

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Questions

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Part B – Current Statement		
No.	Question	Answer
3 Retrospective Acknowledgement/Admission		
3.1 Acknowledgement of Abuse		
3.1 a	Does the local authority accept that between 1930 and 17 December 2014 any children cared for in foster care were abused?	<p>Prior to 1960 we did not have access to records and as a result no information could be accessed. In furtherance of this particular time period we cannot make a full assessment from a historical perspective. It is accepted that there may be instances that historical systems and structures both at local and national level were not of the standard which is current today. On this basis we accept that there could be a likelihood of instances where children experienced abuse or ill-treatment whilst in foster care and this may have gone unnoticed or unreported.</p> <p>A detailed response is provided at 5.8 c and d.</p> <p>Some children in foster care placements made allegations of abuse. These were a very small minority of cases. Where abuse was alleged in these cases, this can be attributed largely to foster carers' own lack of understanding or abilities, rather than training.</p>
3.1 b	If so, what is the local authority's assessment of the extent and scale of such abuse?	<p>The local authority's assessment of the extent and scale of abuse is that as indicated at 3.1a, 5.2a-j. Seven cases were known to the organisation. These were a minority of cases with specific individual circumstances. The evidence indicates that there were few recorded allegations/cases of historical abuse of children in foster care by West Dunbartonshire Council and its predecessor authorities. It is accepted that for those small number of children where abuse was experienced, being in care did not provide the experience which they deserved.</p>

3.1 c	What is the basis of that assessment?	The basis of the assessment was examination of the content of children and foster carers' files with specific emphasis on abuse indicators. The assessment is also based on historical documents relating to policy, procedures and practices for children in foster care through the period relevant to the Inquiry.
3.2 Acknowledgement of Systemic Failures		
3.2 a	Does the local authority accept that its systems failed to protect children in foster care between 1930 and 17 December 2014 from abuse?	<p>As indicated in answer 3.1 a), prior to 1960, information could not be accessed to assess the quality of the experiences of children accommodated in foster care for that period. From 1960 until 2014 (and indeed, to present day), the Local Authority does not accept that there was a systemic failure to protect children in foster care.</p> <p>From the evidence available and in terms of national policy and local policy regulations and guidance, we feel that there were systems in place throughout the period which were sufficient, as far as its possible to ensure this, that the vast majority of children were cared for in a non-abusive foster care placement.</p> <p>Whilst we have been unable to access child and foster care records for the period 1930 to 1960, the ethos of social work services was one of child protection and intervening to safeguard children from abuse. This would have been a consideration in identifying a suitable foster care placement.</p> <p>Although the historical practice is more difficult to ascertain due to lack of documentary evidence, the more recent policy and practice, implemented by both Strathclyde Regional Council and then West Dunbartonshire Council, create emphasis on the protection of children and young people whether in foster care - or otherwise - as a matter of priority. There is a focus on the collective responsibility to protect children.</p>

		<p>The Local Authority ensured that all staff were (and are) vigilant to potential abuse of children in a foster care placement. Over the relevant period, the Local Authority has evolved in line with national policy and guidance and delivered high quality training to relevant staff, across services and out with to partner agencies regarding child abuse.</p> <p>Our systems are aimed at ensuring that no abuse is experienced by children in our care and foster care. However, it is accepted that for a variety of reasons, a system can still generate some negative outcomes based on unknown quantities and random factors.</p> <p>In the cases which are referred to in paragraph 3.1a, these formed a small proportion of overall cases in foster care placements. This does not suggest systemic failures. From the case analysis carried out by the local authority and those cases known to the local authority where abuse of children has occurred, there is no indication that systems or organisational practice was the cause.</p>
3.2 b	What is the local authority's assessment of the extent of any such systemic failures?	As detailed above.
3.2 c	What is the basis of that assessment?	As detailed at 3.2a.
3.2 d	What is the local authority's explanation for any such failures?	<p>As detailed at 3.2a.</p> <p>From the evidence considered, where the alleged abuse of children had occurred, this was as a result of the foster carer's own actions and specific to them, rather than any systemic failure on the part of the authority.</p> <p>A detailed response is provided at 5.8 c and d.</p>

3.3 Acknowledgement of Failures/Deficiencies in Response		
3.3 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?	The local authority does not accept that there were any failures and/or deficiencies in response to abuse. The practice of responding to abuse or allegations of abuse are consistently developing in line with practice experience, guidance and the relevant legislative framework.
3.3 b	What is the local authority's assessment of the extent of any such failures in its response?	As above.
3.3 c	What is the basis of that assessment?	As detailed at 3.3a.
3.3 d	What is the local authority's explanation for any such failures/deficiencies?	As detailed at 3.3a.
3.4 Changes		
3.4 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?	The evolving approach and ethos of the local authority is set out in detail within Part C of the response form.

PART C – Prevention and Identification		
No.	Question	Answer
4 Policy and Practice		
4.1 National		
Past		
4.1 a	Was there national policy/guidance relevant to the provision of foster care for children?	Yes.
4.1 b	If so, to what extent was the local authority aware of such?	Pre 1974 we cannot locate records to indicate the level of awareness. From 1974 onwards we are much more able to

		<p>identify policy and adherence to guidance.</p> <p>Post 1996 national policy is well evidenced in West Dunbartonshire Council in respect of governing procedures and policies surrounding foster care.</p>
4.1 c	If there was national policy/guidance in respect of any of the following in relation to provision of foster care for children, to what extent was the local authority aware of such?	See below – we have not been able to fully identify documents from the early years of interest to the Inquiry. Since the developments of Social Work into the 1970s/1980s, there are fundamental cornerstone documents that evidence the usage of such frameworks including Department of Health, British Association for Adoption & Fostering guidance and in recent years the developments surrounding 'Getting it Right for Every Child'.
	i) Child welfare (physical and emotional)	All qualified fieldwork and fostering services Social Workers had to complete mandatory training around child protection before they could commence assessment activity.
	ii) The child's views	<p>Looked after reviews on a more regular basis were introduced which included the child's view.</p> <p>The developments surrounding the Altogether better Care Documents and Reception into Care paperwork, incorporating the 'having your say forms' and developments around advocacy began to grow into the 1980s.</p>
	iii) Reviewing a child's continued residence in a foster care placement	<p>The fostering team worked within the framework which reviewed and assessed the needs of the child on an ongoing basis, including reviewing areas such as health and safety, child health and changes in households.</p> <p>Developments surrounding timelines for reviews were introduced through the Reception into Care process and further developed in</p>

		recent years to incorporate the Getting it Right for Every Child model as we know it today.
iv)	Child protection	Very aware, specific procedures addressed how allegations would be responded to and training provided for all who were involved in a child's care.
v)	Discipline	Post 1995 corporal punishment was strictly forbidden and training provided for alternative methods to managing behaviour.
vi)	Complaints handling	Post 1995 there were policies and procedures which dealt with complaints and the authority were very aware of this.
vii)	Whistleblowing	There is a local authority policy on whistleblowing.
viii)	Record retention	The local authority is aware of the policy around record retention. Historically over the years there have been amendments in respect of national guidelines, including a move away from paper-based to electronically stored records.
ix)	Recruitment and training of foster carers	From 1995 there was an established recruitment policy and procedures. Before 1995 there was a centrally based recruitment policy involving all areas of Strathclyde Regional Council.
x)	Requiring employers to divulge details of complaints etc. in relation to prospective foster carers to the local authority	Fostering team requests reference from employers regarding prospective carers this has been a requirement since the early years of Strathclyde Regional Council.
4.1 d	If the local authority was aware of such, did they give effect to that policy/guidance?	Yes and there would be policy and procedures formulated post 1974 which would have guided the local authority. Fostering staff followed national guidelines in line with the British Association for Adoption & Fostering, National Fostering Agency and Scottish Government.
4.1 e	If so, how was effect given to such policy/guidance?	There was a comprehensive handbook and guidance to inform

		and guide the practice of the fostering team from legislation and guidance and the appropriate training such as child protection and safer caring. Post 1995 the team had a designated training officer who worked with both foster carers and fostering social workers using the National Fostering Agency training pack which delivered a vast range of training with regards fostering responsibility.
4.1 f	If not, why not?	N/A.
Present		
4.1 g	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	Yes.
4.1 h	If so, please give details.	Current local authority policy and guidance has evolved over time building on evidenced based practice with the child at the centre, in a way that was not entirely evident in the past. This approach is evident in the Getting it Right for Every Child model.
4.2 Local Authority		
(i) Policy		
Past		
4.2 i) a	Was there local authority policy/guidance in relation to the provision of foster care?	No records were identified dating from before 1974. Post 1974 onwards yes.
4.2 i) b	Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?	Yes, policy and procedure post 1974 had the intention to ensure that children looked after received a high standard of care and protection within foster placements.
4.2 i) c	Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?	Yes, policy and procedures were recorded in foster care agreements, handbooks, fostering panels, fostering reviews all post 1974. On the development of any changes in policy and or guidance, we have identified evidence of training around these

		areas. Changes to processes including new report templates varying review procedures.
4.2 i) d	What did the policies and/or procedures set out in terms of the following:	
i)	Child welfare (physical and emotional)	Post 1974 child welfare is enshrined in all policies with the key thread being that the child's best interests should be the paramount consideration in decision making and care planning.
ii)	The child's views	In 1980 the new Reception Into Care (RIC) procedures came into force which allowed a child's view to be recorded and heard. This is built upon in the Looked After and Accommodated Child processes that are used today – including usage of electronic means and advocacy support.
iii)	Placement of siblings	Post 1974 it was policy and practice to place siblings together unless it was assessed not to be in the best interests of a sibling. Guidance would be given by British Association for Adoption & Fostering and National Fostering Agency to say placing siblings together would normally be desirable.
iv)	The placement of a child in foster care	The placement of a child into foster care would have been guided by the policies and procedures set up to inform practice within the framework of the 1995 Act regulations and prior to this the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. Also by guidance given by British Association for Adoption & Fostering and National Fostering Agency. Practice could vary, depending on the emergency nature of such a request.
v)	The particular placement of a child with foster carers	The fostering team, in line with policies and procedures, would match a child where possible taking account of what the foster

		carer can provide in relation to the child's needs. Policy and procedure would allow an opportunity to reflect the best way of carrying out this task, including introductions, pen pictures and pre placement visits to encourage a positive transition and keeping the child at the centre.
vi)	Contact between a child in foster care with his or her family	<p>This would be guided by the 1968 Act and then the 1995 Act, the team would follow local policy and guidance (Strathclyde Regional Council/West Dunbartonshire Council) around contact with family and this would be reviewed and assessed through Reception into Care/Looked After and Accommodated Child system and the Children's Hearing system.</p> <p>The home or away policy was drawn up and used extensively between 1974 and 1990's. This provided direction on how best to conduct contacts and the benefit of such.</p> <p>Policies and guidance from 1974 all emphasise the importance of continuing involvement of family contact.</p>
vii)	Contact between a child in foster care and other siblings in foster care	As above with regards policies and procedures and would be reviewed on a regular basis in line with the child's assessed needs.
viii)	Information sharing with the child's family	<p>In line with policy and procedures post 1995, family's rights to the sharing of information relevant to them was implemented.</p> <p>As above, policies from 1974 have emphasised the rights to information for their child. The 1986 fostering guidelines makes clear that giving the shared caring nature of fostering that it was necessary for there to be a clarity on the role, good communication and information sharing.</p>
ix)	Fostering panels (including constitution, remit, frequency	It is understood that the 1975 Children's Act legislation provided

	and record keeping)	<p>direction into how services would be delivered in respect of guidance and practice. This was built upon in the 1980's with the developments of the fostering guidelines, including the acknowledgements of roles and expectations and reviewing processes. This listed who should be part of a panel and what their role would be, the frequency and the recording of such activity.</p> <p>In the mid 1990s there was further legislation under the 1995 Act, and this provided clear regulations/guidance on the expected roles. This enabled a consistent approach across Scotland, enabling a common language and protocols and criteria around what constituted an assessment for panel members to reflect upon. Including timelines, indicating how children would proceed through panel procedures.</p>
x)	Recruitment and training of foster carers	<p>Improving the quality and availability of foster care was a priority of Strathclyde Regional Council from the outset. Along with a raft of new policies and guidelines, Strathclyde Regional Council ran many recruitment campaigns to increase the pool of fostering provision. A Standing Group of relevant professionals was set up with the specific remit of ongoing recruitment of foster carers. Recruitment efforts involved the use of existing carers, extensive use of recruitment materials and the media. Combined with this there was an increase in the training for foster carers, along with extensive use of British Association for Adoption & Fostering trainers and materials.</p> <p>From 1996 under West Dunbartonshire Council until the present time, training has continued to be expanded with the introduction of a dedicated officer with responsibility for training and the introduction of a fee-based system which made training compulsory for carers.</p>

xi)	Requiring employers to divulge details of complaints etc. in relation to prospective foster carers to the local authority	In the mid 1980's statutory requirements enacted procedures to ensure requests were made for relevant background information, including complaints, from past and present employers. This was continued beyond this timeline and remains in place to date.
xii)	Reviewing a child's continued residence in foster care or in a particular foster care placement	<p>This would be done through the Looked After and Accommodated Child system and prior to 1995, the child care review system Reception into Care.</p> <p>Key professionals would be invited to participate in a range of reviewing processes that seek to safeguard and promote the child's best interest. The review process was developed in guidelines dated 1976 and 1986.</p> <p>Additionally, there would be a formal review of the child's circumstances within the reviewing process, the children's hearing system and the appointed foster carer's registration review process.</p> <p>The guidelines set out frequency of reviews and the composition of who should be in attendance. The current model has been revised to incorporate the Getting it Right for Every Child principles.</p>
xiii)	Visits to a foster care placement (including frequency, purpose, content, follow up and record keeping)	<p>This was guided by policy post 1995 with the Looked After and Accommodated system where the supervising social worker for the foster carer and the child's social worker had a duty to visit regularly to ensure the child's needs were met and all records were up to date and retained. Prior to this the team was guided by the 1968 Act and also guidance from British Association for Adoption & Fostering and National Fostering Agency.</p> <p>This was complimented by the introduction of unannounced visit</p>

		and built upon to include two reviewed such visits. The supervising Social Worker would record all visits, calls and business pertaining to the allocated carer. This would have been in written form until the introduction of computer based inputs and joined up recording are part of our Care First system. This would allow the area team worker to consider aspects of the work being carried out with the carer and also allow the supervising officer to make comment on the child's records, should this be required.
xiv)	Transfer of a child from one foster placement to another (including preparation and support)	<p>There was guidance regulating a placement move for a Looked After and Accommodated Child post 1995 and would be done in consultation with the workers around the child and the carers. Support would be given by supervising social workers to foster carers and area team social workers to the child.</p> <p>The fostering guidelines 1986 provide details of the process of the transfer of a child. The guidelines outline the Social Work responsibility to ensure that the child's transition is carried with the minimum impact.</p> <p>The Social Worker's role was to prepare all parties to the change, ensuring that they understand the sequence of events and the need for the desired change. This would address the legal position, medicals and any practical requirements needed.</p> <p>Foster Carers would play a pivotal role in helping the child with this transition.</p> <p>It would be expected that support would be tailored to the needs of each child with bespoke planning required, depending on the circumstances.</p>
xv)	Transfer of a child between foster care and residential care (including preparation and support)	As above, where possible a child would visit prior to being admitted to help prepare and support them. Foster Carers would

		<p>play a pivotal role in helping the child with this transition.</p> <p>It would be expected that support would be tailored to the needs of each child with bespoke planning required, depending on the circumstances.</p>
xvi)	Child protection	<p>As above policy and procedures were guided by the 1968 and 1995 Acts and there are detailed procedures to follow with regard to child protection.</p> <p>We have no information pre 1974. During Strathclyde Regional Council time there were new Child Protection procedures in 1979, 1983, 1989 and a supplement to Child Protection procedures to take account of new legislation in 1996.</p> <p>Post Strathclyde Regional Council (1996), West Dunbartonshire Council participated in the West of Scotland wide Child Protection procedures in 2001. These have been reviewed at regular intervals to take into consideration lessons from enquiries and proposed guidance pertaining to Child Protection practice.</p>
xvii)	Complaints handling	<p>There is a complaint policy on how a complaint will be handled and timescales on how it would be acknowledged and dealt with. This has been incrementally built upon to incorporate national implications, including inspectorate processes and the role of the independent Ombudsman.</p>
xviii)	Whistleblowing	<p>There is a whistleblowing policy which was introduced by Strathclyde Regional Council. This policy was revised and updated in line with relevant legislation post 1986 by West Dunbartonshire Council.</p>
xix)	Record retention	<p>There are specific policies and procedures with regards record retention. All case records were kept in line with statutory requirements and maintained centrally in Glasgow archives.</p>

4.2 i) e	Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?	Pre 1995 and post 1995 they would have been formulated by relevant social work managers informed national guidance and legislation.
4.2 i) f	When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?	Legislation and updated regulations have dictated practice through time and this continues to be the model of growth. Services have developed on the basis of national enquiries and changes in direction of the legal route.
4.2 i) g	Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?	Yes they were kept under review taking account of new legislation, recommendations and enquiries.
4.2 i) h	If so, what was the reason for review?	<p>As above any issues which arise formed a review. Changes in legislation, culture and enquiries and good practice issues developed on the principles of keeping the child at the centre.</p> <p>The first new policy in forty years and guidance was introduced in 1976 by Strathclyde Regional Council. This was updated in 1986 and further developed in more recent times in line with modern guidance/frameworks including Getting it Right for Every Child.</p> <p>These policies included all fostering assessments being presented to adoption and fostering panels, the role of the link worker, a written report on every placement, foster home reviews and the further right of appeal for the carer.</p>
4.2 i) i	What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?	As above, additionally, developments in checks completed by third party agencies such as Disclosure Scotland – notably the introduction of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups system to ensure background checks occurred regularly and thoroughly. An annual review of foster care was introduced in 1995.

4.2 i) j	Why were changes made?	Changes were made in response to national enquiry recommendations to improve child protection and the overall experience of the child and carers in the placement which sought to build upon and improve the quality of the caring experience.
4.2 i) k	Were changes documented?	Yes, all developments in legislation were detailed in updated guidance practice development – these were updated in carer handbook and through departmental training.
4.2 i) l	Was there an audit trail?	There was a clear audit trail for child protection decisions clearly recorded in both child and foster carers' files and in supervision and review processes.
Present		
4.2 i) m	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No – the Council continues to develop on the basis of good practice and developments around legal changes and reviews of national enquiries.
4.2 i) n	If so, please give details.	As above.
(ii) Practice Past		
4.2 ii) a	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in relation to the provision of foster care?	Yes, practice within the fostering team was guided by policy, procedure and guidance from British Association for Adoption & Fostering and National Fostering Agency. Evidence from records of foster care experience during the 1970s would indicate a high level of adherence by Strathclyde Regional Council. This continued to be evidenced through case file audits and external inspection reports over the years since.
4.2 ii) b	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures on the following:	Yes.
i)	Child welfare (physical and emotional)	Yes the practice within the team adhered to the policy and

		procedures. This can be evidenced within inspection reports within the Strathclyde Regional Council years and built upon since the development of West Dunbartonshire Council.
ii)	The child's views	<p>Yes – records from Strathclyde Regional Council period indicate continued improvements in taking into account the child's view throughout the 1980s. For example the introduction of the Reception into Care paperwork and subsequently Looked After and Accommodated Child documents.</p> <p>This for the first time required account to be taken on the child's view in a range of significant issues surrounding future placements and plans.</p> <p>Further changes were introduced that increased age appropriate involvement e.g.: – child advocate, independent report to hearings, the safe guarder and the developments around Getting it Right for Every Child.</p>
iii)	Placement of siblings	<p>Yes – records from 1974 indicate a high priority for children to be placed together, where this was in their best interests. Case file audits indicate a high level of adherence to this policy. There would be occasions where resources were not able to do this, particularly when emergencies would occur. Where this occurred every effort would be created to bring children together on a planned way.</p>
iv)	The placement of a child in foster care	<p>Yes – placing children in fostering provision was given a greater focus from the 1980s onwards. This was reflective of the change in thinking around large group living and was made possible by a success in the recruitment of foster carers into the council area.</p> <p>From 1986 within West Dunbartonshire Council this has remained a council priority and we now have a significant swing</p>

		in the balance of children now being cared for in fostering provision. This has shown a steady increase over the previous decades.
v)	The particular placement of a child with foster carers	<p>Yes – when a child is formally accommodated at the beginning there is an immediate matching process based on profiling.</p> <p>From the early 1980s within Strathclyde Regional Council much more emphasis was placed on the matching process, having regard to skills, experience, make up of household, ethnicity, religion etc.</p> <p>From 1996 within West Dunbartonshire Council this policy has been continued with further emphasis on compulsory training for carers and greater sophistication on the matching process at the point of assessment and ongoing development of carers' experiences.</p>
vi)	Contact between a child in foster care with his or her family	<p>Yes – from the mid 1970s onwards priority has been placed on the facilitating and encouragement of family contact. Unless this was assessed as being harmful to the child/ren.</p> <p>This continued to be the priority from 1996 by West Dunbartonshire Council.</p> <p>Case file analysis and inspection reflects a high level of adherence to this level of practice.</p>
vii)	Contact between a child in foster care and other siblings in foster care	Yes – as above.
viii)	Information sharing with the child's family	The reviewing of each child's placements followed the Reception into Care guidance and latterly Looked After and Accommodated

		Child processes. All reports pertaining to the child's circumstances would be guided by legislation and in principle worked at all times in the best interests of the child.
ix)	Fostering panels (including constitution, remit, frequency and record keeping)	<p>Fostering panels were constituted in the 1970's with clear expectations and roles.</p> <p>In the 1990s these panels were governed by new regulations formed following the 1995 act.</p>
x)	Recruitment and training of foster carers	<p>From the late 1970's it was the council's priority to recruit foster carers this was accompanied by increased training opportunities.</p> <p>In 1996 West Dunbartonshire Council built upon this recruitment and training process and from 2000s there were systematic use of national fostering training documents.</p> <p>Training has been viewed as a priority over the last few decades and is now viewed in many parts of the training calendar as mandatory (Child protection, Safer Caring etc.).</p>
xi)	Requiring employers to divulge details of complaints etc. in relation to prospective foster carers to the local authority	From 1974 to 1996 this was carried out by Strathclyde Regional Council in line with statutory requirements. This was continued by West Dunbartonshire Council at the developments of unitary authorities. This is reflected in audits and inspections.
xii)	Reviewing a child's continued residence in foster care or in a particular foster care placement	The child's circumstances have been reviewed in regular meetings following their entry to placements. These were formally developed in the Reception into Care documents and latterly within the Looked After and Accommodated Child process. Additionally, the placement of children in fostering provision would be reviewed at regular intervals through the Children's hearing system or courts where legal routes were

		being considered.
xiii)	Visits to a foster care placement (including frequency, purpose, content, follow up and record keeping)	<p>Visits to foster carers' home have developed over the decades. Each visit held a requirement to be recorded with some visits containing specific professional roles to be adopted and specific tasks to be completed. In the early years, visits were conducted from within a generic team, with these developing into more specific, established fostering teams. There was a developing need to carry out unannounced visits and this has been built upon in recent years to include two such recorded visits in a calendar year. All visits were recorded on paper documents, moving forward to electronic records in recent years.</p> <p>The frequency of visits and the need for foster care support has developed over the years and there is now more established routines in place with clear expectations on the role of the supervising Social Worker.</p>
xiv)	Transfer of a child from one foster placement to another (including preparation and support)	<p>Where a sibling group had been separated at the point of initial placements this would be carried out following evaluation of the carers suitability of the task.</p> <p>Additionally, there were occasions when a placement breakdown would occur and these operated on the basis of an emergency transfer. On these occasions, judgment would be made by the teams responsible for fostering and the child would be moved with social work support.</p> <p>Where a planned placement had been agreed, there would be formal introductions and a range of activity surrounding the transition between two carers. This would include pre placements visits, life story work and potential visits to the new area, including schools, health, leisure etc.</p>

		On a planned basis there would be planning carried out by the permanency planning processes – ensuring a smooth, supported move between homes and a clear legal plan.
xv)	Transfer of a child between foster care and residential care (including preparation and support)	As above.
xvi)	Child protection	<p>Family placement resources were subject to the Child Protection procedures, with the exception of the registration process, which was aligned to children in the community. All such investigations beyond registration remained the same.</p> <p>Foster carers would be advised of their expectations and the route surrounding allegations and would be contained with the handbook. This would include the allocation of different staff to during any investigations, to ensure safe practice.</p> <p>Over time, the need for compulsory Child Protection training has grown such that it is now a mandatory requirement for registration.</p>
xvii)	Complaints handling	<p>It is unclear what the complaints handling process would have been in the earlier years of the period relevant to this submission.</p> <p>Decisions surrounding a complaint vis a vis a child protection concern lay with the senior manager fostering service and this would be allocated for follow up, utilising available guidance and processes.</p> <p>Complaints handling features through the handbook within the Strathclyde Regional Council timeline. This has been built upon to the policies that are now in place.</p>

xviii)	Whistleblowing	There are no records of a whistleblowing policy in the early years. This begins to take shape in the latter years and has continued to be built upon through council policy.
xix)	Record retention	Records were maintained in a central point (Glasgow) and managed by Archivists by the local authorities concerned in conjunction with the keepers of the records in Glasgow. Paper records were held and latterly updated electronically. These were maintained and documented based on regulatory requirements.
4.2 ii) c	How was adherence demonstrated?	Case file audits demonstrates a high level of adherence, pulled from case records, review minutes and inspection reports. Records of files were routinely held at departmental Head Quarters and could be identified and located by the Archivist when required.
4.2 ii) d	How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?	Samples from the case file audits and inspection reports can be provided. We also maintain an historical record of archived records.
4.2 ii) e	Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?	Yes – there is evidence of this from 1974 onwards.
4.2 ii) f	Have such records been retained?	Yes – within archive records, within council properties and within new electronic scanning tools.
4.2 ii) g	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?	N/A.
4.2 ii) h	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, what was the practice?	N/A.

Present		
4.2 ii) i	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No.
4.2 ii) j	If so, please give details.	N/A.
4.3 Children		
(i) Policy		
4.3 i) a	What policies and/or procedures did the local authority have in place in relation to the care of children in foster care?	No available records prior to the developments of Strathclyde Regional Council. In the period 1974 to 1996 a range of policies and procedures were put in place by Strathclyde Regional Council. These were aimed at improving outcomes for children and standards of care provided. This has continued from 1996 under West Dunbartonshire Council until the present day.
4.3 i) b	Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?	Yes – all such procedures and policies were adapted to meet statutory guidelines, good practice issues and sought to build on researched materials that promoted positive outcomes for children.
4.3 i) c	Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?	All such policies were written down for implementation, recorded in handbooks and statute records. Each policy and procedure would be supported with internal and, at times, national training.
4.3 i) d	What did the policies and/or procedures set out in terms of the following?	See below.
	i) Safeguarding	There was no significant recognition of safeguarding pre 1995 this was then endorsed through the legislative process. This

		<p>policy was set out to ensure fair and balanced independent assessment to allow decisions to be reached for children in a timeous manner.</p> <p>It should be noted that early legislation allowed for Social Work to focus on the child's best interests and over time, there was greater emphasis placed upon independent advocacy roles.</p>
ii)	Child Protection	<p>As far as we can ascertain, polices around child protection and foster care have mirrored national guidance. The main changes being that children in placements would be incorporated into the same guidance, though no Child Protection registration would take place in such matters. Prior to this change, Child Protection concerns were handled as formal complaints.</p>
iii)	Medical care	<p>The Reception into Care paperwork would encourage a medical of each child on admission to a care placement. This was carried out routinely, the exception being where emergency admission occurred and guidance would require this to be carried out the next working day. Unless there was a need for hospital treatment.</p> <p>A full comprehensive medical would be required within six weeks of any placements and annually thereafter. Practice for children under five is such that, those children are required to have medical input twice yearly.</p> <p>The concept of the medical was to provide assurances of the child's holistic health and to create actions around any identified health concerns.</p> <p>This has been extended with the altogether better care document (Looked After and Accommodated Child) which built on good</p>

		<p>practice of the earlier guidance. Including the introduction of the Looked After and Accommodated Child Nurse.</p> <p>Foster carers are required to be involved in health assessments on approval. Again, this has been built upon to incorporate review medicals. This is overviewed by an independent medical advisor, who can provide guidance on any health concerns and ability for the foster carer to competently meet the role and tasks required of them.</p>
iv)	Children's physical wellbeing	<p>Under the Reception into Care process and the later Looked After and Accommodated Child documents, the child's wellbeing featured as an area that would be considered at each review.</p> <p>Additionally the comprehensive risk assessment toolkit (Department of Health - orange book) held wellbeing as an integral factor to be considered in an assessment of the child.</p>
v)	Children's emotional and mental wellbeing	<p>As above.</p> <p>Additionally, the introduction of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service supported the overall objective of supporting and promoting the mental wellbeing of children.</p> <p>During the Strathclyde Regional Council timeline there was an introduction of the Child Protection category of emotional abuse, which reflected clearer understanding, at that time, of the importance of the child's emotional health.</p>
vi)	Schooling/education	<p>There is evidence of discussions surrounding the common issues of education. In particular finance issues around payment of resources which led to a growth in joint resource groups.</p>

		<p>Over time, the child's requirements for educational input within the care planning process has grown to where we are today (Getting it Right for Every Child named person model). This has included developments around specific educational practitioners who target/support Looked After and Accommodated Child. This is representative of a growing understanding of the poor achievement records of this grouping of children and the need to provide support at a higher level to provide better outcomes.</p> <p>Young people with identified areas requiring further support received input from the development of joint work between Social Work and Education where the focus was on achieving better educational outcomes for children.</p> <p>The developments of the home and away report and the New Community School initiative all added to this developmental need for the focus to be on prevention.</p>
vii)	Discipline	<p>There are limited evidential documents that allow us to reflect on what occurred in the early years. There is documentation that surrounds the care of children and corporal punishment in the late 1970s. Within the Foster Carer's handbook (Strathclyde Regional Council) it is acknowledged that there was regional policy for residential establishments, but it was viewed as unwise to impose such strict instructions on foster families. Within this document it comments that smacking should be avoided, with a better understanding that the child may be struggling with boundaries, where these may not have been in place for them in the past.</p> <p>It was encouraged that foster carers use a reflective, relationship model to discipline, explaining that a child was far more likely to respond favourably in such circumstances.</p>

viii)	Activities and holidays for children	<p>There were clear guidelines within the Strathclyde Regional Council handbook, outlining steps to be taken, including carer holiday experiences, school holidays, passports and permission processes.</p> <p>Additional payments were built in to provide extra finances for holiday experiences with the fostering family, for children in placement.</p>
ix)	Sharing a bedroom	<p>Age limits applied up to 12 years old for sharing a bedroom for mixed gender. After 12 years old this was not allowed. Sibling groups would be accommodated together, where single sex groups existed. For younger, mixed gender this did not apply.</p> <p>There were some restrictions around age and gender in respect of a foster child residing within the same room as a birth child. These matters would ordinarily be part of a discussion and discretion held with the carer.</p>
x)	Contact with family members	<p>The Strathclyde Regional Council handbook is clear that the nature of fostering is carried out on the principles of direct and or indirect contact, that this is part of the child's history and that this should be promoted, unless this was harmful to the child/ren. The carers' role therefore was to encourage, promote and assist in the developments of the carers' role to ensure successful rehabilitation, while looking after the child to enable a safe time that the care of the child could be returned to natural parent/s.</p>
xi)	Contact with siblings	<p>Where a sibling was living within their own family home or within another placement, sibling contact was always encouraged and promoted, unless there was a detrimental impact on the child.</p>
xii)	Celebration of birthdays and other special occasions	<p>Extra finance for birthdays was always in place. Birthday</p>

		celebrations would be encouraged and where it was possible to have contact time at/or around these events with siblings or parents, then every effort was created.
xiii)	Information sharing by the foster carer with family members	Information was shared on an a need to know basis, carried out on the principle that if there were certain aspects of the child's needs that required specific support or adjustments, then relevant information may be divulged to other relevant individuals, to support that particular need.
4.3 i) e	Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?	Officers of each of the associated councils over the years spanning this document. It is not known in the early years before Strathclyde Regional Council.
4.3 i) f	When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?	Policies and procedures followed national guidance and statute during the period 1974 to present.
4.3 i) g	Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?	Yes.
4.3 i) h	If so, what was the reason for review?	Reviews were conducted to take account of statutory and regulatory changes, the intention being the improvement of standards and outcomes for children in the fostering placements.
4.3 i) i	What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?	<p>Policies and procedures were revisited and revised based on learning. One of the major changes was the development in specialist fostering teams, the development of national bodies, membership for carers (National Foster Care Association) in such bodies and the mandatory/additional training provided to carers.</p> <p>There was a move away from the community volunteer carer to the partnership operating in today's modern day foster care frameworks, where the carer is involved in the holistic aspects of the child's plan.</p>

4.3 i) j	Why were changes made?	<p>It was accepted that there was a need to provide specialist support to a carer, to improve of the overall recruitment, retention of carers and quality of care and support being offered.</p> <p>There was a drive to ensure that carers were more pivotal in the overall care planning process, moving away from the carers only providing the direct care in their home.</p>
4.3 i) k	Were changes documented?	Yes.
4.3 i) l	Was there an audit trail?	As far as we can ascertain, and as viewed in the developments of the carer handbook, it can be viewed that significant changes have occurred over time and these will have been drawn down from policies, guidance and statutory processes.
Present		
4.3 i) m	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	Yes.
4.3 i) n	If so, please give details.	Over the years the responsibility lay with the individual councils to develop policy based on evolving national guidance, legislation, care standards and lessons gained from national enquiries.
(ii) Practice Past		
4.3 ii) a	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures relating to the care of children in foster care?	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
4.3 ii) b	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in terms of the following?	As below.
	i) Safeguarding	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.

ii)	Child Protection	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
iii)	Medical care	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
iv)	Children's physical wellbeing	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
v)	Children's emotional and mental wellbeing	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
vi)	Schooling/education	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
vii)	Discipline	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
viii)	Activities and holidays for children	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
ix)	Sharing a bedroom	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
x)	Contact with family members	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
xi)	Contact with siblings	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
xii)	Celebration of birthdays and other special occasions	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
xiii)	Information sharing by the foster carer with family members	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
4.3 ii) c	How was adherence demonstrated?	Departmental records, case file audits and childcare records and meeting minutes. Additional information can be drawn down from local authority/council inspections.
4.3 ii) d	How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?	As above.
4.3 ii) e	Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?	Yes.

4.3 ii) f	Have such records been retained?	Many of the records are held within national and local archives. Supporting evidence surrounding inspection will be held within the appropriate inspection body and within council records. Records for the period pre-1970s are no longer available.
4.3 ii) g	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?	N/A.
4.3 ii) h	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, what was the practice?	N/A.
Present		
4.3 ii) i	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No – the organisation continues to build on research, good practice and national policy/guidance.
4.3 ii) j	If so, please give details.	N/A.
4.4 Foster Carers		
(i) Policy		
Past		
4.4 i) a	What policies and/or procedures did the local authority have in relation to foster carers?	Historically we have not been able to find documents that would indicate a full process. However, the Fostering Guidelines appear in the 1980s and this provides a comprehensive list of areas for the delivery and development of practice.
4.4 i) b	Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?	The guidance discussed above was set out to provide council wide processes in respect of best practice surrounding the recruitment, training and retention of foster carers. It also set out the role of the carer clearly, promoted good communication and information sharing, and explicitly set out the intended aims of a placement. The guidance brings together existing policies and procedures

		<p>and introduced new ones, including all fostering assessments being presented to panels, the role of the link worker, a written report of every placement, foster home reviews, and further rights of appeal.</p> <p>Over the years this was further refined, including the policy and procedure borne from developments of regulations and guidance from the 1995 Act and developments from Getting it Right for Every Child.</p>
4.4 i) c	Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?	Yes.
4.4 i) d	What did the policies and/or procedures set out in terms of the following?	See below.
i)	Recruitment	<p>It was regional policy to recruit and retain foster carers from across Strathclyde Region. The main consideration was the welfare of children who require family type placements. The guidance developed in 1986 dedicates a whole section to the importance of the recruitment of carers.</p> <p>The 1995 regulations explain that planned development of fostering should incorporate the recruitment of carers within the service plans of the council.</p> <p>Encompassed in the guidance and regulations is a process of initial enquiries and this would enable a counselling process to be enacted, enabling the prospective applicant and council officials the opportunity to determine the suitability of potential future carers. This would incorporate an opportunity to present key information about the actual task involved and expectations that would/could potentially be placed on them.</p>

ii)	Standard and size of accommodation	The British Association for Adoption and Fostering guidance surrounding the assessment of foster carers fully considers the appropriateness of the accommodation and the home for the fostering task. The regulations (1995) explain that the applicant's accommodation should be addressed on the basis of suitability.
iii)	Number, age and gender of children accommodated/in the household	<p>The suitability of the carer is determined through the assessment process and the age, gender and accommodation has to be suitable for the caring role. These are covered in the fostering guidelines and further reinforced in more detail, including race, disability and cultural requirements in the 1995 regulations.</p> <p>There are times where in an emergency that the approved age and gender type of the accommodation would not be a direct link to the child's needs. The guidance and regulations provide scope for this, however advice that this should be reviewed to seek to overcome issues (to reduce moves) or for another suitable placement to be identified.</p>
iv)	Pre-approval/registration checks	The guidance highlights a range of checks that would be carried out – including: departmental records, police enquiry, health board checks, personal references and medical reports. The home study report would seek to consolidate known information about the family or individual being assessed.
v)	References	<p>There is recognition in the guidance that personal references should be sought. The guidance states that this should be someone who knows the applicant personally, rather than someone holding a particular position in the community (priest, minister or doctor).</p> <p>The regulations (1995) state that at least one of the referees should be a non relative.</p>

		It is noted that there was a minimum requirement to carry out a further visit to at least one of the referees. Where this was not possible, due to geographical issues, it was expected that this would be requested by the local authority where the referee resides.
vi)	Foster care agreements	Foster care agreements feature in the 1995 regulations. There is a requirement for a written agreement between the carer and the authority, including terms and conditions around the partnership – set out in schedule two of the regulations document. This includes issues around confidentiality and corporal punishment, among others.
vii)	Induction	<p>New foster carers were encouraged to attend the National Foster Care Association's parenting plus and/or added to adolescence courses. These were used to assess prospective carers, as an ongoing introductory course and for ongoing learning for experienced foster carers.</p> <p>The regulations promote the use of training as a means of assessing prospective carers. This enhanced the importance of training and the competence of the prospective carers understanding and suitability of the caring role for both assessor and prospective carer. It was made clear that the induction training was part of the overall assessment process.</p>
viii)	Transfer of foster carers to or from other organisations or local authorities	Fostering is largely viewed as localised in the 1986 guidance. It does not state information about the transfer of carers. The 1995 regulations state that another local authority can enter into agreements with placing authorities and that that council would then act as the supervising agency and be treated as if it was one of their own placed children.

		<p>A carer has the ability to offer their support to more than one council – though this is considered as potentially challenging. Another authority can use (derivative) the original assessment though in practice it would be, in most cases an update assessment would be used.</p>
ix)	Review/supervision	<p>The guidance in 1986 introduced the annual review of foster carers. It also defined the activity of the Link Worker, supporting the placement.</p> <p>Support was offered to carers in accordance to the boarding out regulations 1959. Children would be visited in the first two months in placement and then at three monthly intervals.</p> <p>The 1995 regulations built on previous guidance, supporting the annual review process and development of the foster care agreement. These agreements set out all aspects of the expectations on carers during the placement, including expected care arrangements, financial arrangements and level of support required.</p>
x)	Training	<p>Training has been a key element to the recruitment and assessment of foster carers. This is documented within the foster care guidance 1986.</p> <p>The regulations state that training at the induction process is crucial. After approval there needs to be an agreement around training needs post approval. There are three levels of training – support, discussion and evaluation in the home, group, and participation in formal events with others.</p> <p>There are seven key areas that the regulations point out are</p>

		necessary and training requirements would therefore be required as mandatory. This includes child protection, safer caring, working with parents and cultural awareness.
xi)	Personal development	As above.
xii)	Disciplinary actions	<p>The 1986 guidance refers to the process surrounding complaints and the removal of foster carers from the registered list.</p> <p>The 1995 regulations highlight that foster carers have a right to make complaint about their own circumstances and that the local authorities should provide a formal procedure to enable these to be considered.</p> <p>Disciplinary processes are documented in both the guidance and regulations. There are clear directions in respect of Child Protection detailed in the regulations.</p> <p>The deregistration process is given consideration in both documents and provides direction to how this should be carried out.</p>
xiii)	Removal of approval/registration	As detailed the guidance and regulations provide details of how these processes should be conducted.
4.4 i) e	Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?	Officers of the council in consultation with national guidance would be asked to create local processes and procedures based on the guidance produced.
4.4 i) f	When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?	<p>1986 – Fostering guidelines, Strathclyde Regional Council</p> <p>1995 – Scotland's Children – The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Regulation and Guidance Volume 2</p>

4.4 i) g	Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?	Yes.
4.4 i) h	If so, what was the reason for review?	Updated in line with new regulations and guidance.
4.4 i) i	What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?	Introduction of the foster care review 1986 Introduction of Foster Care Agreement in 1995
4.4 i) j	Why were changes made?	Improvement of standards and outcomes for children in our care.
4.4 i) k	Were changes documented?	Yes.
4.4 i) l	Was there an audit trail?	Yes.
Present		
4.4 i) m	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	Yes.
4.4 i) n	If so, please give details.	New developments in respect of the 2010 and 2014 acts and policy developments surrounding Getting it Right for Every Child.
(ii) Practice Past		
4.4 ii) a	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in relation to foster care?	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
4.4 ii) b	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in terms of the following?	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
i)	Recruitment	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
ii)	Standard and size of accommodation	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
iii)	Number, age and gender of children accommodated/in the	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.

	household	
iv)	Pre-approval/registration checks	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
v)	References	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
vi)	Foster care agreements	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
vii)	Induction	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
viii)	Transfer of foster carers to or from other organisations or local authorities	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
ix)	Review/supervision	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
x)	Training	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
xi)	Personal development	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
xii)	Disciplinary actions	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
xiii)	Removal of approval/registration	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
4.4 ii) c	How was adherence demonstrated?	Individual records for carers are held. Minutes of formal reviews and disciplinary are held and reflections on independent inspections by agencies such as care inspectorate are available.
4.4 ii) d	How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?	As above.
4.4 ii) e	Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?	Yes.
4.4 ii) f	Have such records been retained?	Yes.

4.4 ii) g	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?	N/A.
Present		
4.4 ii) h	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No.
4.4 ii) i	If so, please give details.	N/A.
4.5 Other Members of the Foster Carer's Household		
(i) Policy		
Past		
4.5 i) a	What policies and/or procedures did the local authority have in place in relation to other members of the foster carer's household?	<p>The council's referenced all work back to the fostering guidelines 1986 and this was built upon in the regulations in 1995.</p> <p>The guidance reflects that all members of the household would be subject to enquiries – including police, departmental checks, and health board checks.</p> <p>It is recognised that fostering has an enormous impact on the whole family and the full consultation and assessment of any children living in the household (or outwith) should be captured.</p>
4.5 i) b	Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?	The overall aim was to ensure the safe care of children, obtaining assurances that their care requirements could be wholly met within the placement.
4.5 i) c	Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?	As part of the assessment process and again in the formal yearly review of the fostering placement.
4.5 i) d	Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?	Officers of the council in consultation with national guidance would be asked to create local processes and procedures based on the guidance produced.

4.5 i) e	When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?	1986 and 1995. This has been enhanced with the 2010 and 2014 legislation and introduction of Getting it Right for Every Child principles.
4.5 i) f	Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?	Yes.
4.5 i) g	If so, what was the reason for review?	In line with new regulations and good practice issues.
4.5 i) h	What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?	Additional information is now maintained in the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme and a requirement to hold membership of this for all adults living in the household and/or regular visitor to the house. A greater emphasis was placed on who – beyond the principal carer - could be involved directly or indirectly in the care of a placed child.
4.5 i) i	Why were changes made?	To ensure the safe care of all children in placement.
4.5 i) j	Were changes documented?	Yes.
4.5 i) k	Was there an audit trail?	Yes.
Present		
4.5 i) l	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No.
4.5 i) m	If so, please give details.	N/A.
(ii) Practice Past		
4.5 ii) a	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its	Yes.

	policy/procedures in relation to other members of the foster carer's household?	
4.5 ii) b	How was adherence demonstrated?	All members of the household were routinely checked as part of the guidance and regulation's laid down.
4.5 ii) c	How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?	This is recorded in case file audits, foster care review minutes and Care First notes.
4.5 ii) d	Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?	Yes.
4.5 ii) e	Have such records been retained?	Yes.
4.5 ii) f	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?	N/A.
Present		
4.5 ii) g	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No.
4.5 ii) h	If so, please give details.	N/A.
4.6 Placement of Children by the Local Authority with Foster Carers approved/registered by other Local Authorities or Organisations		
(i) Policy		
Past		
4.6 i) a	What policies and/or procedures did the local authority have in place in relation to placement of children with foster carers approved/registered by other local authorities or organisations?	In April 1976 the Social Work committee of Strathclyde Regional Council approved the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) recommendations regarding the supervision of children placed in other areas. The arrangements for supervision were that:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The receiving authority should accept responsibility for the effective supervision of children received within their care. - Social Workers from both care and receiving authorities should meet at least annually to review the progress of the child and seek to plan for the child's future. Quarterly reports should be exchanged, covering the developments and well-being of the child and the circumstances surrounding their own family situation. <p>The 1986 Strathclyde Regional Council Foster Guidelines contain detailed information on procedure for transferring case responsibility to another authority. It makes clear that no plans should be made in respect of a child without the agreement of the receiving authority. It refers to an agreed supervision fee to be paid by Strathclyde Regional Council to the receiving Local Authority.</p> <p>The 1995 regulations and guidance makes clear that there must be an agreement with both local authorities concerned and that the supervising authority should treat the placement with the same priority as a child placed by themselves.</p>
4.6 i) b	Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?	Yes, to ensure the child's needs were met in the best possible placement to meet the best interests of the child and that their needs should not be compromised due to geographical patch.
4.6 i) c	Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?	Yes, as above.
4.6 i) d	Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?	Officers of the council.
4.6 i) e	When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?	As noted above.
4.6 i) f	Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?	Yes, the details above demonstrate a growth in such

		developments.
4.6 i) g	If so, what was the reason for review?	To take account of best practice and regulations.
4.6 i) h	What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?	No substantive changes made. Incrementally these areas appear to compliment the position of each other and reinforce good practice standards, and the keeping children at the centre ethos.
4.6 i) i	Why were changes made?	Yes, the details above demonstrate a growth in such developments and restate good practice.
4.6 i) j	Were changes documented?	Yes.
4.6 i) k	Was there an audit trail?	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
Present		
4.6 i) l	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No – the council remain responsible for all children within and out with their authority, where responsibly remains with the placing authority.
4.6 i) m	If so, please give details.	N/A.
(ii) Practice Past		
4.6 ii) a	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in relation to placement of children with foster carers approved/registered by other local authorities or organisations?	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
4.6 ii) b	How was adherence demonstrated?	There is no indication from inspection reports, audits or case files to demonstrate that this policy was not met.
4.6 ii) c	How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?	As above.

4.6 ii) d	Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?	Case records, child care review minutes, planning meetings and our Care First recordings.
4.6 ii) e	Have such records been retained?	Yes.
4.6 ii) f	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?	N/A.
Present		
4.6 ii) g	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different? If so, please give details.	No.
4.6 ii) h	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different? If so, please give details.	No.
4.7 Complaints and Reporting		
(i) Policy		
Past		
4.7 i) a	What policies and/or procedures did the local authority have in place in relation to complaints and reporting about foster care?	Prior to the unitary authorities coming into to place, there were complaints procedures. This is identified in the home and away document. The charter for children's rights in the 1980s addresses how complaints should be carried out within foster placements.
4.7 i) b	Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?	Home and Away document – Children's Right report. The 1986 fostering guidelines outline the nature of complaints and how these should be carried out. The additional component is that relevant processes should be followed, including Child Protection procedures where this is necessary.
4.7 i) c	Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?	Yes.

4.7 i) d	What did the policies and/or procedures set out on the following:	See below.
i)	Complaints by children	<p>The complaints procedures that we have identified provide general processes which do not exclusively mention children. Although, in the 1986 fostering guidelines there is notification and acknowledgement that complaints can come from anywhere and for this to include children.</p> <p>The developments in the 1990s demonstrate a growth in advocacy, including the establishment of Who Cares? Scotland and other advocacy supports. This incorporates the arrangements surrounding the Looked After and Accommodated Child developments where having your say forms were introduced and latterly electronic communication that could be considered and dealt with at the child care review process.</p> <p>The regulations in the 1995 Act emphasise the importance of dealing with complaints against foster carers, keeping the child's welfare as the main focus and ensuring that these were given a high priority.</p>
ii)	Complaints by foster carers	<p>The 1986 guidance advises on how complaints should be met – it notes that all complaints should be treated seriously and that following investigation, carers should be informed formally about the outcomes, including where relevant a visit from the District Manager.</p> <p>This approach was further developed within the 1995 regulations.</p>
iii)	Complaints by family members of children	<p>There is no specific reference to complaints by family members, however these would have been addressed in terms of the individual council's response to complaints.</p>

iv)	Complaints by third persons	As above.
v)	Whistleblowing	No specific area around whistleblowing is noted in the early years, within the fostering service.
vi)	Support, including external support, for those who made the complaint or those who were the subject of complaint	Both in 1986 and in 1995 it noted that the link worker and Social Worker for the child would support complaints. The response to the complaint would determine whether or not abuse has occurred and if there is a risk to the child and or carer. Procedures place significance on the need for support and or counselling that the child and/or carer may require. This may include support to carers from national organisations, including legal advice and for children to have additional support from external advocacy.
vii)	Response to complaints (including response by the local authority)	All responses would follow appropriate protocols and feedback would be relevant at different junctures of the complaint investigation and certainly as a rounded follow up to advise on outcomes.
viii)	External reporting of complaints	External complaints would be managed via standard complaint procedures. Those procedures have developed over time through guidance updates and consolidation of those guidelines. A significant development is the option of a complaint being treated as anonymous. External reporting of complaints is noted within care inspectorate returns and government recording around such activity.
4.7 i) e	Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?	Officers of the council, building on appropriate guidance and legislation.

4.7 i) f	When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?	As noted there are developments in home and away strategy and within departmental complaints processes. As noted above the 1986 guidelines and the 1995 regulations help consolidate the council's position on the complaints procedures.
4.7 i) g	Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?	Yes.
4.7 i) h	If so, what was the reason for review?	To meet statutory requirements and improve standards of practice and council accountability to the range of people within services and the broader community.
4.7 i) i	What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?	The developments around advocacy and whistleblowing policy have made significant contributions to this area of practice.
4.7 i) j	Why were changes made?	To meet statutory requirements and improve standards of practice and council accountability to the range of people within services and the broader community.
4.7 i) k	Were changes documented?	Yes.
4.7 i) l	Was there an audit trail?	Yes.
Present		
4.7 i) m	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	Yes.
4.7 i) n	If so, please give details.	The developments around advocacy and whistleblowing policy have made significant contributions to this area of practice. The progression towards independent reviews of complaints has enhanced the overall approach to the complaints process.

(ii) Practice Past		
4.7 ii) a	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in relation to complaints and reporting about foster care?	Yes.
4.7 ii) b	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures on the following:	As below.
i)	Complaints by children	Yes, as far as we can ascertain. There are limited records historically.
ii)	Complaints by foster carers	Yes, as far as we can ascertain. There are limited records historically.
iii)	Complaints by family members of children	Yes, as far as we can ascertain. There are limited records historically.
iv)	Complaints by third persons	Yes, as far as we can ascertain. There are limited records historically.
v)	Whistleblowing	Yes, as far as we can ascertain. There are limited records historically.
vi)	Support, including external support, for those who made the complaint or those who were the subject of complaint	Yes, as far as we can ascertain. There are limited records historically.
vii)	Response to complaints (including response by the local authority)	Yes, as far as we can ascertain. There are limited records historically.
viii)	External reporting of complaints	Yes, as far as we can ascertain. There are limited records historically.

4.7 ii) c	How was adherence demonstrated?	Case file records, minutes and records of external inspection.
4.7 ii) d	How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?	Review of documents held by the council and inspection agencies.
4.7 ii) e	Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?	Yes.
4.7 ii) f	Have such records been retained?	Yes however records pre 1970 are no longer available.
4.7 ii) g	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?	N/A.
Present		
4.7 ii) h	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	Yes.
4.7 ii) i	If so, please give details.	<p>Current practice includes clear timelines, two specific stages of complaint: Stage one – Frontline resolution; Stage two – Investigation.</p> <p>The council hold complaint's as a method of improving services 'improvement of high-quality citizen services'.</p> <p>There are clear rules to how complaints are dealt with and responded to. Additionally, every complainant has an option to raise further concerns with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and this message is contained in every final document outlining the response and any future actions that the complainant would want to make.</p>
4.8 Internal Investigations		
(i) Policy		
Past		

4.8 i) a	What policies and/or procedures did the local authority have in place in respect of internal investigations relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?	There is no available evidence surrounding documents prior to the developments of Strathclyde Regional Council. Records demonstrate that Child protection policies were utilised for all such matters. However the 2003 handbook for foster carers advises that although the investigation should remain the same, the outcomes in respect of registration would not follow.
4.8 i) b	Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?	Following the Child Protection procedures for all children, including Foster provision created a consistent approach to ensuring all children were kept safe, regardless of their home status.
4.8 i) c	Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?	Case records, child files, carer files and departmental electronic records. Recordings of investigations were kept and minutes of decisions relating to outcomes were maintained.
4.8 i) d	What did the policies and/or procedures set out on the following:	See below.
i)	Approach to/process of internal investigations	The approach used offered a consistency to all children in respect of child protection/investigative processes regardless of care setting.
ii)	Identifying lessons/changes following internal investigations	The revision and update of procedures took account of national research, practice, and learning on good practice.
iii)	Implementation of lessons/changes following internal investigations	National models ensured that local practice evolved based on learning from significant events and new innovative ways of practice.
iv)	Compliance	As far as we can ascertain there was compliance.

v)	Response (to child and abuser)	As far as we can ascertain the principles of the best interests of the child was maintained at the forefront of the investigations that occurred. There was a shift in thinking around the risk of future harm during the mid 1980s onwards. Prior to this time there was a reliance on the abuse having occurred, rather than the shift towards future risk and harm being possible.
vi)	Response to complaints (including response by local authority)	There is clear information about the complaints process in the available handbooks. As far as we can ascertain these processes were utilised to determine responses made towards complaints made against Foster Carers. Complaints could be made on a whole range of issues and the complaints procedures would be utilised to drive forward the investigation, based on the nature of the concern being highlighted. This may result in low level complains following that particular structure, while others could accelerate into full Child Protection procedures. For example a school raising an issue about a foster carer's tone of voice vs an acknowledgement of specific child care concerns. The former being carried out internally by the supervising Social Worker with the latter more formally structured around Child Protection process.
vii)	External reporting following internal investigations	There are records highlighting specific occasions where external reporting was necessary (significant case reviews, child deaths etc.). This has been further enhanced with the inspectorate process and indeed the accountability towards workers that exist within the Scottish Social Services Council processes.
4.8 i) e	Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?	Officers of the council and government officials.
4.8 i) f	When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?	Various dates are noted in section A in respect of changing legislation around national processes. Each change of legislation brought with it a range of outcomes. This included changes in

		the Child Protection processes and Getting it Right for Every Child principles.
4.8 i) g	Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?	Yes.
4.8 i) h	If so, what was the reason for review?	In line with new regulations and national research findings.
4.8 i) i	What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?	All children in foster carer were incorporated into Child Protection processes, in line with the rest of the community. As noted above, there was progression from just understanding of abuse that had occurred to incorporate future risks involved.
4.8 i) j	Why were changes made?	Recognition that the abuse identified can often be dealt with timeously (abuser being removed). However a renewed, additional focus shining on future harm and what factors were necessary to ensure that abuse did not occur again or that the child was safe from repeat harm (or the likelihood of this occurring). An example of this move was the introduction in the 1995 Act of exclusions orders – where perpetrators could be removed, as opposed the child being removed from the family home.
4.8 i) k	Were changes documented?	Yes.
4.8 i) l	Was there an audit trail?	Yes.
Present		
4.8 i) m	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No.
4.8 i) n	If so, please give details.	N/A.
(ii) Practice		

Past		
4.8 ii)a	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in respect of internal investigations relating to the abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?	Yes, as far as we can ascertain.
4.8 ii) b	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures on the following:	See below.
i)	Approach to/process of internal investigations	Yes – as far as we can ascertain.
ii)	Identifying lessons/changes following internal investigations	Yes – as far as we can ascertain.
iii)	Implementation of lessons/changes following internal investigations	Yes – as far as we can ascertain.
iv)	Compliance	Yes – as far as we can ascertain.
v)	Response (to child and abuser)	Yes – as far as we can ascertain.
vi)	Response to complaints (including response by local authority)	Yes – as far as we can ascertain.
vii)	External reporting following internal investigations	Yes – as far as we can ascertain.
4.8 ii) c	How was adherence demonstrated?	Case records, minutes, records of significant reviews, Child Protection investigations. Electronic records. Internal and external reviews. Case file auditing. Care inspectorate investigations and yearly evaluations of services.

4.8 ii) d	How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?	As above.
4.8 ii) e	Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?	Yes.
4.8 ii) f	Have such records been retained?	Yes.
4.8 ii) g	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?	N/A.
Present		
4.8 ii) h	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No.
4.8 ii) i	If so, please give details.	N/A.
4.9 Record Keeping		
(i) Policy		
Past		
4.9 i) a	What policies and/or procedures did the local authority have on record keeping in relation to foster care?	Records are noted in the 1970s' manuals in respect of recording, report writing and case files. This was updated again in the early 1980's. These are then revisited within the Fostering handbook and within the 1995 regulations around daily records and records from care plans, from safe storage (reg. 11 & 12).
4.9 i) b	What policies and/or procedures did the local authority have on record keeping by foster carers?	As above, there were variety of documents and guidance developed to assist practice: Strathclyde Regional Council manuals 1970's Fostering handbook 1980's The Children (Scot) Act 1995 Guidance and regulations vol. 2 The guidance on the Looked After Children regulations, 2009 National guidance for Child Protection (Scot) 2010 Getting it Right for Every Child principles Looked After Children's procedures – altogether better care and

		updates.
4.9 i) c	In relation to (a) and (b) above, was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention? Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?	<p>There was a growth over the years to ensure that key information was being captured and recorded. To provide accountability, to inform assessment of needs of a child and the professional development of the fostering service.</p> <p>All such policies were recorded and developed through training (including preparation groups), carer handbooks and supported through the supervisory role of the link/supervising officer role.</p>
4.9 i) d	What did the policies and/or procedures set out in relation to record keeping on the following:	See below.
i)	Children in foster care	<p>Local policies and guidance were drawn down from the national guidance, regulations and changes in legislation. This demonstrated a clear understanding for the need to not only write up records but also recognise the importance of how these should be written and the necessity for good record keeping about placement routines and statutory functions.</p> <p>Key documents that enhance and inform these procedures include the 1995 regulations and the 2009 guidance. In both documents there is clear instruction around expectations (Reg. 42 & 43).</p>
ii)	Foster carers	<p>As above.</p> <p>(Reg. 31, 32).</p>
iii)	Visits to children and foster carers	Guidance over the years has developed to incorporate clearer positions in respect of frequency of contact with the child and the foster carer. This governance sets out that worker visits should

		be held at certain intervals as a minimum standard. This would include opportunities to carry out unannounced visits which are recorded within the departmental record of the foster carer and a focus on the supervisory role between the Social Worker and Team Leader.
iv)	Complaints	Policies and guidelines have been provided around complaints. This area is given greater weight in the earlier component of this report and we would refer to this detail. However, as a general statement, the council have followed all such guidance and regulations provided as far as we can ascertain.
v)	Investigations (both internal and external)	As above.
vi)	Discipline	As above.
vii)	Responding to requests from former children in foster care for information/records	The council has followed guidance and regulations surrounding the request for information from former children. This has been further developed under the Data protection Act and the guidance for Looked After Children 2009, where specific reference is made to the governance surrounding such requests.
viii)	Other issues relevant to foster care	N/A.
4.9 i) e	Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?	Officers of the council have consistently updated local processes to co-ordinate with the new thinking, best practice, updates on government guidance and changes in legislation.
4.9 i) f	When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?	Strathclyde Regional Council manuals 1970's Fostering handbook 1980's The Children (Scot) Act 1995 Guidance and regulations vol. 2 The guidance on the Looked After Children regulations, 2009 National guidance for Child Protection (Scot) 2010

		Getting it Right for Every Child principles Looked After Children's procedures – altogether better care and updates
4.9 i) g	Do such policies and/or procedures remain in place?	Yes.
4.9 i) h	Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?	Yes.
4.9 i) i	If so, what was the reason for review?	Progression of positive practice issues. Updated in line with new statutory legislation.
4.9 i) j	What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?	The guidelines and policies have enabled practice to evolve in a manner that makes record keeping and the sharing of records clear. This provides clear instructions surrounding expectations and who has the rights to seek information and what information should be retained.
4.9 i) k	Why were changes made?	To meet the changes in new regulation requirements.
4.9 i) l	Were changes documented?	Yes.
4.9 i) m	Was there an audit trail?	Yes.
Present		
4.9 i) n	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	No.
4.9 i) o	If so, please give details.	N/A.
(ii) Practice Past		
4.9 ii) a	Did the local authority adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in relation to record keeping?	This was not evident within all of the files read.

4.9 ii) b	Did the local authority check adherence in practice to its policies and/or procedures in relation to record keeping by foster carers?	This was not evident in all the files read.
4.9 ii) c	Did the local authority adhere in practice/check adherence in practice to its policy/procedures in relation to record keeping on the following:	This was not evident within all of the files read.
i)	Children in foster care	Yes, there is evidence of line management supervision, peer review and internal case auditing, Care inspectorate intervention and reports.
ii)	Foster carers	As above.
iii)	Visits to children and foster carers	As above.
iv)	Complaints	As above.
v)	Investigations (both internal and external)	As above.
vi)	Discipline	As above.
vii)	Responding to requests from former children in foster care for information/records	Yes, there is evidence that requests for information has followed guidance and protocols expected of the council.
viii)	Other issues relevant to foster care	N/A.
4.9 ii) d	How was adherence demonstrated?	Case file auditing, internal peer auditing, care inspectorate investigations, staff appraisals (supervision).
4.9 ii) e	Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?	Yes.

4.9 ii) f	Have such records been retained?	Pre Strathclyde there is a deficit of information pertaining to historical records. Records since 1974 would provide evidence to how the council went about its business and reports over time would confirm our adherence to regulatory requirements and standards. There is a strengthening of these areas as we move through the decades, where we build on good practice issues and learn from evidenced based research, which is built into latter guidance and policies.
4.9 ii) g	If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?	N/A.
4.9 ii) h	Did the local authority undertake any review or analysis of its records to establish what abuse or alleged abuse of children cared for in foster care may have taken place?	The local authority has considered practice issues through a range of mediums – including Child Protection investigations, disciplinary processes, significant case reviews and case file auditing.
4.9 ii) i	If so, when did the reviews take place, what documentation is available, and what were the findings?	Reviews of children's circumstances were considered at the time of concerns being identified. These are contained in the child's records and held electronically where this was available. Issues pertaining to the outcomes of investigations are also recorded in the file and any lessons learned were taken account of. The council hold historical Child Protection concerns that have been raised and the evidence and trail is contained in the records of each.
4.9 ii) j	How have the outcomes of investigations been used to improve systems, learn lessons?	Procedures and guidance has have been regularly reviewed, revised to take into consideration all changes in legislation, research findings and the outcomes of investigations and significant case reviews.
4.9 ii) k	What changes have been made?	Over the decades it is evident that the council has grown in their development, based on the policies and procedures that have

		been established.
4.9 ii) l	How are these monitored?	Within the council there is a range of governance including inter agency processes. The Care Inspectorate monitors externally our progress and these are measured against polices and procedures reflective of the times being considered.
4.9 ii) m	Did the local authority afford former children in care access to records relating to their time in foster care?	Yes, in line with national guidelines and regulations. Early records are harder to determine.
4.9 ii) n	If so, how was that facilitated?	Yes, in line with national guidelines and regulations.
4.9 ii) o	If not, why not?	N/A.
Present		
4.9 ii) p	With reference to the present position, are the answers to any of the above questions different?	Yes.
4.9 ii) q	If so, please give details.	As below.
4.9 ii) r	Please provide details of the types of any records currently held relating to the children in foster care in respect of the following:	<p>Care First Records – these records are held on all children known to social work.</p> <p>Placement Enquiry Forms – these are anonymised and are completed by the child’s social work prior to identifying a placement. This is the referral form used to identify a suitable placement with an initial risk assessment.</p> <p>Comprehensive Assessments – completed by the child’s social worker.</p> <p>Foster Placement Agreements - these should be signed at or shortly following admission of a placement. These are specific for each child in placement.</p>

		<p>Looked After and Accommodated Child Review Minutes & Legal Advice Meeting (LAM) Minutes</p> <p>Safer Caring Records – these are initially generic records to cover the age range of the carers, however, will be adapted and recorded specifically for each child in placement.</p> <p>CAPR reports – completed by the child's social worker to be presented at Permanence Panel for children who are seeking permanence decisions.</p> <p>Permanence Panel / Matching Panel Minutes</p>
i)	Children in foster care	Supervision Records / Minutes may make reference to the child and the carer.
ii)	Staff with responsibilities for foster care	Supervision Records / Minutes may make reference to the child and the carer.
iii)	Foster carers	<p>Care First Records – all foster carers have records on Care First these records will often include details of the child.</p> <p>Foster Carer Review Paperwork – this is completed annually and lists the details of all placements over the year. The content of the report will often refer to children within the placement</p> <p>Foster Carer Review Minutes may make reference to the child in placement.</p> <p>Supervision Records – these refer to the carer and the children in placement</p> <p>Safer Caring Agreements.</p>

iv)	Complaints	Records re complaints are kept within Information Team.
v)	Investigations (both internal and external)	The Fostering service is registered with the Care Inspectorate and is subject to all aspects of the inspectorate processes.
vi)	Responding to requests from former children in foster care for information/records	Children have access to files and when this occurs the preparation for such information is scrutinised, redacted for third party information in line with statutory requirements.

PART D – ABUSE AND RECORDINGS		
No.	Question	Answer
5 Abuse		
5.1 Nature		
5.1 a	What was the nature of abuse and/or alleged abuse of children in foster care, for example, sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse?	In the cases read in which abuse or alleged abuse occurred, there were instances of domestic abuse/neglect/physical abuse/sexual abuse/emotional abuse. Physical exploitation was not noted in any of the files read.
5.2 Extent		
5.2 a	What is the local authority's assessment of the scale and extent of abuse of children in foster care?	From the cases read, no systemic abuse of children within foster care was noted. Cases where abuse was noted were unconnected, with abuse in most cases having been addressed within the existing procedures at the point abuse became known or was subsequently disclosed.
5.2 b	What is the basis of that assessment?	From the cases audited, no additional cases of abuse were noted out with the proactively selected additional group.
5.2 c	How many complaints have been made in relation to	21 complaints were noted from the cases read.

	alleged abuse of children in foster care?	
5.2 d	Against how many foster carers have the complaints referred to at (c) above been made?	Complaints were made against 10 individual foster carers, of which 6 were couples i.e. allegations were made against both foster carers.
5.2 e	How many foster carers have been convicted of, or admitted to, abuse of children?	In some cases, records were unclear however there is no evidence indicating convictions in any of the noted cases, or admissions of abuse.
5.2 f	How many foster carers have been found by the local authority to have abused children?	5 of the 10 carers identified were found by the local authority to have abused children in their care.
5.2 g	Against how many family members of foster carers have complaints been made in relation to alleged abuse of children?	This was noted in one of the cases.
5.2 h	How many family members of foster carers have been convicted of, or admitted to abuse of children?	In respect of the above no investigation is noted.
5.2 i	How many family members of foster carers have been found by the local authority to have abused children?	See 5.2 h.
5.2 j	Against how many other children placed in foster care in the same placement have complaints been made in relation to the alleged abuse of children?	In two (separate) cases, two children made allegations against another child in placement. In one case this was a sibling, the other being the son of the foster carers. From file reading, no other cases record abuse in this category.
5.2 k	How many other children placed in foster care in the same placement have been convicted of, or admitted to abuse of children?	In the cases noted above, no convictions are noted. No admissions are noted. From file reading, no other cases record abuse in this category.

5.2 l	How many other children placed in foster care in the same placement have been found by the local authority to have abused children?	<p>In the cases noted above: one allegation was unsubstantiated and no further action taken. In the other, (sibling case) the abuse was considered to have taken place (the young person concerned (alleged perpetrator) had a significant learning disability.</p> <p>From the files audited, no other cases record abuse in this category.</p>
5.3 Timing of Disclosure/Complaint		
5.3 a	When were disclosures and complaints of abuse and/or alleged abuse of children in foster care made to the local authority?	In most cases these were made proximate to the abuse occurring however in some cases the disclosures were in respect of historical events.
5.3 b	To what extent were complaints and disclosures made while the abuse or alleged abuse was on-going or recent?	In the audited cases most of the allegations were made either when the abuse was ongoing or was recent. See also 5.3 a.
5.3 c	To what extent were/are complaints made many years after the alleged abuse i.e. about non-recent abuse?	A small number indicated this, however this related to sexual abuse where delay in disclosing may be more likely. See also 5.3 a and b.
5.3 d	Are there any patterns of note in terms of the timing/disclosure of abuse and/or alleged abuse?	<p>Please see 5.3 a, b and c.</p> <p>This appears to relate to sexual abuse in particular.</p>
5.4 External Inspections		
5.4 a	<p>What external inspections have been conducted relating to children in foster care which considered issues relating to abuse and/or alleged abuse of children?</p> <p>For each such external inspection please answer the following:</p>	<p>This is not noted in all but one case within the cases audited. (Ms ■ January 1991)</p> <p>In this case there is no detail within the file.</p>

5.4 b	Who conducted the inspection?	This is not recorded within any of the cases audited.
5.4 c	Why was the inspection conducted?	See 5.4 a and 5.4 b.
5.4 d	When was the inspection conducted?	See 5.4 a and 5.4 b.
5.4 e	What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?	See 5.4 a and 5.4 b.
5.4 f	What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?	See 5.4 a and 5.4 b.
5.4 g	Were recommendations made following the inspection?	See 5.4 a and 5.4 b.
5.4 h	If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?	See 5.4 a and 5.4 b.
5.4 i	If recommendations were not implemented, why not?	See 5.4 a and 5.4 b.
5.5 External Investigations		
5.5 a	What external investigations have been conducted relating to children in foster care which have considered issues relating to abuse and/or alleged abuse of children? For each such external investigation please answer the following:	This is noted in one case. An external review was commissioned by the Health and Social Care Partnership in respect of the circumstances and required outcomes for one couple specifically. (Mr and Mrs ■ – November 2013).
5.5 b	Who conducted the investigation?	Ms Janice West Independent Social Work Consultant
5.5 c	Why was the investigation conducted?	This was conducted in response to a number of issues and

		concerns, and following correspondence with the Care Inspectorate.
5.5 d	When was the investigation conducted?	December 2013.
5.5 e	What was the outcome of the investigation in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?	The outcome specified a range of options including the need for a much higher level of support and supervision to the couple.
5.5 f	What was the local authority's response to the investigation and its outcome?	This was accepted and the department progressed the outcomes with the couple.
5.5 g	Were recommendations made following the investigation?	See 5.5 e.
5.5 h	If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?	See 5.5 e. The outcomes / recommendations were not implemented.
5.5 i	If recommendations were not implemented, why not?	The couple chose to resign.
5.6 Response to External Inspections/Investigations		
5.6 a	What was the local authority's procedure/process for dealing with external inspections and/or investigations relating to abuse, and/or alleged abuse of children in foster care?	See 5.4.a and b above re external Inspections. Regarding external investigations, as noted above there was only one undertaken. In that case the process was undertaken as commissioned by the Fostering and Adoption Panel.
5.6 b	What was the local authority's procedure/process for responding to the outcomes of such external inspections and/or investigations?	See 5.4.a and b above re external Inspections. In the case noted above at 5.5 a, the outcome of the external investigation was noted and accepted by the Fostering and Adoption Panel.
5.6 c	What was the local authority's procedure/process for	See 5.4.a and b above re external Inspections.

	implementing recommendations which followed from such external inspections and/or investigations?	In the case noted above at 5.5 a, the outcome of the external investigation was noted and accepted by the Fostering and Adoption Panel, however the recommendations were unable to be implemented as the couple resigned.
5.7 Impact		
5.7 a	What is known about the impact of abuse on those children in foster care who were abused, or alleged to have been abused?	<p>Evidence of the specific impact of abuse in the cases noted above is not explicit within the records; however records do note that the children had experienced trauma within their birth families prior to placement. Extrapolation of the specific impact of abuse in foster care is therefore problematic beyond stating that it did, or may have, occurred.</p> <p>It is likely that this would have a negative impact which could be manifest in a number of ways dependant on the child, their experiences both prior to and within placements, the strength of other relationships and their understanding of the approach to their allegations, including and any action taken at the time.</p>
5.7 b	Where does the local authority's knowledge/assessment of that impact come from?	<p>Professional knowledge and experience would inform the view noted at 5.7 a above.</p> <p>There is no evidence available indicating evidence of the impact of the abuse within the case files read in respect of the specific experience of the children involved. This is not made explicit within the files.</p>
5.7 c	What is known about the impact of abuse on the families of those children in foster care who were abused, or alleged to have been abused?	<p>See 5.7 b.</p> <p>Again this area is not covered specifically within the cases noted above.</p>
5.7 d	Where does the local authority's knowledge/assessment of that impact come from?	See 5.7 c.
5.11 Criminal Injuries Compensation Awards		

5.11 a	Has any criminal injuries compensation been awarded in respect of abuse, or alleged abuse, of children cared for in foster care?	This was not noted in any of the cases audited, however one case noted application for Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA). We would however note that if we were not party to a CICA claim we would not necessarily be aware if claims have been made/awarded.
5.11 b	If so, please provide details if known.	No award is noted in respect of the application noted above.