

Covering statement

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Covid-19 Restrictions

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Council staff have been unable to access Council buildings and records. This led to the premature ending of a comprehensive file audit and has limited the research opportunities and materials available to staff in compiling the responses listed below.

PART C - PREVENTION AND IDENTIFICATION	
5. Abuse	

Question 5.12	Police
a)	How many complaints of abuse of children in foster care have been made to the police?
	40 number of complaints of abuse of children in foster care have been found to have been made to the police.
	Prior to 1970 there is no evidence available to review to establish the number of complaints made to the police.
	The local authority put in place a team to carry out a file audit of foster carers who were approved between 1970 – 2008. Approved foster carer files are kept for a period of 25 years from the date of the carer's deregistration. Due to the closure of local authority buildings and other restrictions, this file audit could not be completed. In addition, the local
	authority was unable to access any files that would allow an assessment of the number of complaints from 2008 onwards.

	The answers below reflect this and show that on the file audit information that was completed and from information found from other sources, 40 specific complaints of abuse of children in foster care have been found to have been made to the police.
n relation to e	each known complaint to the police, please answer the following questions:
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?
	See details below.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?
	See details below.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?
	See details below.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?
	See details below.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?
	See details below.

Complaint 1		
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	– Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Following a child in the foster placement making allegations of physical and emotional abuse, the child was interviewed by the police in June 2014. The foster carer was then interviewed at the end of August 2014 and answered 'no comment' to all questions during the interview. After the interview, the Police made the decision to take no further action.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The interviews were held by the Police in June and August 2014.

e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Once the police investigation was complete, they decided to take no further action.
		In March 2016 the foster carer was charged in relation to allegations from another child. A court date was set for January 2017, but the authority does not hold any further information in relation to this charge.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The Local Authority's response to the police investigation in 2014 was to progress the allegations through the Family Based Care team's processes. This ultimately resulted in the foster carer being deregistered in December 2014.

Com	Complaint 2		
	Question	Response	
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	– Foster Carers	
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	A child in a foster placement with FUV mother, FUU made an allegation physical abuse against and raised concerns in relation to FUV use of alcohol. The child was interviewed by the police in June 2014 and FUV mother was interviewed in August 2014. FUV was interviewed by the Social Work department and stated that she had no recollection of the incidents within the allegations.	
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The interview with FUV mother was held by the police in August 2014.	
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The outcome of the police investigation was to take no further action.	
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The Local Authority's response to the police investigation in 2014 was to progress the allegations through the Family Based Care team's processes. This ultimately resulted in the carers being de-registered on 19 December 2014.	

Complaint 3		
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	FIZ-SPO — Foster Carers
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of sexual abuse made by a child in foster care. The child also alleged that she had watched child pornography with the foster carer.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The investigation was conducted by the police in June 2005.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The outcome of the Police investigation was to charge with the possession of illegal child pornography. ETZ was not charged with the sexual abuse of the child in foster placement as there was no evidence to corroborate the allegation.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The child who made the allegation of sexual abuse was removed from the care of ETZ-SPO the day that the allegation was made. ETZ was convicted of the possession of child pomography in December 2006.
		This information was not confirmed by the City of Edinburgh Council until May 2007 when a request for information was made to the Scottish Courts.
		The foster carers were formally de-registered in January 2010. The delay was due to an oversight by the Social Work Department; however, no foster children were in placement with the foster carers following the allegations made in June 2005.

Complaint 4		
Question	Response	

b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	James Farquhar – Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. An allegation of sexual abuse by James Farquhar was made by a child who was previously in foster placement with on 9 January 1998. The Social Work Department contacted the police to conduct an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion with a view to joint investigative interviewing of the child.
		The Inter-Agency Referral Discussion took place on 12 January 1998. Investigative interviews were carried out jointly by the police and the Social Work Department with the child who made the allegation and the other children in the foster placement.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The investigation was conducted jointly between the police and the Social Work Department. The Social Work Department contacted the Police on 9 January 1998 to conduct an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion with a view to joint investigative interviewing of the child who had made the complaint. The meeting took place on 12 January 1998. Investigative interviews were carried out jointly by the police and the Social Work Department with the child who made the allegation and with the other children in the foster placement.
		The police were aware of complaints made against James Farquhar by
		 had made an allegation in July 1987 that had made "improper suggestions" to her. A joint police and Social Work investigation was conducted into this and the police decided to take no further action. had made allegations against in 1988. The police interviewed
		on 14 February 1998, who made specific allegations of sexual abuse against However the interview with resulted in her denying the allegations and claiming that she had been "telling stories and the tales got out of hand". The Social Work Department and police decided on the basis of the joint interview and subsequent discussion that no further action would be taken.

		On 14 February 1998, as a result of all of the corroborative allegations, the police and Social Work Department created a list of thirty children and young people who were placed with the police would interview those over the age of 16 and the Social Work Department and police would jointly interview those under the age of 16. These interviews resulted in another young person who was placed with for six months making an allegation against James Farquhar of both physical and sexual abuse.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The Local Authority's foster carer file for James Farquhar was passed to the Procurator Fiscal to assist in the prosecution of Mr Farquhar. Therefore, the Local Authority does not have all the required information to answer this question fully. However, it is known that James Farquhar was charged by the police with lewd and indecent behaviour towards children and that he was later convicted of offences.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	On 13 January 1998, all children placed with removed and no further placements were made. The 'Share the Care' placement that had was also terminated on 13 January 1998. Since the events involving James Farquhar took place, the 'Edinburgh Inquiry into Abuse and Neglect of Children in Care' was published. The Social Work Department implemented the recommendations of the Inquiry, including those which relate to foster care specifically.

Complaint 5		
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	Gary Goodrum – Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	A complaint was made by two brothers placed in respite care with Gary Goodrum relating to physical abuse, including being forced to do push-ups. The complaint was made in January 2015.

		Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Local Authority has been unable to
		complete a file audit and has been unable to access Gary Goodrum's
		foster care file to determine whether the police conducted an
		investigation in relation to this specific complaint.
		However, the Local Authority was informed of a police investigation into
		Gary Goodrum for alleged grooming offences against young girls that
		were said to have taken place at his martial arts school. The Local
		Authority was informed of the police investigation in relation to the
		martial arts school in November 2016. The foster carer had not had any
		children in placement from December 2015 onwards. The foster carer
		was de-registered by the local authority in June 2017 for reasons
		relating to the ongoing police investigation into the martial arts school.
		It is understood that Gary Goodrum was sentenced to nine years
		imprisonment for offences in relation to this in April 2018.
d)	If so, who conducted the	Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Local Authority has been unable to
	investigation and when?	complete a file audit and has been unable to access Gary Goodrum's
		foster care file to determine whether the police conducted an
		investigation in relation to this specific complaint.
e)	What was the outcome of the	Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Local Authority has been unable to
	police investigation?	complete a file audit and has been unable to access Gary Goodrum's
		foster care file to determine whether the police conducted an
		investigation in relation to this specific complaint.
f)	What was the	Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Local Authority has been unable to
	organisation/establishment's	complete a file audit and has been unable to access Gary Goodrum's
	response?	foster care file to determine whether the police conducted an
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Com	Complaint 6	
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer

с)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of sexual abuse by a child who was previously in foster placement with FTM The allegation was made on 25 July 1987. Following a meeting by senior social work professionals the allegation was referred to the police for investigation on 9 August 1988 who interviewed FTM
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	According to minutes of the Child Abuse Care Conference held on 30 August 1988, statements were taken from the child and the information was passed to CID. Police interviewed FTM on 29 August 1998.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Records held within the foster carer case file state that the outcome of the police investigation was that the allegations against FTM could not be substantiated in any way. A case conference was held on 30 August 1988. The attendees at the case conference included the social worker of the child, a police representative and an attendee from the Bathgate Woman & Child Unit, and it was conclude that FTM position was believed. A letter was sent from the police to FTM to inform him that no proceedings were being taken against him and he had no case to answer.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The child was not returned to the care of FTM-SPO The Local Authority secured an alternative placement for the child who made the allegation and she was not returned to the care of FTM-SPO FTM-SPO

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	FTM — Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of sexual abuse by a child who was previously in foster placement with FTM. The allegation was made on 22 March 1991.

		A consultative meeting was held by the Local Authority on 25 March 1991 and was attended by the police. The police agreed to conduct an investigation into the complaints and a referral would be made to the Woman and Child Unit.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The police conducted an investigation into the allegations following a meeting on 25 March 1991. This included interviews with the child who made the allegations, with FTM and with his daughter, strongly denied she was ever abused by her father. Police also considered the statements made in the original allegation from 1988 due to the similarities between the allegations. Two case conferences were held by the Local Authority: the first on 5 April 1991 and the second 19 July 1991.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Following the police investigation, FTM was arrested and charged with both the current offence and the previous offence from 1988. TTM was taken into custody and later released pending further statements. The police indicated that they had no corroborative evidence from the three girls interviewed at that time.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The child that made this allegation was not in placement when she made the disclosure, so an alternative placement was not sought. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Local Authority does not have access to the paper file held relating to FTM It is therefore not clear what the Local Authority's response to his charges was.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	FTM — Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	An allegation of sexual abuse by FTM was made in January 1992 and the police were informed of the complaint by the relevant social work professional. At the point the disclosure was made, the child was no longer in placement with the alleged abuser. The police then conducted an investigation into the disclosure.

d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	A police investigation was conducted, and interviewed on 12 February 1992. His daughter, was then interviewed on 17 February 1992 and a child protection meeting was held on 18 February for her. In addition an initial case conference was held by the Local Authority on 11 February 1992. A second case conference was held on 3 March 1992 and further meetings were held on 30 October 1992 and 11 November 1992.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The police interviewed was charged.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The child that made this allegation was not in placement when she made the disclosure, so an alternative placement was not sought. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Local Authority does not have access to the paper file held relating to FTM. It is therefore not clear what the Local Authority's response to his charges was.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- birth son of foster carers
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. The foster carer case files note that, following an incident on 3 October 2000, the young person ran away from the foster placement and was subsequently returned by the police. It was alleged that had assaulted the young person by grabbing him around the neck in an attempt to restrain him. At this time the police informed the carers that they would be deal with the complaint under Child Protection procedures.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The foster carer case files note that a Child Protection inquiry was to be initiated and interviews were to be scheduled. The police conducted a joint interview the day immediately following the incident on 3 October 2000.

e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The outcome of the police investigation is not noted within the foster carer case file as the foster carers were deregistered the next day at a scheduled Carer Review Panel.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The foster carers attended a scheduled Carer Review Panel the next day where the incident was discussed among other concerns and they were formally deregistered by the Local Authority.

Con	Complaint 10	
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical abuse made by the child in foster care. The carer allegedly manhandled the child in placement on his return from being missing.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The police and social work held a joint interview the day following the incident on 10 May 1994.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The police decided that no further action would be taken.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	A Child Care Review was held, and the child was removed from the placement. The minutes from the Care Review state that social work professionals decided that the child's name should not be placed on the Child Protection Register, but a Children's Hearing was to be held within 7 days. The minutes also note that the child was living with his Grandmother and Aunt following the complaint.

Com	Complaint 11	
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer

c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of sexual abuse made by two children in foster care against FKC on 10 and 11 September 1994.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	Approval and Matching Panel minutes held within the foster carer case file shows that a joint interview was held between a Detective Constable from the Woman and Children's Police Unit and the Emergency Duty Team following the allegations made on 10 th and 11 th September 1994. A further joint interview was held on 13 th September 1994 between the own children, a Detective Constable from the Woman and Children's Police Unit and a social work professional.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The Approval and Matching Panel minutes state that, on the basis of the two separate allegations made against him, as charged with indecent assault. All children in the placement were removed, and Child Protection Case Conferences were held in respect of the cown children, who were subsequently added to the Child Protection Register. The Crown trial against of the conference of the country and child Protection Register.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	was not proven on the first charge and not guilty on the second charge. The carers were de-registered by the Local Authority in September 1994.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical and emotional abuse and neglectful care made by the Senior Social Worker of children in foster care in January 2003. This complaint was passed to the police by the Social Work Practice Team.

d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	As part of the child protection investigation, a joint interview (police and social work) with the older child took place on 7 January 2003. Interviews also took place with the sibling of this child who had recently returned home from the same placement.
		The carer was later interviewed on 29 January 2003 by the police and they decided that no charges would be made.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Following the police interviews, the police decided to take no further action.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The children were removed from placement. Following an internal investigation, the carers were suspended for at least a year and decided to resign.

Com	Complaint 13	
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical and verbal abuse made by a child in foster care in June 2002.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The Social Worker initiated an Initial Referral Discussion (IRD) and it was agreed that Emergency Social Work Service should interview the child in placement in the first instance to see if a joint interview was necessary. The information gained was passed to police who decided to take no further action.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Following interviews with the child and the carer by social workers, the information was discussed with the police who decided to take no further action.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	Social work professionals, as well as the carer and the child agreed that the child should return to the placement. This decision was based on the judgement that the incident was less serious than initially described. The police also agreed with this outcome following their investigations.

Com	Complaint 14		
	Question	Response	
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer	
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an altercation between Mr. FPI and the child in placement, Mr. FPI called the police to ask for the child to be removed from the home.	
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	At the request of FPI the three three police attended the carers' home on 21 October 1984.	
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The police attended the incident but decided to take no further action and leave the matter with the Emergency Duty Social Worker and Outworker.	
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The Emergency Duty Social Worker and Outworker attended the carers' home that evening. They spoke to the foster carers and the child in placement about the incident. The child was removed from placement at the request of the carers and the child. A formal meeting was then held between FPI-FPJ and the Adolescent Placement Worker who agreed that FPI-FPJ should take a break from caring for a few months.	

Com	Complaint 15		
	Question	Response	
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer	
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes, following a historical allegation of physical abuse made by a child in care which was passed to the police on 22 January 2003.	
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	An Inter-Agency Referral Discussion took place on 23 January 2003 which involved the police.	

e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	After the Inter-Agency Referral Discussion, the police decided to take no further action as the young person was 16 and did not want to take the matter further.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The Practice Team initiated a Child Protection Investigation on 22 January 2003. Mrs. PPV recalled incident to the responsible social work professional that had taken place prior to Christmas in her car. She had put her hand on the young person's shoulder, he had turned his head unexpectedly and knocked his lip on her ring. The carer had not reported this at the time. Mrs. PPV was reminded of the procedures and her responsibility to report any injury of a child in her care. Case notes show that the placement continued, and psychological intervention was arranged for the young person.

Con	Complaint 16	
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	FPQ-FPR - Foster Carers
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes, following an incident on 8 December 1995. A child in foster care had run out of FPQ-FPR house; he had been jumping from a bus shelter to a garden wall and had fallen and was lying on the ground screaming. FPQ got him to his feet and into the house, but he ran away to the police station and alleged he had been hit by the carers.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	Case notes held within the foster carers case file show that the police spoke to the young person about the incident on 8 December 1995. The Emergency Duty Social Worker was also informed of the incident.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The young person subsequently retracted the allegation following a conversation with the Emergency Duty Social Worker.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The Emergency Duty Social Worker spoke to the young person following the incident and he was removed from the placement and placed in the Howdenhall Secure Facility.

Com	Complaint 17	
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carers
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes, following an allegation made by the FULL The carer has been alleged to have struck children in placement, been mentally cruel and pinned a child against a wall. Details of the allegation were shared with the police by social work professionals as part of the Initial Referral Discussion and subsequent Child Protection Investigation.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The allegation was passed to the police in February 2008 and was also investigated by the responsible senior social workers.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The Inter-Agency Referral Discussion was concluded on 29 February 2008 with no further child protection action being taken. The family member who had made the complaint declined to give a statement to police on four occasions, and no other concerns had been raised in relation to the carers, so no further action by the police was taken.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The child remained in the placement with the carers, as there had been no corroborating evidence found through the child protection inquiry.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carers
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical and emotional abuse made by a child in foster care. It was alleged that FUI had slapped the child, pulled his hair and made him wash his soiled underwear.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	On 20 April 2008, the child in placement who made the complaint was interviewed by the police and social work professionals in relation to the allegations made against FUI-FUO As part of the

		ongoing Child Protection Inquiry, FUI was interviewed by
		Dalkeith Police under caution on 26 April 2008.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Following this interview, no further criminal investigation was to be pursued, as there was no corroborative evidence gained in order to support the allegations. The Inter-Agency Referral Discussion was concluded with no charges against any party.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	It was agreed by social work professionals that the child should not return to FUI-FUO care and he remained in the care of his grandmother. The Local Authority further supported the child at the time he made the disclosure, listening to the allegations he made and treating them as serious and credible allegations. The Social Work Department made longer term safety plans for the child and supported him in his transition to his new placement. Following the complaint, the Family Based Care Manager requested an investigation into the care standards of FUI-FUO under sections 17 and 18 of Edinburgh's Children – A Guide to Foster Carers and Staff.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	The complaint was made against, the grandson of and fine the grandson of and fine the grandson of the grandson
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following a historical allegation of sexual abuse made by a child in foster care in January 2015.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The complaint was made in January 2015, in relation to incidents that occurred between February and June 2014. A criminal investigation was undertaken by the police in relation to the alleged abuse. An Inter-Agency Referral Discussion was also held between the police and social work professionals to instigate a multi-agency investigation of the allegation.

e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The outcome of the police investigation is not noted in the foster carers case file.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The carers were presented at a Foster Carers Review Panel, where they were deregistered as foster carers, due to the concerns noted in the sexual abuse complaint, as well as concerns for their lack of adherence to the care standards required of foster carers. The young person was referred to, and gained input from, a service which offered specialist support in relation to sexual abuse. The young person was also offered and engaged in a support plan which offered structured support and supervision to their time in the community and in relation to keeping themselves safe and establishing safe relationships.

_	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged	FTV-SPO – Foster Carers
	abuser?	
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following a historical allegation of physical and emotional abuse made in June 2015 by a child in foster care that took place between August 2012 and September 2012. It was alleged that slapped the child and threatened to place her on the naughty step as a result of soiling.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The young person was jointly interviewed on 15 July 2015 where they disclosed further instances of physical and emotional abuse by the FTV-SPO. The police conducted an interview with FTV on 4 August 2015.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Following the police interview of FTV the Local Authority was informed of the outcome of the investigation. With no further corroborative evidence, the police concluded that no further action was to be taken. Therefore, the police investigation concluded with no charges.

f)	What	was	the	When the historic complaint was made, the Local Authority instigated a
	organisation/establishment's			Child Protection Investigation and an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion.
	response?		After the joint interview on 15 July 2015, the responsible social worker arranged to hold a planning meeting with the carers to make them aware of the allegations. The Local Authority also informed the Care Inspectorate of the nature of the complaints made. The responsible social worker carried out a home visit to the foster carers on 22 July 2015 to discuss the allegations and confirm that no further children would be placed with them while the investigation was ongoing.	
			A Foster Carers Review Panel was held on 12 August 2016 which acknowledged the allegations and investigation. It agreed changes to the registration status for FTV-SPO. Their registration criteria was changed from being approved as foster carers to respite foster carers only.	

	Question	Response	
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	FRZ-FSD — Foster Carers	
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes, following an allegation of physical, emotional abuse & neglect made by a child in foster placement with was passed to the police through an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion between the police and relevant social work professionals.	
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	An Inter-Agency Referral Discussion between the Social Work Department and the police took place on 26 June 2008.	
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The police decided that no further action from them was required and that a single agency response from social work professionals would be sufficient.	
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The Resource Duty Manager and the carers' Liaison Social Worker met with FRZ-FSD on 17 June 2008 to address the issues which had been raised by the child regarding allegations of neglectful care. FRZ-FSD were able to provide an acceptable explanation. FRZ-FSD were upset that their approach to care, for example in relation	

to bathing her and giving her some measure of privacy and independence, in keeping with their safe caring policy, was perceived by as neglectful.

The outcome of this investigation was that no further action be taken, other than ongoing support for the carers in developing areas of identified practice. This outcome was relayed formally to the child's Practice Team Social Worker.

The child continued to make allegations, therefore a Children's Rights Officer became involved in meeting with the child and the foster carers. The Children's Rights Officer relayed the outcome of her discussions with the foster carers back to the child, as part of a planned approach.

FRZ-FSD felt that the intervention of the Children's Rights Officer led to closure for them.

Complaint 22			
	Question	Response - adoptive parent and registered foster carer.	
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?		
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following allegations of the physical abuse of a foster child, the matter was investigated by the police through an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion.	
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The police investigation began on 1 May 2008 when there was a joint interview with the child. A Joint Paediatric Forensic Medical examination was also carried out on this date, however this was inconclusive for determining whether physical abuse had been perpetrated against the child by any party.	
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The Inter-Agency Referral Discussion agreed that there should be a joint interview as well as a Joint Paediatric Forensic Medical examination of the child. The Inter-Agency Referral Discussion agreed that the allocated social worker would speak to the young person about the circumstances at home. In this discussion, the young person stated that they had not told the truth and had fabricated the story. It was assessed that the fabricating of this story was related to the young	

		person's previous earlier childhood trauma experiences. The outcome of this investigation was that no further child protection action was to be taken.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	When the allegation was received by the Social Work Department, the child was removed from the placement and into the care of his grandparents while the investigation was ongoing. As the allegations had caused significant distress to the adoptive parents/foster carers, further time for the child with the grandparents was agreed, as was a meeting between the professionals to agree and ensure support was in place for the young person and their adoptive parents, prior to his return to their care. A further Carer Review Panel was also convened, in order to consider the impact of the allegations from the foster carer's perspective on their ongoing foster care role. The child returned the care of the adoptive parents after the short respite period with the grandparents, with the required supports being in place.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical abuse made by a child in foster care. Information relating to the complaint was shared with the police by the relevant social work professionals through an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The investigation was carried out in May 2003 by the Police and Social Work Department by way of an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion. It was agreed that a joint interview would be carried out with the young person.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	During the joint interview, the young person retracted their allegation. It was assessed that the initial allegations had been the result of emotional instability that the young person was experiencing in relation to previous childhood trauma and related attachment issues. The Police investigation was subsequently dropped when the young person retracted their allegation.

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er received ongoing support from	ation/establishment's	organisati	
rker. All were given support to a young person with their foster notional and physical needs were	e?	response's	

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	Question	Response		
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer.		
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical abuse made by a child in foster care. Information relating to the complaint was shared with the police by the relevant social work professionals through an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion.		
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The investigation was carried out in June 2003 by the police and social work department. It was agreed at the Inter-Agency Referral Discussion that a joint interview would be carried out with the young person.		
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The young person had, at the time of the Inter-Agency Referral Discussion, absconded from the placement, with police officers being involved in tracing and returning the young person to the placement. Whilst in the presence of the police officers the young person retracted the allegations made earlier. Instead the young person then provided a version of events, which reflected the foster carers perception, that led to the young person injuring themselves, through volatile behaviour being displayed.		
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The Local Authority provided the young person with the support of an allocated social worker. The foster carer received ongoing support from their Family Based Care social worker. All were given support to ensure stability was achieved for the young person with their foster carer in an environment where their emotional and physical needs were being met.		

Com	Complaint 25				
	Question	Response			
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer.			
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of sexual abuse made by a child in foster care. Information relating to the complaint was shared with the police by the relevant social work professionals through an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion.			
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The investigation began in November 2006 when the senior social work professional responsible for the case began an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion, at which point the details of the complaint were passed to the police as per Child Protection Guidelines in order for them to begin an investigation.			
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The young person was formally joint interviewed by the police and social work professionals and was assessed as providing a credible account of the alleged abuse. However, due to the lack of corroborating evidence, the police took no further action. Subsequently the investigation was passed to the Local Authority to address the issues raised with the foster carer.			
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The young person was moved to an immediate respite care placement while the investigation was ongoing and was subsequently moved to a longer-term placement. The young person did not return to the care of FTZ A Foster Carer's Review Panel was held on 26 February 2008. The Panel acknowledged the allegations and investigation and approved the carer's de-registration as a foster carer for the Local Authority. Support was provided to the young person by the allocated Practice Team social worker who listened to the allegations and informed the young person of their options for progressing. The young person was then supported by the allocated practice team social worker who explained the process of Joint Investigative Interview. This was designed to help the young person to be more confident in the process and more able to engage in it.			

Com	Complaint 26			
	Question	Response		
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer		
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical assault of a foster child made anonymously by a member of the public to the police. Information relating to the complaint was shared with the police by the relevant social work professionals through an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion.		
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	An Inter-Agency Referral Decision was held on 21 June 2007 to plan an appropriate multi-agency investigation of the complaint, including social work professionals, medical professionals and the police. The Inter-Agency Referral Discussion agreed that both children were to be subject to medical examinations, which occurred on 21 June 2007 at Royal Hospital for Sick Children. The examinations confirmed no physical evidence to support physical abuse having taken place.		
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Police action was taken against the foster carer, FUT resulting in him being charged with Assault and Breach of the Peace. The carer was remanded overnight to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on 2007. The Procurator Fiscal decided not to take proceedings forward. This decision was based on the contrast in the information recorded in the Police report and what was reported on the evening FUT was charged. The Procurator Fiscal also found that the action was not in the public interest. There were no further criminal proceedings after 22 June 2007. On 25 June 2007, the Inter-Agency Referral Decision decided that there was no evidential purpose for joint interview of the children. It was deemed to be more child-centred for the allocated social worker to speak with the children about their time in the placement and to provide further emotional support to them, as well as context to their move from FUT care. No concerns were raised in the discussions with the children, so the Inter-Agency Referral Discussion was concluded with no further action required.		

f)	What organisatio	was n/establish	the lishment's	An internal investigation was carried out by two senior social work professionals into FUT perspective of the incident and
	response?	subsequent allegations. The findings of this investigation reported that had to deal with a very challenging situation in which he acted in a manner which was focused on keeping the foster care child safe and free from harm. The report acknowledged that the foster child had presented particularly challenging behaviour while being transported in the car. This was an issue that all of professionals		
				involved were aware of and recognised that FUT had attempted to manage this as best as he could. The foster carers were taken to a Foster Carers Review Panel prior to any other children being placed within their care.
				A Foster Carers Review Panel was held on 11 December 2007, which acknowledged the allegations, investigation and outcome. The Panel approved the carer's re-registration criteria for two placements between the ages of 3 and 10 years.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- adopted son of foster carer.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of inappropriate sexual behaviour made by a child in foster care. The information contained in the complaint was shared with Lothian and Borders Police in accordance with the Edinburgh & Lothians Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines and agreed information sharing protocol. This information informed the Child Protection inquiry, Initial Referral Discussion, investigation actions and the conclusions reached. This, as well as additional information, was also shared with the police in order to inform their ongoing inquiry, which resulted in the charges brought.

d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The Inter-Agency Referral Discussion agreed that the young person should undertake a Joint Investigative Interview.
		The information gathered was utilised as part of an ongoing Police inquiry against
		A Senior Social Worker initiated an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion and progressed a Child Protection Investigation in October 1996.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	was charged with Lewd and Libidinous Behaviour, but these charges were subsequently deserted.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The Inter-Agency Referral Discussion resulted in a full Child Protection Investigation by the Local Authority, as well as safety planning for the other children in placement.
		was immediately removed from the home and accommodated within a Local Authority Children's Home. Whilst was outwith the family home, the children in placement eventually transitioned to adoptive placements in 1997.
		and his adoptive parents, received counselling regarding inappropriate sexualised behaviour which was offered by the Young Peoples Unit.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	FTP-FTQ — Foster Carers
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical and emotional abuse made by a child in foster care. The information contained in the complaint was shared with Lothian and Borders Police in accordance with the Edinburgh & Lothians Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures and agreed information sharing protocol. This information informed the Child Protection inquiry, Inter-Agency Referral Discussion, investigation actions and the conclusions reached.

d)	If so, who conducted the	An Inter-Agency Referral Discussion was held on 27 October 2008 to
	investigation and when?	plan an appropriate multi-agency investigation into the complaint,
		including input from senior social work professionals and the police.
e)	What was the outcome of the	The Inter-Agency Referral Discussion agreed that the young person
	police investigation?	should undertake a Joint Investigative Interview, and this took place on
		27 October 2008. The interview confirmed that there were issues within
		the relationship between the young person and the foster carers, their
		birth children and another Looked after Child who had been in the
		placement at the time. However, these relationship issues were not
		assessed as child protection matters.
		The Child Protection Investigation concluded that no further child
		protection action was required. Instead, a single agency response was
		progressed by a Senior Social Work Manager who requested a
		Standards of Care Investigative Interview with the foster carers to
		address the issues of care that had arisen in the Joint Investigative
		Interview.
		As a result, there was no further police involvement.
f)	What was the	The interview was carried out on 19 December 2008 and resulted in the
	organisation/establishment's	issues being positively addressed with the foster carers. This outcome
	response?	was relayed to the Service Manager who agreed that no further action
		was required other than acknowledgment at the next Carers Review
		Panel.
		As noted in part above, a Standards of Care Investigative Interview was
		carried out on 19 December 2008 where the issues were positively
		addressed with the foster carers. The responsible Service Manager
		agreed that the incident ad outcomes were to be acknowledged at the
		next Carers Review Panel on 9 June 2010.
		Ongoing support was offered to the young person by the responsible
		social work professional.

Complaint 29		
Question	Response	

b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- foster carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. The process and approach for investigating the complaint was an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion was held to plan an appropriate multi agency investigation of the complaint.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	An Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD) involving the police and a Child Protection Investigation progressed.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Case notes dated 28/08/1990 inform that the allegation was investigated with the child being joint interviewed. The carer's were interviewed and denied allegation 21/08/1990. There is no information available to say whether further action was taken by the police following these interviews.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The conclusion was reached that nothing had emerged to suggest that the allegations were true, due to inconsistencies in accounts. The carers were advised that no further action would be taken

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- birth child of foster carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of historical sexual abuse made in February 2001 by a child in foster care. Child protection procedures were instigated, and the children who were in placement were interviewed by both police and social workers.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	Senior social work professionals and the police conducted joint interviews with the two children in placement involved in the complaint in February 2001. Senior social work professionals then visited the carers and their son in March 2001 to discuss the allegations.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Following the joint interviews with the children in placement and the carers, the police deemed there was insufficient evidence to charge FOX

f) What was ti	e The FQU-FQV were de-registered as foster carers in April 2001 on the
organisation/establishment	basis that it was probable that sexual abuse took place, combined with
response?	other concerns that had been raised about the standard of care
	provided by them in the past (see our response to 5.9 for further details).
	Minutes from the de-registration Panel in April 2001 show that the child
	in placement with the FQU-FQV at the time of their de-registration was to
	continue to be fostered by them, and she was subsequently adopted by the FQU-FQV
	Minutes from the de-registration Panel refer to this child's situation as having been reviewed separately and noted "after carefully weighing up the advantages against the risk that [the child] will continue to be fostered." One of the conditions for them continuing to care for the child was that the family should undertake safe caring training from Skylight. This was carried forward by a worker from the National Foster Care Association and an Assistant Unit Manager from St Katherine's Centre.

Complaint 31		
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical abuse made in May 1999 by a child in foster care relating to the use of physical chastisement.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	Information was passed to the police in relation to the allegation and they concluded their investigation after a joint interview (police and social work) with the child in May 1999.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The police did not proceed to bring any charges against the carer.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The child remained in placement for a further 5 weeks and moved in a planned way to Balerno Close Support Unit. No children were placed while the investigation was in process. The carers decided to take time

out following the investigation. It was noted that a carer review be
undertaken before they returned to foster care.

Complaint 32		
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Following an allegation of abuse of physical abuse about a child in foster care in July 1999. The police were part of the Inter-Agency Referral Discussion that was initiated.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	An Inter-Agency Referral Discussion was held, but the police did not feel that the allegation required their involvement.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	No further action.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	A further Internal Investigation was progressed .The carers continued as carers for the authority, however the child who made the allegation was removed from the placement as it had broken down.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following a disclosure of physical abuse of a child in foster care made by the carer. The foster carer hit a child in placement at some point in June 1994 while the child was on holiday with the foster carers and their family. The police were invited and attended a Child Protection Case Conference on 25 July 1994 but did not take the matter any further as the incident happened out with their jurisdiction as it occurred abroad.

d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The alleged incident happened outwith the jurisdiction of the police and no further action was taken.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	No further action
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The child's GP provided an examination of the child's injuries. The Liaison Social Worker visited the foster carers after the incident was reported. The foster carers were suspended and the child was moved from the placement.

Con	Complaint 34	
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carers.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of neglect, physical and emotional abuse made by the police officers in relation to a foster child in placement. Police officers contacted the Emergency Social Work Service to inform them of the alleged incidents.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	On 6 March 1998 police officers contacted the Emergency Social Work Service to inform them of the alleged incidents. When social workers attended the child was in the police car and the officers expressed their concerns regarding the carers presentation and comments made by them in relation to the child. The officers provided a written statement of the evening to the Social Work Department noting concerns regarding the suitability of carers to look after children.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The police decided to take no further action.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The emergency social worker took the child to the Hospital for Sick Children Accident & Emergency Department to be looked over before taking the child to outworkers for the weekend. It was recommended that the couple be deregistered as foster carers and this happened on 31 March 1998, 3 weeks after the incident.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical abuse made by a child in foster care in October 1989, there is evidence within the foster carer case file that the police interviewed the carer.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The police interviewed the carers and the child's social worker and found the allegation to be unfounded and no further police action was taken. The doctor who examined the child in placement found that the mark was not consistent with being grabbed.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	No further action.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The carers took time out while the allegations were being investigated. The allegation was discussed at the next carer review held in June 1990.

	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of sexual and physical abuse made by a child in foster care. The Local Authority has evidence within the foster carers case file that the police were involved and that the foster carer was interviewed.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	An investigation was carried out by the police at the time of the allegations being made sometime between 8 November 1996 and 21 November 1996.

e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The police did not take any further action.
f)	TOTAL MAN DE CANADESCAMO HOUSE	This appears to have been resolved in that the carer was interviewed and believed. An alternative placement was secured, and the children was moved from the placement.

Complaint 37		
Т	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carers.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of physical abuse and neglect made by the aunt and uncle of a child in foster care. Information was passed to the Police by the children in placement's social worker. They were informed initially by the Child Protection Unit that this complaint would not be a high priority.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	The Child Protection Unit, South Lanarkshire Police interviewed the foster carers as part of their investigation in March 2006.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The Police interviewed the carers as part of their investigation and determined that the allegations were unfounded. The local authority concluded that the liaison social worker and senior social worker would meet with the foster carers to give further advice on safer caring.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The liaison social worker and senior social worker met with the foster carers to discuss the allegations and to give information on safer caring. The social workers felt that the foster carers had learned from this experience in terms of safer caring and thought they could return to fostering shortly afterwards. The foster carers agreed.

Complaint 38	3	
Question	Response	

b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of sexual assault made by a child in foster care. Police officers were involved in an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	A joint interview of the child was carried out by police officers and social workers on 11 August 2008. The carer was interviewed two days later by police officers and two computers were taken for evidence.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The outcome of the investigation by the Police was that no further action should be taken.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The social work investigation led to the revelation by the foster carer of withholding information from his wife and from the local authority. The foster carer had previously attended a course on 'Men in Foster Care' and was aware of safer caring issues due to the child's abusive history. The recommendation was then to deregister the carers.

Complaint 39		
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	- Foster Carer.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of sexual abuse made by a child in foster care. Child protection procedures were instigated, and the child was interviewed by both police and social workers.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	A joint interview of the child was carried out by police officers and social workers in May 2007.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	The police charged the male foster carer with lewd & libidinous behaviour. The charges were later deserted due to lack of evidence. No further action was taken by the police.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	Social work also investigated the allegations and interviewed the foster carers. They were taken to a Fostering Review Panel where they were de-registered on 2 May 2008.

Complaint 40		
	Question	Response
b)	Who was the alleged abuser?	Kevin Gillan, son of Foster Carer.
c)	Did the police conduct an investigation in relation to the complaint?	Yes. Following an allegation of sexual abuse made by a child in foster care against Kevin Gillan on 24 June 2013 the police conducted an investigation as part of the Inter-Agency Referral Discussion.
d)	If so, who conducted the investigation and when?	An Inter-Agency Referral Discussion was also held between the police and social work to plan an appropriate multi agency investigation of the allegation. The child and social worker were interviewed by Amethyst on 25 June 2013. A criminal investigation was conducted by the police.
e)	What was the outcome of the police investigation?	Kevin Gillan was charged with committing sexual offences against two girls between 12 May 2010 and 25 June 2013 while they were in foster care. The Sheriff placed Kevin Gillan on the sex offenders' register and called for background reports before sentencing. He was due to be sentenced for these convictions on 30 July 2015, but the local authority does not hold information indicating the outcome of the sentencing.
f)	What was the organisation/establishment's response?	The child who made the allegation was immediately placed with previous respite carers. The other two children (boys) in placement were moved from the placement to alternative carers the next day. The foster carer supported her son throughout the allegations and was deregistered by the local authority prior to his conviction.