

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 8 December 2015

## Children and Families Response to Complaints Review Committee Outcome

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Item number       | 8.5.2 |
| Report number     |       |
| Executive/routine |       |
| Wards             | All   |

### Executive Summary

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This report should be read in conjunction with the report from the Committee Services relating to a Social Work Complaints Review Committee held on 25 November 2015.

Due to the proximity in time of the CRC and this committee, senior managers require time to consider the recommendations.

### Links

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|--------------------------|---|
| Coalition pledges        | <a href="#">P1</a>  |
| Council outcomes         | <a href="#">CO1</a> , <a href="#">CO3</a> , <a href="#">C10</a> , <a href="#">C11</a> |
| Single Outcome Agreement | <a href="#">SO2</a> , <a href="#">SO3</a>   |

## Children and Families Response to Complaints Review Committee Outcome

### Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to note this report and that a further report will be brought to the next committee.

### Background

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- 2.1 This report should be read in conjunction with the report from the Committee Services relating to a Social Work Complaints Review Committee held on 25 November 2015.
- 2.2 The decisions are set out below. Section 3 informs members of the background.
  - 2.2.1 To uphold the appeal, on the basis that the complainant had not been given any advice about kinship caring, and consequently may have been left financially worse off. The committee did not have financial information from either side to be able to determine this conclusively. The committee felt that if it is demonstrated that the complainant has suffered financially, the Council should consider an appropriate ex-gratia payment;
  - 2.2.2 The Committee notes that in the time since the complainant was caring for her granddaughter, arrangements for kinship caring have been significantly improved, which should ensure that this does not happen again.

### Main report

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- 3.1 Relevant background information is set out in detail in the Council report to the Complaints Review Committee (CRC) dated 25 November 2015.
- 3.2 In upholding the appeal the CRC has taken the view that the allocated social worker should have entered into discussion with the complainant at the time of placement regarding the possibility of the Council deeming the child in her care to be Looked After and Accommodated (LAAC). That is not the view of the managers who have dealt with the case.

- 3.3 Due to the proximity in time of the CRC and this committee, senior managers require time to consider the recommendations.
- 3.4 A further report will be provided to the next committee.

### **Measures of success**

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- 4.1 Not directly applicable to this report.

### **Financial impact**

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- 5.1 Not directly applicable to this report.

### **Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 Not directly applicable to this report.

### **Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 Not directly applicable to this report.

### **Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 Not directly applicable to this report.

### **Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 Not directly applicable to this report.

### **Background reading/external references**

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## Links

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|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Coalition pledges</b>        | P1 – Ensuring every child has the best start in life  |
| <b>Council outcomes</b>         | CO1 – Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed.<br>CO3 – Our children and young people at risk, or with a disability, have improved life chances.<br>C10 – Improved health and reduced inequalities<br>C11 – Preventative and personalised support in place. |
| <b>Single Outcome Agreement</b> | SO2 – Edinburgh’s citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health<br>SO3 – Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential  |
| <b>Appendices</b>               | None  |