

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.

Question 5.4	<u>External Inspections</u>
a)	<p><u>What external inspections have been conducted relating to children in foster care which considered issues relating to abuse and/or alleged abuse of children?</u></p> <p>Edinburgh Corporation (1930-1975)</p> <p>There is no reference within the surviving records to indicate if external investigations took place for this period.</p> <p>Lothian Regional Council (1975-1996)</p> <p>There is no reference within the surviving records to indicate if external investigations took place for this period.</p> <p>City of Edinburgh Council (1996-2014)</p> <p>The local authority has not found evidence of any external inspections which related only to the abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care. However, the local authority has found inspection reports from inspections of fostering services which would have included issues relating to abuse and/or alleged abuse of children, for example, child protection procedures and complaints procedures. The local authority has chosen to include all of the inspection reports for completeness but recognises that abuse and/or alleged abuse may not have been specifically mentioned within some of the inspection reports.</p>

Edinburgh and Lothians Registration and Inspection Service

Following local government re-organisation in 1996, the four successor authorities to Lothian Regional Council – East, West and Midlothian Councils and the City of Edinburgh Council – established the Edinburgh and Lothians Registration and Inspection Service (ELRIS) to provide an inspection services for the successor authorities. In 1999, this was extended to foster care provision following the publication of the Kent Report and consideration by the Edinburgh Inquiry (Ref. 'Edinburgh's Children', Marshall, 1999). While not external, the service was independent and has been included within this section for completeness around the inspection process that was evident at that time.

In terms of process, the Head of ELRIS reported through the City of Edinburgh Council's Director of Social Work to a Joint Committee of Edinburgh and the Lothian authorities. From the information available, it would appear that a pilot inspection process was run by ELRIS which inspected a sample of foster carers. The local authority has identified two of these inspection reports as part of its foster carer case file audit.

The first inspection report located concerned two foster carers: FSJ and FSZ. FSZ While there were three complaints against the foster carers (two physical and one sexual), they were the subject of the inspection not in relation to the complaints themselves, but because they were chosen as part of a random sample by ELRIS into the Local Authority's fostering services (see below for details)

The second inspection report located concerned a foster carer called FZB. Although there was one complaint made against the foster carer of neglect, she was subject to the inspection not in relation to the complaint itself, but because she was chosen as part of a random sample by ELRIS into the Local Authority's fostering services (see below for details).

Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care and Care Inspectorate

The local authority was registered with the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care, now Care Inspectorate, on 12 December 2005 in relation to its fostering services. The Care Inspectorate produced eight inspection reports between 12 December 2005 and 17 December 2014. In addition to this, there was a pilot inspection by the Care Inspectorate into fostering services at the local authority in May 2005.

For each such external inspection please answer the following:

External Inspection 1

b)	<p><u>Who conducted the inspection?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted by Edinburgh and Lothians Registration and Inspection Service (ELRIS).</p>
c)	<p><u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted as part of a sample for the fostering services inspections by ELRIS. The FSJ-FSZ came up as part of that random sample.</p>
d)	<p><u>When was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection report was issued on 1 November 2000.</p>
e)	<p><u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u></p> <p>While the report detailed the complaints against the foster carers, it was more systemic in focus and set out how the service dealt with those complaints and the individuals involved, including the foster carers.</p>
f)	<p><u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
g)	<p><u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u></p> <p>The report drew attention to several systemic issues. These included: timing, management, and conclusion of complaints against carers; the forming and tracking of permanency plans for children in the upper primary years; and the implications of training for carers in management of trauma and aggression.</p>
h)	<p><u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
i)	<p><u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><u>External Inspection 2</u></p>	
b)	<p><u>Who conducted the inspection?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted by Edinburgh and Lothians Registration and Inspection Service (ELRIS).</p>
c)	<p><u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted as part of a sample for the fostering services inspections by ELRIS. FZB came up as part of that random sample.</p>

d)	<p><u>When was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection report was issued on 16 February 2001.</p>
e)	<p><u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u></p> <p>While the report detailed the complaint made against the foster carer, it was more systemic in focus and set out how the service dealt with the complaint and the individuals involved, including the foster carer.</p>
f)	<p><u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
g)	<p><u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u></p> <p>The report drew attention to several systemic issues. These included: management, and conclusion of complaints against carers; recommendations on health and safety issues; and the training for carers in management of anxiety and aggression.</p>
h)	<p><u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
i)	<p><u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><u>External Inspection 3</u></p>	
b)	<p><u>Who conducted the inspection?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted by the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care.</p>
c)	<p><u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The local authority volunteered to be the subject of a pilot inspection of Fostering and Adoption Services. The purpose of the pilot was to test the inspection methodology for these services. The results of the inspection were not made public and were only to be used to analyse the effectiveness of the methods employed. The local authority is aware of this pilot inspection as it was recorded in the Minutes of the Special Sub-Committee on Social Work Standards meeting on 24 May 2005. The local authority has not been able to locate the inspection report due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>
d)	<p><u>When was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted in May 2005.</p>
e)	<p><u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u></p>

	The local authority has been unable to locate a copy of this inspection report due to COVID-19 restrictions.
f)	<u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u> The local authority has been unable to locate this information.
g)	<u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u> Yes. The local authority has located a copy of another inspection report from 7 August 2006 which noted that the pilot inspection report from May 2005 had included recommendations.
h)	<u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u> Not recorded.
i)	<u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u> Not applicable.
<u>External Inspection 4</u>	
b)	<u>Who conducted the inspection?</u> The inspection was conducted by the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care.
c)	<u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u> This inspection was a follow-up of a pilot inspection of May 2005. It focused on progress made in taking forward a number of recommendations to improve the service.
d)	<u>When was the inspection conducted?</u> The inspection took place between 7 and 11 August 2006.
e)	<u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u> The inspection report recorded that the local authority's carer handbook, foster carer agreement and other literature advised carers on policy relating to abuse. The inspection report also stated that the local authority had clear procedures and guidance in place in relation to allegations of abuse and complaints against carers.
f)	<u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u> Not recorded.
g)	<u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u> Yes. The inspection report made 7 requirements and 10 recommendations.

h)	<p><u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u></p> <p>The specific recommendations made in the 7 August 2006 report are available in the report which can be accessed through the Care Inspectorate's website: https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php</p> <p>The inspection report from 2007 comments on the action taken by the local authority in relation to the 7 requirements set out in this report. This is also available through the Care Inspectorate's website.</p>
i)	<p><u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u></p> <p>Where applicable, this information should be contained in the inspection report from 19 November 2007.</p>
External Inspection 5	
b)	<p><u>Who conducted the inspection?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted by the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care.</p>
c)	<p><u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>This inspection was an announced inspection conducted by Care Commission Officers.</p>
d)	<p><u>When was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection took place between 19 November and 4 December 2007.</p>
e)	<p><u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u></p> <p>This inspection report did not record any outcomes in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care.</p>
f)	<p><u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
g)	<p><u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u></p> <p>Yes. The inspection report made 5 requirements, including one from the previous inspection, and 4 recommendations.</p>
h)	<p><u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u></p> <p>The specific recommendations made in the 19 November 2007 report are available in the report which can be accessed through the Care Inspectorate's website: https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php</p> <p>The inspection report from 12 December 2008 stated that two of the four requirements made in the inspection report had been met in full and two remained outstanding. Further</p>

	<p>details can be found in the report which is available through the Care Inspectorate's website.</p>
i)	<p><u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u></p> <p>Where applicable, this information should be contained in the inspection report from 12 December 2008.</p>
<p>External Inspection 6</p>	
b)	<p><u>Who conducted the inspection?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted by the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care.</p>
c)	<p><u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>This inspection was an announced inspection conducted by Care Commission Officers.</p>
d)	<p><u>When was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection took place between 24 November and 12 December 2008.</p>
e)	<p><u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u></p> <p>This inspection report did not record any outcomes in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care.</p>
f)	<p><u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
g)	<p><u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u></p> <p>Yes. The inspection report made 2 requirements and 6 recommendations.</p>
h)	<p><u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u></p> <p>The specific recommendations made in the 12 December 2008 report are available in the report which can be accessed through the Care Inspectorate's website: https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php</p> <p>The inspection report from 24 November 2009 sets out the action that was taken in relation to the requirements and recommendations since the 12 December 2008 report. This inspection report is publicly accessible and available through the Care Inspectorate's website.</p>
i)	<p><u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u></p> <p>Where applicable, this information should be contained in the inspection report from 24 November 2009.</p>

External Inspection 7

b)	<u>Who conducted the inspection?</u> The inspection was conducted by the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care.
c)	<u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u> This inspection was an announced inspection conducted by Care Commission Officers.
d)	<u>When was the inspection conducted?</u> The inspection took place between 26 October and 24 November 2009.
e)	<u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u> This inspection report did not record any outcomes in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care.
f)	<u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u> Not recorded.
g)	<u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u> Yes. The inspection report made 2 requirements and 7 recommendations.
h)	<u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u> The specific recommendations made in the 24 November 2009 report are available in the report which can be accessed through the Care Inspectorate's website: https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php The inspection report from 10 September 2010 sets out the action that was taken in relation to the requirements and recommendations since the 24 November 2009 report. This inspection report is publicly accessible and available through the Care Inspectorate's website.
i)	<u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u> Where applicable, this information should be contained in the inspection report from 10 September 2010.

External Inspection 8

b)	<u>Who conducted the inspection?</u> The inspection was conducted by the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care.
c)	<u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u>

	<p>This inspection was an announced inspection conducted by Care Commission Officers. It was a low intensity inspection as the Care Commission Officers were satisfied that services were working hard to provide consistently high standards of care.</p>
d)	<p><u>When was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection took place between 30 August and 10 September 2010.</p>
e)	<p><u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u></p> <p>This inspection report did not record any outcomes in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care.</p>
f)	<p><u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
g)	<p><u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u></p> <p>Yes. The inspection report made 1 requirement and 4 recommendations.</p>
h)	<p><u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u></p> <p>The specific recommendations made in the 10 September 2010 report are available in the report which can be accessed through the Care Inspectorate's website: https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php</p> <p>The inspection report from 30 July 2012 sets out the action that was taken in relation to the requirements and recommendations since the 10 September 2010 report. This inspection report is publicly accessible and available through the Care Inspectorate's website.</p>
i)	<p><u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u></p> <p>Where applicable, this information should be contained in the inspection report from 30 July 2012.</p>
External Inspection 9	
b)	<p><u>Who conducted the inspection?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted by the Care Inspectorate.</p>
c)	<p><u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>This inspection was an announced short notice inspection conducted by Inspectors from the Care Inspectorate. It was a low intensity inspection as the Inspectors were satisfied that services were working hard to provide consistently high standards of care.</p>

d)	<p><u>When was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection report states that the inspection took place between 9 August and 30 August 2012, although the report itself is dated 30 July 2012.</p>
e)	<p><u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u></p> <p>This inspection report did not record any outcomes in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care.</p>
f)	<p><u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
g)	<p><u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u></p> <p>Yes. The inspection report made 0 requirements and 5 recommendations.</p>
h)	<p><u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u></p> <p>The specific recommendations made in the 30 July 2012 report are available in the report which can be accessed through the Care Inspectorate's website: https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php</p> <p>The inspection report from 4 November 2013 sets out the action that was taken in relation to the recommendations since the 30 July 2012 report. This inspection report is publicly accessible and available through the Care Inspectorate's website.</p>
i)	<p><u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u></p> <p>Where applicable, this information should be contained in the inspection report from 4 November 2013.</p>
<p><u>External Inspection 10</u></p>	
b)	<p><u>Who conducted the inspection?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted by the Care Inspectorate.</p>
c)	<p><u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>This inspection was an announced inspection conducted by Inspectors from the Care Inspectorate. It was a low intensity inspection as the Inspectors were satisfied that services were working hard to provide consistently high standards of care.</p>
d)	<p><u>When was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection report states that the inspection took place between 14 October 2013 and 4 November 2013.</p>

e)	<p><u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u></p> <p>This inspection report made a recommendation in relation to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care. It is contained on page 17 of the report and stated:</p> <p><i>The service should ensure that a review is held as soon as possible after any significant incident, complaint or allegation of abuse or neglect.</i></p>
f)	<p><u>What was the local authority's response to the inspection and its outcome?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
g)	<p><u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u></p> <p>Yes. The inspection report made 1 requirement and 4 recommendations.</p>
h)	<p><u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u></p> <p>The specific recommendations made in the 4 November 2013 report are available in the report which can be accessed through the Care Inspectorate's website: https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php</p> <p>The inspection report from 20 November 2014 sets out the action that was taken in relation to the recommendations since the 4 November 2013 report. This inspection report is publicly accessible and available through the Care Inspectorate's website.</p>
i)	<p><u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u></p> <p>Where applicable, this information should be contained in the inspection report 20 November 2014.</p>
<u>External Inspection 11</u>	
b)	<p><u>Who conducted the inspection?</u></p> <p>The inspection was conducted by the Care Inspectorate.</p>
c)	<p><u>Why was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>This inspection was a low intensity inspection as the Inspectors were satisfied that services were working hard to provide consistently high standards of care. The local authority was informed of the inspection.</p>
d)	<p><u>When was the inspection conducted?</u></p> <p>The inspection report states that the inspection took place between 28 October 2014 and 20 November 2014.</p>
e)	<p><u>What was the outcome of the inspection in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care?</u></p>

	<p>The previous inspection report made a recommendation in relation to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care. This inspection report stated that the local authority had “taken appropriate action in respect of the recommendations made at the time of the last inspection”.</p> <p>In relation to this inspection, the report did not record any new outcomes in respect of any issues relating to abuse or alleged abuse of children in foster care.</p>
f)	<p><u>What was the local authority’s response to the inspection and its outcome?</u></p> <p>Not recorded.</p>
g)	<p><u>Were recommendations made following the inspection?</u></p> <p>Yes. The inspection report made 0 requirements and 9 recommendations.</p>
h)	<p><u>If so, what were the recommendations and were they implemented?</u></p> <p>The specific recommendations made in the 20 November 2014 report are available in the report which can be accessed through the Care Inspectorate’s website: https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php</p> <p>The inspection report from 31 August 2016 sets out the action that was taken in relation to the recommendations since the 20 November 2014 report. This inspection report is publicly accessible and available through the Care Inspectorate’s website.</p>
i)	<p><u>If recommendations were not implemented, why not?</u></p> <p>Where applicable, this information should be contained in the inspection report 31 August 2016.</p>