

Part B – Current Statement

3. Retrospective Acknowledgement/Admission

3.1 Acknowledgement of Abuse

- a) Does the local authority accept that between 1930 and 17 December 2014 any children cared for in foster care were abused?
- b) If so, what is the local authority's assessment of the extent and scale of such abuse?
- c) What is the basis of that assessment?

The Council does not have access to the files spanning this entire period nor are any staff members who were employed throughout this period available to consult with. A file audit of the records that are available has been conducted and the complaints of abuse are detailed in the response to Part D of the section 21 notice. Beyond this it is not possible for the Council to respond.

3.2 Acknowledgement of Systemic Failures

- a) Does the local authority accept that its systems failed to protect children in foster care between 1930 and 17 December 2014 from abuse?
- b) What is the local authority's assessment of the extent of any such systemic failures?
- c) What is the basis of that assessment?
- d) What is the local authority's explanation for any such failures?

Subject to the answer to section 3.1 above, and based on the information available to it, the Council does not believe that its systems failed to protect children in foster care during the periods referred to but that question is currently subject to review by the Inquiry and the Council will respect any conclusions reached by the Inquiry and follow any recommendations made.

3.3 Acknowledgement of Failures/Deficiencies in Response

- a) Does the local authority accept that there were any failures and/or deficiencies in its response to abuse, and allegations of abuse, of children in foster care between 1930 and 17 December 2014?
- b) What is the local authority's assessment of the extent of any such failures in its response?
- c) What is the basis of that assessment?
- d) What is the local authority's explanation for any such failures/deficiencies?

Subject to the answer to section 3.1 above, and based on the information available to it, the Council does not believe that there were any failures and/or deficiencies in its response to abuse and allegations of abuse of children in foster care during the periods referred to but that question is currently subject to review by the Inquiry and

the Council will respect any conclusions reached by the Inquiry and follow any recommendations made.

3.4 Changes

- a) To what extent has the local authority implemented changes to its policies, procedures and practices as a result of any acknowledgment in relation to 3.1 – 3.3 above?

Pursuant to the above answers, the Council has not seen a requirement to amend its policies, procedures and practices. Over time, policies and procedures have been amended to reflect changing legislation, guidance and professional practice. The Council has also sought to reflect on incidents/issues which have occurred elsewhere to ensure that any learning or practice points are reflected in current policies, procedures and practice. Notwithstanding, the Council will respect any conclusion reached by the Inquiry and follow any recommendations made in this regard.