

5.8 Known Abusers and Alleged Abusers

a) Does the organisation know of specific abusers, or alleged abusers, of children in foster care?

None of our foster carers have been convicted of abuse. Four foster carers have been charged and criminal proceedings have commenced but none has resulted in findings of abuse. All these individuals were de-registered as foster carers.

Appendix 5.1 provides details of complaints and allegations of possible abuse.

We are aware of two former foster carers who several years after leaving Swiis to foster with other organisations have been charged and convicted in relation to the abuse of children. Please refer to Appendix 5.13 for further details.

b) If so, what are the names of the abusers, and/or alleged abusers?

Please refer to Appendix 5.1 and 5.13 for details.

c) For each of these persons, please provide as much as possible of the following information:

- the period (dates) during which they are known or alleged to have abused children in foster care
- if they were foster carers, or if not, their relationship with the foster carers or what other role they had during the period of abuse and/or alleged abuse
- the knowledge sought or received about them by the organisation at the point of approval/registration of foster carers and thereafter
- any information (including regarding abuse or alleged abuse) sought by, or provided to, third parties or future employers at any point after the allegation of abuse was made

Please refer to Appendix 5.1 and 5.13 for details.

d) Were known abusers, or alleged abusers, of children permitted to continue as foster carers?

As can be seen from Appendix 5.1 or 5.2 d) some foster carers who had allegations made against them continued as foster carers whilst others resigned or were de-registered due to their practice not meeting expected standards.

e) If so, why was this considered to be appropriate?

Concerns or allegations were unsubstantiated, and the individual circumstances were taken into account.

f) If so, what process of monitoring/supervision followed?

As can be seen from Appendix 5.1 and 5.2 d) end of placement and review meetings often took place to consider any learning for the individual and/or agency. Such meetings also

identify an action plan and make recommendations regarding the appropriateness of the foster carer's terms of registration. If any changes to the foster carer's approval was considered necessary, then a fostering panel was convened to consider this.

Ongoing monitoring was provided via foster carer supervision and annual foster carer reviews chaired by a Reviewing Officer who was independent having no line management responsibility for the staff or foster carers.