 There is evidence that funding levels were reviewed and adjusted in respect of the individual child's needs and the foster carer's circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Western No.3 (Campsie & Baldernock) District Council – 10 December 1945</u> <p>1948-1975 As per 1.2 (b), there is evidence from relevant committee minutes throughout the period under review that local authority committees supported recommendations from national representative bodies on appropriate funding levels.</p> <p>1975-1996 COSLA was established as the representative body for local government in 1975, and the trend for the Local Authority to adhere to recommendation for funding levels made by representative bodies continued during this period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee - 5 April 1977</u> <p>1996-2014 East Dunbartonshire Council set fostering allowances annually, in line with recommendations made by National Foster Care Association/National Fostering Network. Where fees were paid in addition to the allowance (see 1.2 (e)), it was agreed a retainer would be paid for a specified period of time when the placement was unused.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee – 5 March 1998 DSSW/011/98/AM</u> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Procedures & Guidance (2011) - section 15.5</u>
<p>j) If not, why not?</p>
<p>As noted at 1.2 (i), the evidence in the minutes of East Dunbartonshire Council and predecessor local authorities indicates that the local authority reviewed and increased allowances annually in line with the levels of funding which national representative bodies recommended were required, or adjusted allowances to reflect additional funds were required to meet a change in individual circumstances.</p>

Present
a) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?
NO
b) If so, please give details.
1.3 <u>Legal Status</u>
Past
a) What was the legal basis which authorised or enabled the local authority to become responsible for the provision of foster care for children in Scotland?
See response to 1.1 (a) and 1.1 (b). Professor Norrie sets out the legislative framework from 1933 to present day https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf
b) Did that legal basis require the local authority to meet, or fulfil, any legal and/or regulatory requirements in respect of children in its care? If so, please give details.
Yes. See response to 1.1 (a) and 1.1 (b). The most significant regulations included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Care and Training Regulations 1933 • Poor Relief Regulations (Scotland) 1934 • Children (Boarding-Out etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 1947, and • Boarding-Out of Children (Scotland) Regulations, 1959 • Boarding-Out and Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1985 • Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996 • Arrangements to Look After Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996 • Support and Assistance of Young People Leaving Care (Scotland) Regulations 2003 • Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009
c) Did the local authority have a legal duty of care to each child in its care?
Yes. See response to 1.1 (a) and 1.1 (b).
Present
d) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?
No

e) If so, please give details.
(ii) Foster carers
Past
a) Did foster carers have a special legal, statutory or other status?
No
b) If not, how did the local authority classify a foster carer?
<p>The local authority classified a foster carer in terms of the legislation and regulations in force at the time.</p> <p>The Children (Boarding-out) (Scotland) Rules and Regulations 1947 defined a “foster - parent” as “a husband and wife, or a woman, with whom a child is boarded out by a local authority.”</p> <p>The Looked-After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 does not contain any directions on the type of family structure that potential foster carers must belong to, and foster carers are assessed as suitable according to their own merits (Norrie 2017) https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p>
c) What was the legal basis which authorised, or enabled, a foster carer to become responsible for caring for children?
<p>This was based on the legislation applicable at the time and on the regulations made thereunder. https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p>
d) Did that legal basis require a foster carer to meet, or fulfil, any legal and/or regulatory requirements in respect of children in his or her care? If so, please give details.
<p>Yes .See response to 1.3 (ii) (c) https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p>
e) Did the foster carer have a legal duty of care to each child in his or her care?
<p>Yes.</p> <p>According to the Children (Boarding-out etc.) (Scotland) Rules and Regulations 1947, “foster- parents shall accordingly bring up a child placed by the local authority in their custody as one of their own children and devote to this duty the care which good parents give to their children”.</p>

Present
f) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?
<p>No. Foster parents do not currently .have a special legal, statutory or other status.</p> <p>As stated in <u>East Dunbartonshire Council's Fostering Procedures and Operational Guidance (2014)</u> at S.2.3.2: Individual Foster Carers are not registered and inspected by the Care Inspectorate which has the task of inspecting fostering services rather than individuals. This is in contrast to childminders, who are required to be registered and inspected by the Care Inspectorate. https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/register-a-care-service/register-a-childminding-service Additionally, Foster Carers are not included in the list of roles required to register with the Scottish Social Services Council https://www.sssc.uk.com/registration/help-with-register-parts-fees-and-qualifications/</p>
g) If so, please give details.
1.4 <u>Legal Responsibility</u>
Past
a) Did the local authority have any legal responsibility for the children in its care?
Yes, see response at 1.1 (b).
b) If so, what was the nature and extent of that legal responsibility?
The Local Authority's legal responsibilities are those laid out in the relevant statutes and the regulations that pertained at the time. See response at 1.1 (a) and 1.1 (b).
c) Did any other person or organisation have any legal responsibility for the children while they were in the local authority's care?
Parents who retained parental rights for their child(ren) continued to have some legal responsibility for their child(ren) while they were in the care of the local authority.
d) If so, what was the nature and extent of that responsibility?
1930-68

<p>Dumbarton County Council minutes attest that parents retained financial responsibility for their children's keep when they were in care. Relevant committees had regular discussions about the rate of parental contributions as well as of individual cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Dumbarton County Council Public Assistance Committee – 13 November 1934</u> <p>The Children & Young Persons Act (1963) at Section 48 advised that the local authority could assume parental rights and responsibilities for a child when certain criteria are met, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the child has been orphaned by the death of both parents • When the child has been in care continuously for 3 years • When the child's parents were incapable or unfit, whether by health or mode of life or abandonment, or persistent and unreasonable failure to fulfil parental duty <p>In practical terms, parents' consent was required for medical treatment, and for the child to leave the country for a foreign holiday. Where the local authority had assumed parental rights for a child, the birth parents continued to have rights up until the child's 18th birthday in respect of consent to/consultation in respect of the child's proposed adoption, emigration and change of religious belief.</p> <p>1968-2014</p> <p>The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 refers to the 'rights and powers' of parents but does not define these. Parental rights and responsibilities are now as defined in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Parents Handbook, 1976, p51</u> 	
e)	If the local authority had no legal responsibility for children in its care, where or with whom did legal responsibility lie?
Not applicable.	
Present	
f)	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?
No.	
g)	If so, please give details.
(i) Foster carers	
Past	
a)	Did the foster carer have any separate legal responsibility (separate from the local authority) for children in his or her care?
Yes, prior to The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.	
b)	If so, what was the nature of that responsibility?

<p>Professor Norrie advises that</p> <p><i>"In terms of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1932, the person to whose power the boy or girl is committed shall, whilst the order is in force, have the same rights and powers, and be subject to the same liabilities in respect of his or her maintenance, as if he were his or her parent. The Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937 replicated this provision. The provision was repealed in the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and no equivalent provision was enacted."</i></p> <p><i>"From 1968 decision making powers relating to children in care rested with the local authority and foster carer's powers have been traced to and constrained by the applicable regulations."</i></p> <p><i>In terms of the Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996, "to foster was stated to mean to "arrange for a child to live as a member of the family of a person who is not a parent, does not have parental responsibilities in respect of the child and who is not a relevant person in relation to the child and who undertakes to look after the child other than in accordance with the Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations 1996."</i></p> <p>https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p>
Present
c) With reference to the present position, are the answers to either of the above questions different?
No.
d) If so, please give details.
1.5 <u>Ethos</u>
Past
a) What did the local authority see as its function, ethos and/or objective in terms of the foster care service it provided for children?
<p>The local authority's view on its function, ethos and/or objective in terms of the foster care service it provided for children throughout the period of the review was determined by the governing legislation and implications for practice reflected in the accompanying regulations. This is described by Norrie (2017). See 1.1 (b)</p> <p>https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p>
1996-2014
<p>East Dunbartonshire's views on its function, ethos and objective in terms of children's services including foster care are outlined in a series of reports to the Social Work Committee in the initial period following the establishment of the Council. These views were explicitly informed by the principles and provisions of the Children (Scotland) Act (1995).</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee - 01/10/1996 (DSW/63/96/AK)</u> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee - 04/02/1997 (DSW/09/97/AH)</u> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee - 04/02/1997 (DSW/10/97/AH)</u> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee - 30/10/1997 (DSW/80/9/SG)</u>
<p>b) What did the local authority see as the foster carer's function, ethos and/or objective in terms of the service that the foster carer provided to children placed with him or her?</p>
<p>The local authority's view on the foster carer's function, ethos and/or objective in terms of the service that the foster carer provided to children placed with him or her throughout the period of the review was determined by the governing legislation and accompanying regulations. See Norrie (2017) and 1.1 (b)</p> <p>https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p> <p>1975-1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Parents Handbook (1976)</u>
<p>c) Were there changes over time in terms of what the local authority saw as its function, ethos and/or objective in terms of the foster care service it provided for children?</p>
<p>The local authority's view on its function, ethos and/or objective in terms of the foster care service it provided for children throughout the period of the review was determined by the governing legislation and implications for practice reflected in the accompanying regulations. This is described by Norrie (2017). See 1.1 (b)</p> <p>https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p>
<p>d) If so, what were the changes and when and why did they come into effect?</p>
<p>The local authority's view on its function, ethos and/or objective in terms of the foster care service it provided for children throughout the period of the review was determined by changes in the national view of the function, ethos and/or objective in terms of foster care which were reflected in the introduction of new legislation and regulations as is described by Norrie (2017). See 1.1 (b)</p> <p>https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p>
<p>e) Were there changes over time in terms of what the local authority saw as the foster carer's function, ethos and/or objective in terms of the service that the foster carer provided to children placed with him or her?</p>
<p>The local authority's view on the foster carer's function, ethos and/or objective throughout the period of the review was determined by the governing legislation and implications for practice reflected in the accompanying regulations. This is described by Norrie (2017). See 1.1 (b)</p> <p>https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p>

f)	If so, what were the changes and when and why did they come into effect?
	<p>The local authority's view on the foster carer's function, ethos and/or objective throughout the period of the review was determined by changes in the national view of the function, ethos and/or objective in terms of the service provided by the foster carer which were reflected in the introduction of new legislation and regulations as is described by Norrie (2017). See 1.1 (b)</p> <p>https://www.childabuseinquiry.scot/media/1892/norrie_legislative-background-to-the-treatment-of-childrenyoungpeople-bmd-181017.pdf</p>
	Present
g)	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?
	<p>Yes. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced provisions to extend the provision of after-care support to care leavers by the local authority (termed "Continuing Care") until the care leaver reached the age of 25 years. As stated in <u>East Dunbartonshire Council's Continuing Care Procedures and Operational Guidance (2019)</u> at S 1.2:</p> <p><i>The changes introduced by the 2014 Act reflect the principles and philosophy of care set out in the Scottish Government's <u>Staying Put Scotland</u> guidance of October 2013. This stressed the importance of positively delaying the age of leaving care, and corporate parents' duty to encourage, enable and empower young people to remain in safe, supported environments for as long they need to.</i></p> <p>The new provisions require Foster Carers who agree to provide a Continuing Care placement to be reviewed and approved as Foster Carers- Continuing Care by the Fostering Panel at their annual review.</p>
h)	If so, please give details.
	See 1.5 (g)
	1.6 Numbers
	(i) Local authority
	Past
a)	How many children did the local authority accommodate at a time in foster care and in how many placements?
	<p>1930-1948</p> <p>Not known. Although the County Public Assistance/Social Welfare Committees kept assiduous records in respect of boarded-out children under poor relief arrangements, these records did not identify whether these children were East Dunbartonshire children. Additionally, information on children in the care of the Education Authority was not reported as systematically to the responsible Education Sub-Committee.</p> <p>In July 1930, Lanark County Council Public Assistance Inspector reported that 50 children were currently "boarded out with strangers", including one child from Western District 9 (Bishopbriggs). The Public Assistance Committee was provided with a list of all chargeable cases at each meeting, and reports on special cases.</p>

- Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee – 9 July 1930
- Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee – 3 September 1930

Dumbarton County Council Public Assistance/Social Welfare Committees were provided with a standard report on all children boarded out with foster families and in institutions at each Committee meeting, and more detailed reports on special cases requiring Committee approval. The Education General Sub-Committee on the other hand only received ad hoc reports on individual cases.

- Dumbarton County Council Public Assistance Committee – 11 September 1933
- Dumbarton County Council Education General Sub-Committee – 1 September 1943
- Dumbarton County Council Social Welfare Committee – 22 August 1947

Stirling County Western No.3 District Council took a regular update reports on all children boarded-out in private dwellings under public assistance provisions: numbers were small, varying between 2 and 6 at any one time.

- Western No.3 (Campsie & Baldernock) District Council - 10 October 1938
- Western No.3 (Campsie & Baldernock) District Council – 13 November 1939
- Western No.3 (Campsie & Baldernock) District Council – 14 October 1940

It is not known how many placements altogether East Dunbartonshire children were accommodated in during this time period. No evidence has been found in the records of Dumbarton County Council, Lanark County Council and Stirling County Council that data on the number of foster placements used by local authorities was systematically collected/reported at this time.

1948-75

169 children are listed as being boarded out with private families by Lanark County Council in 1949.

135 children were boarded out by Stirling County Council in 1964.

- Lanark County Council Children's Committee - 8 March 1949
- Stirling County Council Children's Committee - 2 March 1964.

1975-1996

17 children from the Glasgow (North) area (which included East Dunbartonshire) who were on a supervision requirement were in foster placements on 31 March 1977.

- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee – 5 April 1977

1996-2014

An electronic register of EDC foster carers and placements between 2010 and 2014 remains on file. This register was updated weekly. The number of placements in use at any one time varied from week to week. The figures given here are extracted from the register entries for one week in December of each year.

Weekly total as at	Registered Carers	Children in placement	Placements			
			Respite	Short-term	Permanent	All
22/12/2010	16	20	5	4	16	25
08/12/2011	17	20	4	8	13	25
21/12/2012	18	17	3	7	17	27
20/12/2013	16	16	2	6	15	23
19/12/2014	15	20	2	8	10	20

b) How many foster carers were approved/registered by the local authority at any given time? How many placements for children did this represent? How many placements were in use at any given time?				
1930-1996 Not known. No information has been found about the number of approved/registered foster carers living within East Dunbartonshire/providing placements to East Dunbartonshire's children in the records of Dumbarton County Council, Lanark County Council, Stirling County Council and Strathclyde Regional Council.				
1996-2014 In 1997, East Dunbartonshire Social Work Committee heard that, because Glasgow City Council had retained all foster carers residing in the East Dunbartonshire area, "Following reorganisation, East Dunbartonshire Social Work Department was in the difficult position of having no family placement resources". Officers proposed and described a significant project to develop an East Dunbartonshire service.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee - 4 February 1997 (DSW/10/97/AH)</u> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee - 30 October 1997 (DSSW/080/9/SG)</u> 				
East Dunbartonshire's Adoption and Fostering Panel records show that 6 foster carers were registered in 2002, with 2 registered for fostering and respite and 1 registered for respite only.				
See also table at 1.6 (i) (a)				
c) If foster carers were approved/registered by the local authority as providing only specific types of care – e.g. respite care, short-term foster care, long-term foster care – please provide details of the categories and the numbers of placements in each.				
1930-75 No evidence within available documents produced by predecessor local authorities				
1975-96 Figures in a report to Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee in October 1990 provide data on children in care across the region between 1986 and 1990. The table shows the number of children in foster care.				
	Year	Temporary Fostering	Permanent Fostering	All Children in care
	1986	788	912	3859
	1988	736	585	3430
	1989	687	496	3135
	1990	506	436	3044
The report also provides a breakdown of the number of children in foster care in the different areas of region in 1990. The table shows the figures for the areas which include East Dunbartonshire:				
Regional area	Temporary Fostering	Permanent Fostering	All Children in care	

Glasgow NE (includes Strathkelvin)	126	75	503
Glasgow NW (includes Bearsden)	68	36	283

- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee – Analysis of Children in Care, October 1990

1996-2014
See table at 1.6 (i) (a)

d) Please provide details of any material changes in numbers of children, placements or foster carers, and the reasons for those changes?

1930-1975
Not known

1975-1996
See 1.6.i c) for data trends between 1986 and 1990. Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee were told that the reduction of children in foster care (and in care overall) was a result of the region's policy initiatives to deal more effectively with children in need in the community. Countering this are figures which show a rise in the number of very young children requiring to be accommodated, which was thought to be linked to an increased level of child protection activity by the Social Work Department. Officers explained that, since the needs of such very young children are best met through foster placements, the Department planned to expand foster placement provision.

- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee – Analysis of Children in Care, October 1990

1996-2014
There is no information about material changes in numbers of children fostered during this period.

There have been material changes in the number of placements/foster carers. East Dunbartonshire had no family placement service of its own at disaggregation in 1996 and mounted a campaign to recruit carers in 1997, and succeeding years. As the table at 1.6 (i) (a) shows, by 2010, East Dunbartonshire had 16 carers and 25 placements by 2010.

- East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee - 30 October 1997 (DSSW/080/9/SG)

e) How many children in total were accommodated by the local authority (whether in foster care or otherwise)?

1930-1975
Not known.
Children resident in what is now East Dunbartonshire Council were accommodated by Dumbarton, Lanark or Stirling County Councils depending on the district they lived in. No information has been found which would allow the total number of children from the East Dunbartonshire area accommodated during this period to be identified with any confidence.

Stirling County Council registers record that 245 children were boarded out with strangers between 1934 and 1948, and 949 children were placed in foster care between 1949 and 1975

- SCC Children's Statistics 1.6.f

1975-1996

Not known.

The majority of case records for children from the East Dunbartonshire area who were accommodated by Strathclyde Regional Council during this period are stored by Glasgow City Archives under legacy arrangements: Glasgow City Archives advise that they are unable to provide information on how many of East Dunbartonshire children's records they hold.

1996-2014

346 children were accommodated by East Dunbartonshire Council in this period.

f) In general terms, was the main service provided by the local authority the provision of residential care for children in establishments, or was it the provision of foster care?

1930-1975

Information on the number of children looked after under the 1948 Act in Scotland per type of placement was reported in the UK parliament on 15 February 1949 (Hansard Vol 461) <https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/commons/1949/feb/15/child-care>. The Secretary of State for Scotland stated that, as at 15 November 1948, 5,623 children were boarded out in foster placements, whilst 2,592 were in local authority and voluntary children's homes. This suggests that twice as many children were placed in foster care as in residential care nationally. There was however local variation, exemplified by the figures reported by the three predecessor county councils during the same period:

County Council	Boarded Out	Residential	Total	Source
Dumbarton	61	32	93	<u>Dumbarton County Council Children's Committee – 18 October 1948</u>
Lanark	60	75	135	<u>Lanark County Council Children's Committee – 15 May 1948</u>
Stirling	169	202	371	<u>SCC Children's Statistics – 8 March 1949</u>

On 29 January 1959, Lanark County Children's Officer reported to the Children's Committee that 256 children were boarded out and that 133 were in residential care. On 2 March 1964, Stirling County Council Children's Committee heard that 135 children were boarded out and 94 placed in residential care by the local authority.

- Lanark County Council Children's Committee – 29 January 1959
- Stirling County Council Children's Committee – 2 March 1964

1975-1996

A report to Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee in 1977 listed the numbers of children within the region subject to panel supervision requirements who were living in each type of placement, and this information was also furnished in a report provided in 1990

- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee – 5 April 1977
- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee – Analysis of Children in Care, October 1990

1996-2014

The main service provided by East Dunbartonshire at disaggregation in 1996 was a 10 bedded residential care unit. By 2010, the main service being provided was foster care - See 1.6 i (b)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee -30 October 1997 (DSSW/080/9/SG)</u> 																								
Present																								
g) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?																								
Yes																								
h) If so, please give details.																								
See 1.6 i (c)																								
<p>The register of foster carers and placements kept by East Dunbartonshire Care Planning & Placement Team has been amended to include Continuing Care placements. Continuing care placements for young people between the ages of 18 and 26 have been introduced, in line with S.11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.</p>																								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Numbers as at</th> <th rowspan="2">Registered Carers</th> <th rowspan="2">Children in placement</th> <th colspan="4">Placements</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Respite</th> <th>Short-term</th> <th>Permanent</th> <th>Continuing Care</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>07/11/2019</td> <td>16</td> <td>27</td> <td>2</td> <td>9</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Numbers as at	Registered Carers	Children in placement	Placements				Respite	Short-term	Permanent	Continuing Care	07/11/2019	16	27	2	9	6	2
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Adoption & Fostering Panel Annual Report 2018-19</u> 																								
1.7 Children's Background/Experience																								
Past																								
a) Did the children placed in foster care generally have a shared background and/or shared experiences?																								
<p>Children who were placed in foster care between 1930 and 2014 were received into the care of the local authority because they had experienced some form of deficiency in care on the part of their birth parents, whether by accident or design. Otherwise their personal/family circumstances would have to have met the criteria for local authority intervention at the time. To this extent they can be said to have had a shared background/experiences.</p> <p>Dumbarton County Council minutes between 1930 and 1948 provide examples of children being placed because of the death of their mother; desertion of the family by their father; abandonment due to illegitimacy. Although poverty was undoubtedly a major factor in their family's troubles, there are also examples of children in other families affected by unemployment and homelessness (one family's address is simply recorded as "Tent") who are not taken into care – rather, the local authority tries to assist the whole family.</p>																								
b) Were children admitted into the care of the local authority, or were they admitted into the care of particular foster carers?																								
<p>Although, for example, a Children's Hearing may have required a child to reside with a particular foster carer under S70 of the 1995 Act, the child was looked after and accommodated by the local authority.</p>																								

<p>c) Who placed children with the local authority?</p>
<p>Under Section 25 of the 1995 Act, the child's parents could ask/agree to the local authority receiving the child into its care, or a Court/the Children's Hearing could make a formal order via an (interim) Child Protection Order/supervision requirement. These replicate similar provisions within the 1968 Act (e.g. Sections 15, 16 and 44), the Children Acts of 1963 and 1948, and before that the Poor Law Act 1934 and Education Act 1932</p>
<p>d) From 15 April 1971 (the date on which the Children's Hearing system was introduced), did the local authority receive children mainly through the Children's Hearing system?</p>
<p>1971-1975 No information is available within Dumbarton, Lanark & Stirling County Council records about children residing in the East Dunbartonshire area.</p> <p>1975-1996 In a report to Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee in 1990, the Director stated that a 'clear majority' of children were in care in the region under the Children's Hearing system. No information is available within Strathclyde Regional Council records about children residing in the East Dunbartonshire area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee – Analysis of Children in Care, October 1990</u> <p>1996-2014 According to information extracted from East Dunbartonshire's Carefirst database, 44% of children admitted to the care of the local authority during this period were subject to Children's Hearing legislation.</p>
<p>e) If not, generally how did children come to be admitted into the care of the local authority?</p>
<p>As per 1.7 (c)</p>
<p>f) How long did children typically remain in the care of the local authority?</p>
<p>1930- 1948 Not known No reports with this information have been found in Dumbarton or Lanark County Council records, or the records of Western No.3 (Campsie & Baldernock) District Council (the district of Stirling County which now lies within East Dunbartonshire)</p> <p>1948-1975 Not known No reports with this information have been found in Dumbarton, Lanark or Stirling County Council records.</p> <p>1975-1996 According to a report to Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee in 1990, a half of the children in care on 31 March 1986 had been in care for longer than three years. By comparison, roughly a third of those in care on 31 March 1990 had been in care for longer than 3 years.</p>

Year	Time in care			
	0-1 years	1-3 years	3-5 years	5+ years
1986	996	834	413	1401
1990	1046	932	357	700

- **Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Committee – Analysis of Children in Care, October 1990**

1996-2014
Data held on East Dunbartonshire's Carefirst database indicates that children looked after by the local authority between 1996 and 2014 were in care as per the table below.

Time in care			
0-1 years	1-3 years	3-5 years	5+ years
141	57	13	20

g) In respect of children who were admitted into the care of the local authority, who made the decision as to whether they should be placed in foster care?

Decision-making rested with the body or bodies given authority to make such decisions according to the legislation in force at the time.

1930-68
Where children's cases were subject of court hearings, and they were subsequently admitted to the care of the Education Authority, the court would determine the type of placement required. In other cases which fell within the remit of the Poor Relief regulations, recommendations on the most appropriate placement to meet the child(ren)'s needs were made by the Public Assistance Inspector for the County or District/County Children's Officer, and approved by the Public Assistance Committee or Children's Committee.

- **Dumbarton County Council Public Assistance Committee – 13 November 1934**
- **Dumbarton County Council Education Committee – 1 September 1943**

1968-2014
Recommendations on the most appropriate placement to meet the child(ren)'s needs were made by the Social Worker, and, depending on the legislative basis for reception into care, were approved by senior officers of the local authority or the Children's Hearing/Court.

h) If the decision was made by the local authority, what criteria were applied?

Decisions were made on the basis of which type of placement would best meet the child(ren)'s needs.

i) Were children moved between different foster care placements?

1930-1975
No reports with this information have been found in Dumbarton or Lanark County Council records. Anecdotal information from individual cases is available from the rolls of **Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Relief Committee**.

1975-1996

<p>Yes</p> <p>1996-2014</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>j) If so, in what circumstances?</p>
<p>1930-1975</p> <p>No reports with this information have been found in Dumbarton or Lanark County Council records. Anecdotal information from individual cases is available from the rolls of <u>Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Relief Committee.</u></p> <p>1975 -2014</p> <p>Information from an audit of East Dunbartonshire case records indicates that children moved to different foster placements for a range of reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are frequently admitted to care in a crisis. There are numerous examples of children being placed with a carer on an emergency basis and it subsequently becomes evident that they will be unable to return home in the near future. They are therefore transferred to a longer-term placement. • Other reasons prompting a change of placement include the unsuitability of the placement in the long term, new availability of a kinship placement, the need to provide a placement in a different location, a move to a pre-adoption placement, placement disruption, changes in the foster carer's health and family circumstances and so on. Depending on the circumstances prompting the move, it could happen quickly or via a settled plan.
<p>k) Generally did children typically stay in one, or more than one, foster care placement?</p>
<p>Each child's circumstances is unique. In the absence of evidence by way of reports produced for the local authority on this question, it is not possible to answer this in general or typical terms for any period between 1930 and 1996. Some children had one placement, other children had more than one.</p> <p>Between 1996 and 2014, 46% of children accommodated in foster care by East Dunbartonshire Council had more than one placement (Carefirst information)</p>
<p>l) What was the process for review of children's continued residence in foster care, in terms of whether they continued to require to be (a) in foster care and/or (b) in that particular placement?</p>
<p>1930-1975</p> <p>No reports with this information have been found in Dumbarton or Lanark County Council records.</p> <p>1975-1996</p> <p>Strathclyde Regional Council's 1976 foster care handbook laid down processes for review.</p> <p>The guidelines outline areas of interest in the review, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, intellectual and emotional development of the child • Any changes relating to the family, the foster family or other important persons in their life

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child's legal situation and whether any changes need to be made in it • Relationship between the foster parent and Social Work Department <p>It was Strathclyde policy to invite everyone interested in the care of the child to a review. Foster children and natural parents also encouraged to attend. Social Worker and Senior Social Worker will also attend. Sometimes a school teacher, doctor or child psychologist.</p> <p>The timetable for reviews was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First full review no later than 4 weeks after date of admission into care • Subsequent reviews to be held as appropriate but not less than at six-monthly intervals <p>Foster parents may also be invited to attend case conferences on a foster child in their care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Parents Handbook (1976)</u> <p>1996-2014</p> <p>Since 1996, all children looked after by East Dunbartonshire Council are subject to regular reviews, regardless of whether they are looked after at or away from home. The Child's Plan forms the central plank of the review. There are other interlinking mechanisms to review the need for the child to be looked after away from home: depending on the child's circumstances these may include a Child Protection Review Case Conference or the Children's Hearing. A clear framework to review the Child's Plan and both planned and emergency placements is articulated in the Council's current Fostering Procedures at Section 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Procedures & Guidance (2014)</u>
<p>m) When children left foster care, what was the process for discharge?</p>
<p>1930-1948</p> <p>No information. No reports with this information have been found in available Dumbarton, Lanark or Stirling County Council records.</p> <p>1948-1975</p> <p>No information. No reports with this information have been found in available Dumbarton, Lanark or Stirling County Council records.</p> <p>1975-1996</p> <p>No information. No reports with this information have been found in available Strathclyde Regional Council records.</p> <p>1996-2014</p> <p>Depending on their age and circumstances, children will either be discharged on a planned basis to their family's care, or via alternative arrangements to their own accommodation with throughcare support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Procedures & Guidance (2014)</u>
<p>n) What support was offered to children when they left foster care?</p>
<p>1930-1948</p> <p>No information. No reports with this information have been found in available Dumbarton or Lanark County Council records.</p> <p>1948-1975</p>

No information. No reports with this information have been found in available Dumbaron, Lanark or Stirling County Council records.

1975-1996

No information. No reports with this information have been found in available Strathclyde Regional Council records.

1996-2014

Children were offered support as appropriate to their circumstances and age.

- East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Procedures & Guidance (2014)

o) What information was sought by the local authority about what children leaving foster care planned to go on to do?

1930-1948

Dumbaron and Lanark Public Assistance/Social Welfare Committee minutes indicate that information was generally provided about parental/extended family circumstances and ability to support the child(ren). The Committee could approve or direct the Public Assistance Officer to gather additional information prior to making decision to remove the child from the roll.

- Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Relief Committee Registers

1948-1975

Dumbaron and Lanark Children's Case Sub-Committee minutes indicate that different types of information was required as well as sought by the Children's Officer and Local Authority prior to children leaving foster care. This included: information about current parental circumstances in respect of their ability to care and provide for their child(ren), information about alternative family support options (e.g. from adult siblings), information about proposed further education or employment plans on the part of children who had reached school-leaving age.

1975-1996

The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 included powers for the local authority to provide through/aftercare support, and this would have involved gathering information on the young person's future plans.

1996-2014

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and associated regulations including the Support and Assistance of Young People Leaving Care (Scotland) Regulations 2003 determined that information would be sought from individual young people about their future plans in order to provide them with appropriate support.

p) Was such information retained and updated?

Retention of such personal information is generally governed by the general or specific legislation and regulations in force at the time. Otherwise records are retained according to an agreed schedule produced by the Scottish Council on Archives which categorises records according to the service provided, with the retention period triggered by a specific date (date of birth, date of 18th birthday or date of case closure).

1930-75

Anecdotal information of this nature may be recorded in historic Dumbaron, Lanark or Stirling County Council Committee minutes but no equivalent case records have been found. There is no evidence that information about "what children leaving foster care

<p>planned to go on to do" was updated in Dumbarton, Lanark or Stirling County Council Committee minutes, except when further assistance was requested and required approval by the Committee.</p> <p>S.58 of the Children & Young Persons Act (1963) enjoins local authorities to provide aftercare support when requested to do so by individuals who were in local authority care at the age of 17 until they reach the age of 21 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Dumbarton County Council Social Welfare Committee – 15 August 1938</u> • <u>Dumbarton County Council Children's Committee – 5 August 1963</u> <p>1975-2014</p> <p>Information from records held by East Dunbartonshire Council suggests that such information was updated if the child/young person continued to receive a service into adulthood, or when they received a new service when they were an adult.</p>
<p>q) What was provided in terms of after-care for children/young people once they left foster care?</p>
<p>1930-2014</p> <p>After-care provision was dependent on the child's/young person's needs, circumstances, and age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Dumbarton County Council Social Welfare Committee – 15 August 1938</u> • <u>Dumbarton County Council Children's Committee – 5 August 1963</u>
<p>Present</p>
<p>r) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>s) If so, please give details.</p>
<p>Continuing care placements for young people between the ages of 18 and 26 have been introduced, in line with S.11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Adoption & Fostering Panel Annual Report 2018-19</u>
<p>1.8 <u>Local authority staff and foster carers</u></p>
<p>(i) Local authority</p>
<p>Past</p>
<p>a) How many people were employed by the local authority who had some responsibility for foster care services for children?</p>
<p>East Dunbartonshire Council does not hold information about the number of people employed in this capacity by the local authority between 1930 and 2014.</p>
<p>b) How many people were employed by the local authority at any one time who had some responsibility for foster care services for children?</p>

1930-1975

Not known. No information was found in available records of Dumbarton, Lanark and Stirling County Councils.

Dumbarton, Lanark and Stirling County Councils both discussed the requirement to increase staffing levels to deal with the additional responsibilities associated with the Children & Young Persons' (Scotland) Act 1963.

- Dumbarton County Council Children's Committee – 4 November 1963
- Lanark County Council Organisation, Methods & Establishment Committee - 6 October 1965
- Stirling County Council Children's Committee – 3 March 1964

1975-1996

Not known. No information was found in available records of Strathclyde Regional Council

1996-2014

East Dunbartonshire Council does not hold this information. An organisational structure chart from 2012 identifies all the posts then within Children's Services.

- East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Department Structure 2012

c) What roles and responsibilities did such staff have? Please specify in which roles staff met with children and foster carers.

1930-1948

Following the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1929, Dumbarton County Council appointed a Public Assistance Officer, and in 1931 agreed to establish two Public Assistance apprenticeships in Bearsden and Kirkintilloch. The role included visiting children boarded out in private dwelling houses.

- Dumbarton County Council Public Assistance Committee 20 April 1931
- Dumbarton County Council Public Assistance Committee 21 September 1931

Lanark County Council appointed an Inspector of Public Assistance in respect of discharging the Council's functions relating to children in need of public assistance. The role included boarding out, inspection and aftercare. The Committee subsequently asked the Inspector to report on all children boarded out by the Council.

- Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee 22 January 1930
- Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee 25 June 1930

Stirling County Council appointed a District Inspector of Public Assistance for Western No 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) District Council. The Inspector advised the District Relief Committee on matters concerning the boarding-out of children on behalf of the Chief Inspector, assessed, visited and monitored placements and maintained the Poor Relief Register.

- Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Council - 30 October 1931
- Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Council - 9 November 1936

1948-75

Dumbarton County Council appointed a Children's Officer to deal with the Council's functions and duties under the Children Act 1948, which included the care of children previously in the care of the Education Authority, and children boarded out and in residential care.

- Dumbarton County Council Children's Committee 18 October 1948

Lanark County Council appointed a Children's Officer under Section 41(2) of the 1948. The Council later employed Assistant Children's Officers to assist with assessment, visiting and general casework duties.

- Lanark County Council Children's Committee 27 April 1949.
- Lanark County Council Children's Committee 13 May 1959

1975-1996

Not known. Information not found in available Strathclyde Regional Council records.

1996-2014

All of the following could meet with children and foster carers:

Chief Social Work Officer

Agency Decision-maker

Head of Children's and Criminal Justice Services

Fieldwork Manager

Children's fieldwork teams: managers, Children's Social Workers

Resources Manager

Family Placement/Care Planning & Placement Team: Manager (Panel Advisor), Link Social Workers

Community Support Team: Manager, Team Leader, Social Work Assistants and Family Support Workers

Throughcare Team: Manager, Social Workers, Social Work Assistants

d) In relation to each role, what experience/qualifications did such staff have?

1930-1996

Not Known. No information found in available records.

1996-2014

An incremental amount and range of relevant experience was required as the responsibilities of the role increased. Staff in the role of Chief Social Work Officer, Agency Decision-maker, Head of Service, Fieldwork/Resources Manager, Panel Advisor, Team Managers and Social Workers required to have a social work qualification, be registered with the SSSC (from 2004) and have a disclosure/PVG (from 2007/2011). Other staff required relevant SVQ qualifications along with SSSC registration and Disclosure/PVG.

e) **When were fostering panels set up? What was their purpose and remit?**

Professor Norrie advises that " One of the major innovations of the 1985 Regulations...was the requirement on care authorities to establish Fostering panels, whose functions were "to consider every person referred to it by the care authority as a prospective foster parent" and to make recommendations to the care authority as to the suitability of such a person to act as a foster parent either for any child, any category of child or any particular child" (page 168)

1986-1996

Not Known. No information found in available records.

1996-2014

East Dunbartonshire Council set up an Adoption & Fostering Panel following disaggregation in 1996. Following publication of the Looked After Children Regulations in 2009, a separate Fostering panel was established in 2010. The purpose and remit of the Panel is described in the Guidance document.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee 311097 - DSW/080/97/SG</u> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Panel Procedures Practice Guide 2010</u>
<p>f) How were fostering panels constituted? What skills and experience were the members required to have?</p>
<p><u>1986-1996</u> Not known. Information not found in available Strathclyde Regional Council records.</p> <p><u>1996-2014</u> Regulation 17 of the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 details the composition of Fostering Panels. The constitution of East Dunbartonshire's Fostering Panel is detailed in <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering & Adoption Panel Constitution (2010)</u>; and the skills and experience required of panel members is detailed in <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Panel Procedures Practice Guide (2010)</u> and Appendix 2 of <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Procedures & Operational Guidance (2011)</u></p>
<p>Present</p>
<p>g) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>h) If so, please give details.</p>
<p>ii Foster Carers</p>
<p>Past</p>
<p>a) How were foster carers approved and registered?</p>
<p><u>1930-75</u> Under the legislation and regulations in force at the time, prospective foster carers were subject of assessment and had to meet certain criteria (see 1.8.ii (c) prior to a child or children being boarded out with them. Foster carers were not formally registered in their own right but in relation to the child(ren).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Relief Committee Log books</u> <p><u>1975-1996</u> Assessment and approval of foster carers involved the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group meetings • Individual interviews • Undertake contact with existing foster carers • Formal enquiries of applicants: departmental records; police enquiry; Area health Board enquiry ; personal references ; medical reports and x-rays • Enquiries regarding other residents • Out-with the Region enquiry • Presentation of assessment report • Approval by Divisional Adoption and Fostering Panel, passed to Divisional Director who makes final decision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Parents Handbook (1976)</u>

- **Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Parents Checklist -1978**

1996-2014

Social Work Committee minutes show that East Dunbartonshire Council ran regular publicity campaigns to recruit carers and provide an overview of the assessment, preparation and approval process, including the role of the Agency Decision Maker

- **East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee 040297 - DSW/010/97/DH**
- **East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee 311097 - DSW/080/97/SG**

East Dunbartonshire developed Fostering Guidance in 2010 which detailed the process and explained the role and workings of the Fostering Panel in terms of scrutinising applications and interviewing the applicants and link social workers prior to approval or otherwise. The guidance also explained the role of the Agency Decision-maker in formally registering the carers.

- **East Dunbartonshire Council's Fostering Panel Procedures Practice Guide (2010)**

b) What experience and/or qualifications, if any, did a foster carer require to have?

Foster carers were not required to have any explicit forms of prior experience or qualifications under the applicable legislation and regulations between 1930 and 2014.

East Dunbartonshire's carer recruitment campaign leaflet of 1997 states that a foster carer does not need any specific experience or qualifications.

- **East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee 040297 - DSW/010/97/DH**
-

c) What checks were carried out in relation to a prospective foster carer, including criminal record checks, references and interviews?

1930-48

Poor Law (Scotland) Regulations 1934

Regulation 17. A local authority shall, before boarding-out any child with a guardian, satisfy themselves that the guardian is of good character and of industrious habits, and is a person who is in all respects fit to look after the health, education and general well-being of the child.

There is no explicit information on local policy in this regard or other evidence in available records of Dumbarton, Lanark & Stirling County Councils

1948-1975

Regulation 17 was replicated in Regulations 7 of the Children (Boarding Out etc.) (Scotland) Rules & Regulations 1947 and Regulations 3 & 5 of the Boarding Out of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1959.

A Child Registration form utilised by Lanark County Council in 1962 shows that information was not sought on the foster parents' criminal history. Information was collected on the household, accommodation type, sleeping arrangements, other children boarded-out, occupation and religion of the foster parent.

- **Lanark County Council Children's Department Registration Form**

Both Lanark and Stirling County Council Children's Committees noted in 1967 that professional bodies and the Scottish Education Department were considering the need for wider checks including police checks. It was noted this would involve additional resources.

- Lanark County Council Children's Committee – 1 November 1967
- Stirling County Council Children's Committee - 18 September 1967

1975-1996

A standard checklist from the 1975 to 1985 period shows that the assessing social worker was required to confirm that they had undertaken the following:

- Checked departmental records;
- Made interdepartmental and out-with region enquiries;
- Made enquiries of the police, Area Health Board and/or Health Visitor
- Initial interview, plus at least 2 others, with both partners present. All members of household to be seen at some time.
- Personal references
- Medical reports

- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Department Foster Parents Assessment Checklist

1996-2014

Checks were undertaken as prescribed by the Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations (1996) and the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations (2009).

- East Dunbartonshire Council's Fostering Procedures and Guidance (2011)

d) What checks were carried out in relation to other persons residing with the prospective foster carer, including criminal record checks, references and interviews?

1930-1948

Poor Law (Scotland) Regulations 1934

Regulation 16. A child shall not be boarded out or be allowed to remain boarded-out –

- a) In a house in which a certified lunatic or mental defective is residing;*
- b) With a guardian occupying or residing in a house or premises licensed for the sale of excisable liquor;*
- c) In a house where any member of the household has at any time been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the local authority, renders him unfit to be associated with a child; or*
- d) With a guardian other than a relative, of a religious persuasion different from that to which the child belongs.*

1948-1975

Regulation 16 of the 1934 Regulations is replicated in Regulation 10.3 of the Children (Boarding Out etc.) (Scotland) Rules & Regulations 1947 and Regulation 6.2 of the Boarding Out of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1959.

There is no information on local policy or the application of the regulations in this regard in available records of Dumbarton, Lanark & Stirling County Councils.

1975-1996

A standard checklist from the 1975-85 period indicates that people residing with the prospective foster carer(s) were subject to enquiries with the police, health board and/or health visitors

- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Department Foster Assessment Checklist

1996-2014

Checks were undertaken as prescribed by the Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations (1996) and the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations (2009).

- East Dunbartonshire Council's Fostering Procedures and Guidance (2011)

e) What checks were carried out in relation to other family members and friends of a prospective foster carer including criminal record checks, references and interviews?

1930-1948

Not known. No information in available records of Dumbarton, Lanark & Stirling County Councils

1948-1975

Not known. No information in available records of Dumbarton, Lanark & Stirling County Councils

1975-1996

Not known. No information in available Strathclyde Regional Council records

1996-2014

Checks were undertaken as prescribed by the Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations (1996) and the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations (2009).

- East Dunbartonshire Council's Fostering Procedures and Guidance (2011)

f) To what extent, if any, were the checks referred to at paras (c) to (e) above reviewed? If so, how frequently and what checks were done? If not, why not?

1930-1975

Regulation 23 of the Poor Law (Scotland) Regulations 1934 required the above checks to be reviewed during the formal annual visit:

- a) *The general conditions of the home where the child is boarded-out, including the suitability of the guardian;*

This is replicated in Regulation 18 of the 1947 Regulations and in respect of the three monthly visits required under the 1959 regulations.

Lanark County Council and Dumbarton County Council Social Welfare Committee minutes record that procedures were agreed to visit boarded-out children.

- Dumbarton County Council Public Assistance Committee - 20 April 1931

There is no information on local policy or the application of the regulations in this regard in available records of Stirling County Council.

1975-1996

The Boarding-out (Scotland) Regulations 1985 directs carers' approval must be reviewed at specified intervals and that they should notify social work of any convictions.

1996-2014

Checks were undertaken as prescribed by the Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations (1996) and the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations (2009). The Scottish Executive's National Standards for Foster Care and Family Placement Services (2005) clarify that criminal records checks should be undertaken every two years.

- East Dunbartonshire Council's Fostering Procedures and Guidance (2011)

g) What checks were carried out by the local authority of the available accommodation? How frequently were these carried out? Were they repeated? If so, how frequently? If not, why not?

1930-1948

The Public Assistance Inspector within the County Council was responsible under the Poor Law (Scotland) Regulations 1934 for making the following checks

Regulation 12. A child shall not be boarded out in a house –

- a) Which is so situated, or in such sanitary condition as to be injurious or dangerous to his health;*
- b) Which is not within reasonable distance from a school; or*
- c) Which does not permit of suitable sleeping accommodation for the child in a room properly lit and properly ventilated.*

The regulations also stated that local authorities were required to visit placements annually.

Regulation 23. Unless the Department on the application of a local authority in any particular case otherwise direct, every child boarded out by a local authority shall be visited at least once in every twelve months by an inspector of the local authority who may be accompanied by not more than two members of the local authority, and the inspector and the members, if any, shall furnish to the local authority a report with respect to –

- a) The general conditions of the home where the child is boarded-out, including the suitability of the guardian;*
- b) The sleeping arrangements for the child and the condition of his bed, bedclothes and night apparel;*
- c) The condition of the child's clothing;*
- d) The child's health, general welfare and behaviour;*
- e) The progress the child has made at school;*
- f) The manner in which the child is occupied out-with school hours;*
- g) Any complaints made by, or concerning, the child; and*
- h) Any other matters relative to the care and supervision of the child by the guardian or to the child's welfare which they consider should be reported;*

and the local authority after taking any necessary action on such report shall retain it for reference.

- Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Relief Committee Registers

There is information on the annual schedule of visits to external placements in committee minutes but no information on how frequently placement accommodation was checked in practice in each case.

1948-75

Under Regulation 18 of the Children (Boarding Out Etc.) (Scotland) Rules and Regulations (1947), replicated in Regulation 7 of the Boarding Out of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1959, the placing authority was required to visit the placement prior to approving the child being boarded out there, and thereafter on an minimum annual (quarterly) basis. The assessment visit was to be carried out by the Children's Officer or their staff, whereas the annual/quarterly visit could be conducted by an officer or member of the local authority/volunteer visitor.

Dumbarton County Council

Regular references to annual schedule of visits to external placements by Children's Committee members feature in Committee minutes, whereas the Children's Officer or their Assistant undertook visits to children placed locally. There is no information on a prescribed frequency of visits by the Children's Officer.

Lanark County Council

Information in a historic case record confirms that the prospective foster carer was visited by an Assistant Children's Officer, and the case file contains a record of visits until the child reached the age of 18. The number of out-of-authority placements fell after introduction of 1963 Children Act, which the Children's Officer advised was due to the Council's policy of promoting local placements wherever possible. The Committee had had a three year cycle of visiting children boarded-out in external placements and it was agreed to reduce this to a one year cycle in future as fewer children needed to be visited.

- Lanark County Council Children's Committee - 1 March 1967

1975-1996

Strathclyde Regional Council's Foster Parents Handbook (1976) advises that a social worker will visit the foster parent at home during the assessment period and when a child is placed with the foster parent, regular visits will be made by a social worker.

- Strathclyde Regional Council's Foster Parents Handbook (1976)

1996-2014

Checks were undertaken as prescribed by the Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations (1996) and the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations (2009).

- East Dunbartonshire Council's Fostering Procedures and Guidance (2011)

h) Was the gender of the foster carer of any relevance to approval as a foster carer or in relation to the placement of a child with a particular carer? If so, why?

1930-48

The Poor Relief (Scotland) Regulations 1934 are silent in respect of any considerations about the gender of the foster carer/the placement of a child with a particular carer.

Stirling County

1948-1975

The Children (Boarding-Out Etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 1947 defines a foster parent as either a husband and wife, or a woman, with whom a child is boarded out with (Section 2). A person of male gender could only be approved as a foster parent in conjunction with his wife.

According to the Boarding Out of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1959 at Regulation 3:

- (1) A child shall not be boarded-out except with—
- (a) a married couple acting jointly, or
 - (b) a woman, or
 - (c) a grandfather, uncle or elder brother of the child:

Provided that—

- (i) if, in the case of a child who is boarded-out with an individual, that individual dies or, being a woman, ceases to live in the child's foster home, nothing in this paragraph shall require the child's

removal from that foster home, and he may be boarded-out there with another suitable member of the same household; and

(ii) if, in the case of a child who is boarded-out with a married couple acting jointly, one spouse of the couple dies or ceases to live in the child's foster home, nothing in this paragraph shall require the child's removal from that foster home and he may remain boarded-out there with the other spouse.

1975-1996

Regulation 14 of the Boarding –Out & Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1985 and Regulation 12(4) of the Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations (1996) insist that the household of the foster parent must include either a man and woman living and acting jointly together; or a man or woman living and acting alone.

1996-2014

The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations (2009) do not contain any requirements concerning the gender of the foster carer. Approval of the foster carer and placement of a child with a foster carer are dependent on the suitability of the person to act as a foster carer and of the placement to meet the needs of the individual child.

i) Was the gender of other persons (including children) residing in the same house of any relevance to the approval of a foster carer or to the placement of a child with a carer? If so, why?

1930-1996

Not known. No information in available records or documents of predecessor local authorities.

1996-2014

Fostering Panel records show that, in order to ensure the best match between child and placement, the gender of other children residing in the house was relevant to the placement of a child with a carer on occasion. This was in respect of the carers' views and preferences re their own child(ren), as well as what would benefit the foster child socially and developmentally. Age was also considered in this respect. This would be reflected in the carer registration decision. (Part C)

j) Were foster carers required to provide any services for children in their care beyond accommodating them? If so, what were they?

The services foster carers were required to provide were laid out in the regulations of the time. For example, in 1963, a foster carer's agreement with Lanark County Council required the carer to

- '...bring [the child] up as carefully and kindly as [they] would a child of [their] own
- Help [the child] become a good citizen, send [the child] to school (work) and to [the child's] church, and arrange for recreation suited to [the child's] age
- Look after [the child's] health and consult a doctor whenever [the child] is ill...
- Provide for the cleaning, mending and renewal of [the child's] clothing and its proper care'

- Lanark County Council Children's Department Foster Care Agreement form – a1.8.ii j&l

This reflects the Boarding Out of Children (Scotland) regulations 1959, which also informed Strathclyde Regional Council's Foster Parents Handbook (1976)

k) Did children work manually in the placement or externally (e.g. farming work or other labour), or both? If so, did that change at any point? If so, why?

1930-48

Regulation 25 of the Poor Law (Scotland) Regulations 1934 stated that “no guardian shall make use of the services of any boarded-out child for the purposes of any trade, business or calling carried on by him except in the performance of such light agricultural or horticultural work as may be done by the child without risk of injury to the child’s health or of detriment to his educational progress and general welfare.”

There are references in Dumbarton County Council and Western No 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) District Council minutes to fostered children being

- in waged employment or
- supported to find work or
- apprenticed or
- funded to undertake a vocational or further education training course.

In the main, these children had left school, and, if in waged employment, their boarding out allowance would be reduced by the amount they were earning. One case reviewed by Western No 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) District Council concerned a referral from a school teacher about a child being employed externally for early morning milk deliveries.

- Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Council – 10 April 1944

1948-1975

Not known. No information in available Children’s Committee/Social Work Committee minutes.

During the Second World War and over the following 20-25 years, Dumbarton and Lanark County Council committee minutes detail annual requests by the Secretary of State to release school children to assist with the potato harvest: these requests did not exclude children in foster placements. Lanark County Council adopted a policy of non-cooperation between 1953 and 1958 until they were served a notice under S.1 of the Education (Exemptions) (Scotland) Act 1947.

- Lanark County Council Education Committee – 7 October 1959

1975-2014

No.

Guidance for foster parents stated that children in foster care placements who had attained the age of sixteen and chose to leave school had the same choices as their peers to seek waged employment as well as apprenticeships and further education opportunities. (Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Department Foster Parents Handbook (1976) p.36). Where school leavers attained waged employment, foster parents were given specific guidance on how this would affect the fostering allowance and how any supplementation was calculated.

- Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Department Foster Parents Handbook (1976) p.17

I) Were fostering agreements entered into? If so, were these in a prescribed form or created on an ad hoc basis?

1930-1948

No evidence. No evidence about practice in Dumbarton. Lanark and Stirling County Councils was found in available records for this period.

1948-75

<p>There is evidence from a historic case record dating from 1962-63 that Lanark County Council Children's Department utilised prescribed forms to record fostering agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Lanark County Council Children's Department Foster Care Agreement form – a1.8.ii j&l</u> <p>No equivalent evidence about practice in Dumbarton and Stirling County Councils was found in available records for this period.</p> <p>1975-1996 No evidence has been found in extant Strathclyde Regional Council records of prescribed fostering agreement forms.</p> <p>1996-2014 Council procedures hold that <i>"It is a requirement that where the Council makes a decision to approve a Foster Carer, it must enter into a written agreement with the Foster Carer on the matters and obligations detailed in Schedule 6 of the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009"</i> and detail the content of such agreements. There is evidence of proformas on file (Part C).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council's Fostering Procedures and Residential Guidance (2011):Section 7</u>
Present
m) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?
No
n) If so, please give details.

2. <u>Organisational Structure and Oversight</u>
2.1 <u>Culture</u>
Past
a) What was the nature of the culture within the local authority in relation to the provision of foster care?
<p>1930-2014 Not known. Available Council and Committee minutes and reports do not describe the nature of the culture within the local authority in relation to the provision of foster care.</p>
b) Was that culture reflected in the local authority's policies, procedures and/or practice in relation the provision of foster care?
<p>1930-2014 Not Known, see response to 2.1.a)</p>
c) How can that be demonstrated?
<p>1930-2014 Not applicable, see response to 2.1.a)</p>

d) Did the provision of care by foster carers reflect the local authority's culture, policies and procedures?
1930-2014 As per 2.1 (a), the local authority's culture in relation to foster care at this time is not known because it is not stated or described in any policy documents, reports or minutes. The Council's response to Part C will address whether or not the provision of care by foster carers reflected the local authority's policies and procedures.
e) If not, please provide a representative range of examples and explain, by reference to those examples, why particular foster carers did not, in material ways, work in accordance with the local authority's then culture, policies and procedures and what, if anything, was done to change that?
Not applicable. As per 2.1(a), the local authority's culture in relation to foster care at this time is not known because it is not stated or described in any policy documents, reports or minutes
f) When and why did any changes in the culture of the local authority in relation to the provision of foster care come about?
Not known. As per 2.1(a), the local authority's culture in relation to foster care at this time is not known because it is not stated or described in any policy documents, reports or minutes
g) Were any changes in culture driven by internal influences, incidents, experiences or events within the local authority, or any of the foster care placements?
Not known. As per 2.1(a), the local authority's culture in relation to foster care at this time is not known because it is not stated or described in any policy documents, reports or minutes
h) Were there any changes in culture that were driven by abuse, or alleged abuse, of children in foster care?
Not known. As per 2.1 (a), the local authority's culture in relation to foster care at this time is not known because it is not stated or described in any policy documents, reports or minutes
i) If so, when did they occur and how did they manifest themselves?
Not applicable. See 2.1 (a)
j) Were any changes in culture driven by any external influences or factors and if so what were those influences or factors?
Not applicable. As per 2.1(a), the local authority's culture in relation to foster care at this time is not known because it is not stated or described in any policy documents, reports or minutes
Present

k) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?

No Council and Committee minutes and reports in the present period have been found that describe "the nature of the culture within the local authority in relation to the provision of foster care".

East Dunbartonshire Council's Fostering Procedures and Operational Procedures (2014) describe the aims of the Council's Fostering Service as follows at S.1.2

The EDC Fostering Service is one of a range of services provided by us to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people and to improve their outcomes, including that they be safe, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible, included and nurtured. Like other services provided by EDC, the Fostering Service aims to:

- *Safeguard children and young people*
- *Promote the welfare of children and young people and improve their outcomes*
- *Ensure that the welfare of children and young people is paramount in all decisions that affect them*
- *Seek and have regard to the views of children and young people and their families in decisions that affect them*
- *Treat each child, young person and their family with dignity and respect and in a manner that reflects a non-discriminatory approach*
- *Protect the privacy of each service user and create a safe environment through the promotion and development of appropriate physical arrangements, routines, attitudes and general atmosphere*
- *Assess and respond to the changing needs of children, young people and their families timeously and appropriately*
- *Provide for the physical, social and emotional needs of individual children and young people.*

l) If so, please give details.

See 2.1(k)

m) To what extent, if any, has abuse or alleged abuse of children cared for in foster care caused, or contributed to, the adoption of the current policies, procedures and/or practices of the local authority, in relation to the provision of foster care services for children including the safeguarding and child protection arrangements applying to its current foster care placements?

Abuse or alleged abuse of children cared for in foster care has historically caused or contributed to the adoption of policies, procedures and/or practices of the local authority at that time, in relation to the provision of foster care services for children including the safeguarding and child protection arrangements applying to its foster care placements. For example, the Monckton Report (1945) examined the killing of a child, Denis O'Neill, by his foster parents, and led to the Children (Boarding-Out Etc.) Rules and Regulations (Scotland) (1947) and informed the Children Act (1948) which led to local authorities establishing Children's Committees.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/cabinetpapers/themes/protection-children.htm>

East Dunbartonshire Council's current Fostering Procedures and Operational Guidance were approved by the Social Work Committee on 11 December 2014, and the accompanying report makes no reference to abuse or alleged abuse of children cared for in foster care as contributing to the revision of the then existing procedures.

<https://dbs1.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/INTRANET/ACE/EDCCMTT.NSF/LU-AllDocsID/AA82D2A03C4606A780257DE0004412E7?OpenDocument>

2.2 Structure, leadership and accountability

a) What was the structure of responsibility within the local authority in relation to foster care?

1930-1975

Various predecessor authorities acted as a Local Authority for Social Work purposes in this period: these were the County Councils of Dumbarton, Lanark and Stirling. The County Councils discharged their statutory functions in relation to boarding out and fostering children in their care by establishing various committees with delegated decision-making powers and associated operational departments. These included Public Assistance, Education, Social Welfare, Children's and latterly Social Work (see table below).

Between 1930 and 1948, Stirling County Council delegated Public Assistance functions locally to the Western No 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) District Council.

Lanark County Council established Children's Case Sub-Committees after the Children's Act 1948 was implemented. Stirling County Council gave consideration to establishing a Case Sub-Committee following an external inspection in 1963.

- **Stirling County Council Children's Committee – 3 March 1964**

Local Authority	Responsible Committee	Responsible Officer	Time Period
Dumbarton County Council	Public Assistance Committee	Public Assistance Officer	1930-43
	Education General Sub-Committee	Education Officer	1931-48
	Social Welfare Committee	Social Welfare Officer	1943-48
	Children's Committee	Children's Officers	1948-68
	Social Work Committee	Chief Social Work Officer	1969-75
Lanark County Council	Public Assistance Committee	Public Assistance Officer	1930-48
	Education Committee	Education Officer	1931-48
	Children's Committee	Children's Officer	1949-68
	Children's Case Sub-Committee		1949-68
	Social Work Committee	Chief Social Work Officer	1969-75
Stirling County Council	Public Assistance Committee	Chief Public Assistance Inspector	1930-48

	Western District No 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Council	District Public Assistance Inspector	1930-48
	Children's Committee	Children's Officer	1948-69
	Children's Case Sub-Committee		1964-69
	Social Work Committee	Chief Social Work Officer	1969-75

1975-1996

Strathclyde Regional Council was a Local Authority for Social Work purposes within this period. For the discharge of their functions under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, they established the Social Work Committee. The Regional Council retained the right to take many decisions at full Council level, but there were arrangements for the allocation of duties to Committees and Sub-Committees. For the most part, the decisions were taken by the Social Work Committee, after receiving reports and recommendations from senior officers.

- Strathclyde Regional Council Committee and Staffing Structure 1977-1982

1996-2014

East Dunbartonshire Council was a Local Authority for Social Work purposes within this period. For the discharge of their functions under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, they established the Social Work Committee. The Council retained the right to take many decisions at full Council level, but there were arrangements for the allocation of duties to Committees and Sub-Committees. For the most part, the decisions were taken by the Social Work Committee, after receiving reports and recommendations from senior officers.

- East Dunbartonshire Council 4 April 1996 – DSW/017/96/AH
- East Dunbartonshire Social Work Committee 29 April 1997 – DSW/034/97/AM

b) What were the oversight and supervision arrangements by senior management?

1975-1996

- Strathclyde Regional Council Committee and Staffing Structure 1977-1982

1996-2014

- East Dunbartonshire Council Community Directorate Structure 2005
- East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Department Structure 2012

c) What were the lines of accountability?

1930-1948

Dumbarton County Council's Education Committee was responsible for neglected children committed to its care under the 1932 Act and a "fit person" as defined in the Act but the Council agreed that the Public Assistance Officers were best placed to identify appropriate foster parents for such children.

- Dumbarton County Council Education Sub-Committee – 6 December 1933

Stirling County Council appointed a District Inspector of Public Assistance for District No.3 (Campsie & Baldernock), who reported to the Council's Chief Inspector. The Chief Inspector reported to the Council's Public Assistance Committee, who had decision-making authority in respect of public assistance matters over the District Council.

- Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Council – 30 October 1931

1975-1996

Information on the policy-setting role of the Social Work Committee and policy implementation role of the Social Work Department; and the line of accountability within the Social Work Department, is summarised in **Strathclyde Regional Council's Foster Parents Handbook (1976) at p.68**. Information on the wider committee and organisation framework is outlined in organisational structure charts.

- **Strathclyde Regional Council Committee and Staffing Structure 1977-1982**

1996-2014

Overall accountability for provision of local public services lay with the Council itself and elected members. Senior officers were responsible to the Chief Executive for the delivery and performance of specific statutory services in line with the Council's policy and financial framework, and also accountable to elected members. The Chief Social Work Officer was an officer given particular responsibility on behalf of a local authority, where the law requires the function to be discharged by a specified post holder and specifically required to ensure the provision of appropriate professional advice in the discharge of local authorities' statutory social work duties.

- **East Dunbartonshire Corporate Management Structure 2005**
- **East Dunbartonshire Council Community Directorate Structure 2005**
- **East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Department Structure 2012**
- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/role-chief-social-work-officer-principles-requirements-guidance-pursuant-section-5-1-social-work-scotland-act-1968/>

d) Within the local authority, who had senior management/corporate/organisational responsibility for the managers/management teams/leadership teams who had responsibilities in relation to children in foster care?

Strathclyde Regional Council 1975-1996

Chief Executive was Chief Officer

Social Work Department, Director of Social Work/CSWO.

East Dunbartonshire Council 1996 - 2014

Chief Executive was Chief Officer 1996 -2014

1996-2002

Social Work Department - Director of Social Work/CSWO

- **East Dunbartonshire Council 4 April 1996 – DSW/017/96/AH**

2003-2014

Community Directorate - Director of Community Services

- Head of Social Work/CSWO
 - Children & Families Manager/Depute CSWO
- **East Dunbartonshire Corporate Management Structure 2005**
- **East Dunbartonshire Council Community Directorate Structure 2005**
- **East Dunbartonshire Social Work Committee 31 March 2011 - CTY/051/11/FMcS**
- **East Dunbartonshire Social Work Committee 11 December 2014 - ESW/146/14/FM**

e) Who, within the local authority, took decisions on matters of policy, procedure and/or practice in relation to foster care?

1930-1975

Within the predecessor County Councils, the Council itself and its Committees would take decisions on policy and procedures. The Public Assistance and Children's Case Sub-Committee took decisions about the payment of allowances, parental responsibilities and placements on the advice and recommendation of relevant officers. Officers took day to day decisions about children in the care of the local authority.

1968 -2014

Practice decisions were taken by the Children's Hearing, officers and professional staff.

1975 -1996

Strathclyde Regional Council and its Social Work Committee took decisions on matters of policy and procedures.

Strathclyde Region's Adoption & Fostering Panel recommended foster parents for approval by the Divisional Director.

1996- 2014

East Dunbartonshire Council and its Social Work Committee took decisions on matters of policy and procedures

- East Dunbartonshire Social Work Committee 31 March 2011 - CTY/051/11/FMcS
- East Dunbartonshire Social Work Committee 11 December 2014 - ESW/146/14/FM

East Dunbartonshire's Fostering Panel recommended foster parents for approval by the Agency Decision-maker

East Dunbartonshire's Fostering Panel made recommendations about the registration/de-registration of foster parents to the Chief Social Work Officer or their delegated substitute, who acts as agency decision-maker.

- East Dunbartonshire Council Social Services Committee 10 August 2000 - DSSW/030/00/CB

f) To whom were foster carers accountable?

1930-48

Foster carers were accountable to the Public Assistance Inspector and the Public Assistance (Social Welfare) Committee in Dumbarton, Lanark and Stirling County Councils. Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee was explicit that oversight of placements had been delegated to the County Inspector and the Committee (vs. District Councils) in an exchange with District No. 9 (Bishopbriggs). Stirling County Council's Chief Inspector advised District No. 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) on instructions to be given to guardians of boarded-out children.

- Lanark County Council Public Assistance Committee – 3 September 1930
- Western District 3 (Campsie & Baldernock) Council– 30 October 1931

1948-1968

Foster carers were accountable to the County Children's Officer and their assistants, and the Children's Case Sub-Committee, in Dumbarton, Lanark and Stirling County Councils.

<p>1968-1975 Foster carers were accountable through their supervising social worker to the County's Chief Social Work Officer in Dumbarton, Lanark and Stirling County Councils.</p> <p>1975-1996 Foster carers were accountable through their supervising social worker to an Area Manager within Strathclyde Regional Council's Social Work Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strathclyde Regional Council's Foster Parents Handbook (1976) pp 58 & 68).</u> <p>1996-2014 Foster carers registered by East Dunbartonshire's Fostering Panel were accountable on a day to day basis to a supervising social worker employed by the local authority. Their registration was subject to annual review by the Fostering Panel, to which they were ultimately accountable.</p> <p>Foster carers registered with an independent fostering agency who provided placements to East Dunbartonshire children, were accountable to a supervising social worker employed by that agency, with their registration monitored and reviewed by the agency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Fostering Procedures and Guidance (2014)</u> • <u>Scotland EXCEL Framework Agreement (2012)</u>
<p>g) Who, within the local authority, was responsible for the implementation of, and compliance with, the local authority's policies, procedures and/or practices in foster care both by local authority staff and by foster carers?</p>
<p>1930-1948 Public Assistance Inspector in Dumbarton, Lanark and Stirling County Councils.</p> <p>1948-1968 County Children's Officer in Dumbarton, Lanark and Stirling County Councils.</p> <p>1968-1975 Chief Social Work Officer in Dumbarton, Lanark and Stirling County Councils</p> <p>1975-1996 Chief Executive of Strathclyde Region Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Social Work <p>1996-2014 Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Social Work (1996-2002) • Director of Community Services (2003-2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Head of Social Work/Chief Social Work Officer (2003-2014)
<p>h) To whom were fostering panels accountable?</p>
<p>1975-1996 Chief Executive of Strathclyde Region Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Social Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Divisional Director made the final decision on each application, taking into account the panel's recommendations

<p>1996-2014 Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Social Work/Chief Social Work Officer (1996-2002) • Director of Community Services (2003-2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Head of Social Work/Chief Social Work Officer (2003-2014) ○ Agency Decision-maker <p>An Agency Decision-maker (appointed under the terms of Regulation 12 of the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995 Regulations and Guidance) made the final decision on each application, taking into account the panel's recommendations. The Agency Decision-maker was a senior officer of the local authority and was required to meet certain criteria before assuming the role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Council Social Services Committee 10 August 2000 - DSSW/030/00/CB</u>
<p>i) What were the oversight and supervision arrangements in respect of fostering panels?</p>
<p>1975-1996 Not known. No information was found in available Strathclyde Regional Council records.</p> <p>1996-2014 Decisions in respect of recommendations to register or de-register foster carers made by East Dunbartonshire Fostering Panel were reviewed and authorised by the Agency Decision-maker. Panel members were subject to an annual review by the Agency Decision-maker and Independent chair. An annual report on the activity of the Fostering Panel was submitted and scrutinised by East Dunbartonshire Social Work Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>East Dunbartonshire Fostering & Adoption Panel Constitution 2010</u>
<p>Present</p> <p>a) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>b) If so, please give details.</p>
<p>2.2 (a) (d), (g) & (h)</p> <p><u>East Dunbartonshire Council structure from 2014 to present</u></p> <p>The Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council is the Chief Officer from 2014 to present.</p> <p>Under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, an Integration Joint Board was established in 2015 to oversee adult health and social care services within East Dunbartonshire. At this point, statutory Children's & Criminal Justice social work services continued to be planned and delivered by the Council. The Scheme of Delegation was then amended in 2016 to delegate responsibility for statutory Children's & Criminal Justice Services, including foster care services, to the Integration Joint Board. A Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) acts as the local delivery body, and is accountable through the</p>

Integration Joint Board to East Dunbartonshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. The Chief Officer of the HSCP reports to the Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council in respect of the statutory functions delegated to the HSCP by the Council.

- https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/filedepot_download/18043/1858

These organisational changes resulted in new structures of responsibility as follows:

2015-16

Social Work Committee

Directorate of Education & Children's Services

- Director of Education
 - Head of Children's & Criminal Justice Services/ Chief Social Work Officer

2016 to 2019

Integration Joint Board

Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP)

- Chief Officer (HSCP)
 - Head of Children's & Criminal Justice Services/ Chief Social Work Officer

- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/role-chief-social-work-officer/>

Structure at date

Integration Joint Board

Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP)

- Interim Chief Officer(HSCP)/ Chief Social Work Officer
 - Acting Head of Children's & Criminal Justice Services

The Agency Decision-maker (Chief Social Work Officer) continues to make the final decision on each application to become a foster carer, taking into account the Fostering Panel's recommendations.

- [East Dunbartonshire Adoption & Fostering Panel Annual Report 2018-19](#)

2.3 External Oversight

Past

a) What were the arrangements for external oversight of the local authority's foster care services?

External oversight of the local authority's foster care services was arranged in relation to the legislation, regulations and policy applying at the time.

b) Who visited the local authority's foster care services in an official or statutory capacity and for what purpose?

1930-1948

Not known. No evidence was found within available documents and records of the predecessor local authorities of systematic external oversight and visits to the local authorities' foster care services. Dumbarton County Council committee minutes provide

evidence that members of responsible committees made assurance visits to placements in other local authority areas.

1948-1975

Under Regulation 17 of the Boarding Out of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1959, the Scottish Office could access the local authority's register of boarded out children at any time. Stirling County Council committee minutes from 2 March 1964 evidence that an external audit was carried out by the Scottish Office's Child Care and Probation Inspectorate.

- **Stirling County Council Children's Committee - 2 March 1964**

1975-1996

Not known.

Available Strathclyde Regional Council records and documents do not contain any information on systematic scrutiny by external bodies.

1996-2014

East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Department established a Quality Assurance Unit in 1996. The remit of the unit was to undertake arms-length inspections of local residential services in line with guidance from the then Social Work Services Inspectorate, in addition to investigating complaints and undertaking other quality assurance activity in relation to other social work services including fostering services. The unit prepared annual reports on their activity which were submitted to the Social Work Committee and Social Work Services Inspectorate.

- **East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Committee 12 August 1999 - DSSW/059/99/BA**

External inspection activity was undertaken after the establishment of the Care Commission in 2002 (the Care Inspectorate from 2011). The Care Commission made inspection visits to the local authority's fostering service in respect of its functions and duties under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 (Public Services Reform Act (Scotland) 2010). The service has been registered with the Care Commission (Care Inspectorate) from 21 December 2005. Information on the statutory basis and purpose of the Care Commission (care Inspectorate) visits is detailed in the published inspection reports on the service. These can be accessed on the Care Inspectorate's website by clicking in the following link

[https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/care-services?detail=CS2005087079&q=East%20Dunbartonshire%20Council%20%20&fq={!ServiceStatus:\\$Cancelled\\$}AND\(CareService:\\$Fostering%20Service\\$\)&sort=&start=0&message=%3Cb%3EResults%20for%20East%20Dunbartonshire%20Council%20%20%3C/b%3E%20,%20Fostering%20Service&sCondition=null](https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/care-services?detail=CS2005087079&q=East%20Dunbartonshire%20Council%20%20&fq={!ServiceStatus:$Cancelled$}AND(CareService:$Fostering%20Service$)&sort=&start=0&message=%3Cb%3EResults%20for%20East%20Dunbartonshire%20Council%20%20%3C/b%3E%20,%20Fostering%20Service&sCondition=null)

c) How often did this occur?

1930-1975

County Council records indicate that there was an annual programme of assurance visits to external placements by committee members.

1975-1996

Not known.

1996-2014

The dates which Care Commission (Care Inspectorate) inspection visits took place are detailed in the published inspection reports on the service. These can be accessed on the Care Inspectorate's website by clicking in the following link

https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/care-services?detail=CS2005087079&q=East%20Dunbartonshire%20Council%20%20&fq=!&start=0&message=%3Cb%3EResults%20for%20East%20Dunbartonshire%20Council%20%20:%3C/b%3E%20.%20Fostering%20Service&sCondition=null
d) What did these visits involve in practice?
<p>1930-1975 Visitations to children placed in external placements in line with regulations.</p> <p>1975-1996 Not known</p> <p>1996-2014 Information on what the Care Inspectorate visits involved in practice is detailed in the published inspection reports on the service. These can be accessed on the Care Inspectorate's website by clicking in the following link https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/care-services?detail=CS2005087079&q=East%20Dunbartonshire%20Council%20%20&fq=!&start=0&message=%3Cb%3EResults%20for%20East%20Dunbartonshire%20Council%20%20:%3C/b%3E%20.%20Fostering%20Service&sCondition=null</p>
Present
e) With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?
No
f) If so, please give details.