

Foster Care Associates Scotland:

Duty of Candour Annual Report (1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021)

Report Author: Amanda Lindsay Registered Manager

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

There have been 0 Duty of candour incidents during the reporting period. This Annual Report period covers the period up until 31/03/2. However, it is worth noting that 0 Duty of Candour incidents have taken place in Quarter 1 of the current Reporting period (April to June 2021).

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

As indicated above. There have been 0 Duty of Candour incidents during the reporting period.

3. FCA Scotland policy and procedures in relation to Duty of Candour

- FCA Scotland have implemented a Duty of Candour Procedure and this has been shared with FCA Scotland staff. In addition staff Duty of Candour materials such as the Duty of Candour Fact sheets and E-learning module have been made available and discussed with the staff team.
- FCA Scotland Management team have oversight of significant events affecting looked after children; those placed on Continuing Care or Staying Put; and events affecting foster carers and their birth family members. Such events are monitored on a day to day basis and are reported on monthly, quarterly and annually to the Board.
- Duty of Candour is included on the FCA Scotland Monitoring and Notifiable Event reporting Schedule and this provides a mechanism for triggering and reporting a Duty of Candour incident.
- Recording of Duty of Candour incidents is also reflected in the FCA Scotland Company Quality Assurance tools and processes i.e. Quarterly and Annual Quality of Care Reports and the Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Board. The Board reviews quarterly and annual reports and provide feedback to the Registered Manager in relation to quality of content and areas for improvement. As these reports are designed to include qualitative information as well as numerical data, any details and learning from a Duty of Candour incident would be captured here and used to inform service improvement.

4. Support Available to staff/persons affected by Duty of Candour Incidents

In the event of a Duty of Candour incident occurring and impacting upon staff, children, foster carers and/or their birth families the agency would utilise the skills of qualified Therapists, (who are members of the staff team), to provide skilled support to those affected. In addition the Responsible Person and the management team would provide emotional/practical support to staff via line the normal line management processes. The Registered Manager 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 would consult with relevant professionals and organisations to identify the most appropriate way of supporting children/young people placed with the Agency; and/or members of the fostering household.

5. Changes or Learning as a result of Duty of Candour implementation

There have been no further changes made to policy and procedure since implementation as FCA Scotland has not experienced a Duty of Candour incident. However the Registered Manager has contacted Scottish Government to ask if there has been any case reviews or learning identified from Duty of Candour incidents to date that may inform future practice.