

FOSTERPLUS SCOTLAND

DUTY OF CANDOUR ANNUAL REPORT (JANUARY 2021 – JANUARY 2022)

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All health and social care services in Scotland have a duty of candour. This is a legal requirement, which means that when unintended or unexpected events happen that result in death or harm as defined in the Act, the people affected understand what has happened, receive an apology, and that organisations learn how to improve for the future.

An important part of this duty is that we provide an annual report about how the duty of candour is implemented in our service. This report describes how Fosterplus Scotland has operated the duty of candour during the time between January 2021 and January 2022.

1. Number of incidents to which the Duty of Candour has applied.

There has been one Duty of Candour incident during the reporting period. This annual report covers the period January 2021 – January 2022.

The incident to which the Duty of Candour applied was in relation to the unexpected tragic death of a young person using our service. The cause of death for this young person was in relation to a diagnosed health issue.

2. Assessment of the extent to which the Responsible Person has carried out the Duty of Candour .

Fosterplus Scotland and the responsible person followed the correct procedure in relation to this incident. This means that we informed the people affected, apologised to them, and offered to meet with them. Fosterplus Scotland carried out an independent review to understand what happened and what we could have done differently.

3. Fosterplus Scotland Policy and Procedures in relation to Duty of Candour.

- Fosterplus Scotland have a Duty of Candour Procedure in place which has been shared with staff and foster parents.
- Fosterplus Scotland management team have oversight of significant events affecting looked after children and young people as well as events affecting foster parents and their birth family members. Such events are monitored on a day to day basis and are reported monthly to our board of Directors.
- Duty of Candour incidents are included on the Fosterplus Scotland Critical Incident and Notifiable Event reporting schedule

4. **Changes or Learning as a result of Duty of Candour incidents.**

- Holiday information and Risk Assessment procedures have been updated and improved to include greater clarity for staff and foster parents about making sure that holiday plans are clear and accurate. Education detail has been added to include permission from education as well as the local authority if holiday is to be taken during term time.
- Renewed focus of the health needs of children/young people which has involved updating our systems to allow us to highlight health needs and levels of risk for individuals. We have updated our matching forms so we can address any training foster parents may need when placing a child/young person with specific health needs.

All foster parent supervision records have been updated to ensure young people with a high level of medical needs are always considered and support plans are continually assessed and reviewed.

Our matching system for children/young people has been improved to ensure that there is more focus on health needs. Additional questions have been added.

- Fosterplus Scotland has developed a better awareness, knowledge and level of understanding of the Duty of Candour process and its principles. We have updated our Duty of Candour Policy and this has been shared with all staff and foster parents. All staff have completed refresher Duty of Candour training.
- Fosterplus will utilise the skills of qualified Therapists to provide skilled support to those affected. In addition, The Responsible Person and management team will provide emotional/practical support to staff via the normal line management processes. Fosterplus Scotland is aware of the requirement to work in partnership with other services such as health and placing authorities in relation to Duty of Candour incidents, and therefore will consult with relevant professionals and organisations to identify the most appropriate way of supporting children and young people placed with the agency ; and/or members of the fostering household.

5. **Other Information**

This is the first occasion where we have had to report a Duty of Candour Incident and it has been a year of learning and refining our existing processes to include the Duty of Candour outcomes. As required, Fosterplus have placed this report on our website.

If you would like further information regarding this report, please contact:

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