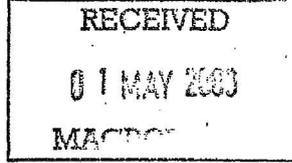


Letter No 21

Dundee City Council
Support Services
CHANGING FOR THE FUTURE

Messrs MacRoberts
Solicitors
152 Bath Street
GLASGOW
G2 4TB



Patricia McIlquham - Depute Chief Executive
(Support Services)

Roger Mennie - Legal Manager

21 City Square, Dundee DD1 3BY
LP - 38 DUNDEE

Tel 01382 434000
Fax 01382 434182

Email address:
john.mcdonald@dundeecity.gov.uk

If calling please ask for

Mr J McDonald on (01382) 434002

Our Ref JMcD/CH
Your Ref LAG/CDT/LAG/EIG/1/2
2761634 V3
Date 28 April 2009

Dear Sirs

**EIGHTEEN AND UNDER
FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND**

I refer to your letter of 8 April.

In regard to your comments regarding the supervision and support of volunteers, your client's version of events and facts does not concur with the Social Work Department's records of the involvement of the young person with the organisation and the subsequent work of the volunteer. The young person was not referred to your clients by the Social work Department. There is no record of phone calls to the Social Work Department from the parent on the 24th October and the phone call on the 10th December to the organisation was to request an urgent meeting given the carers concerns over the conduct of the volunteer.

You refer to a volunteer being dismissed. Recent involvement with the organisation suggests this volunteer continues to frequent your clients' premises and has ongoing contact with the young person and their family.

The Council has seen no record of the support worker checking with the young person how the work with the young person and the volunteer was going; it would therefore be helpful to evidence this through records of dates and times when this happened.

It would be helpful to see the report regarding the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the volunteers actions, which might reassure the Council that the complaints/investigation process within the organisation is being adhered too, and a clear account would then be available of how "closely monitored" this volunteer was.

In relation to Child Protection, it would be helpful to see the Scotvec qualifications of child protection workers in the organisation, as the Social Work Department has no record of these. You refer to Karen Duffy as a member of the Management Committee, yet the recent chart of management members given to the Council by your clients does not mention her.

तेवर डुदाडु दिंगलिप्त समसठ दिंच बठिनापी चुंछी चे चं दिण वरवे साडे नल्ल वेठां दिडे पडे ते संपरक ववे।
Jeżeli masz trudności w zrozumieniu języka angielskiego, skontaktuj się na poniżej podany adres:

如果你對英語理解有困難，請聯絡以下地址：

Dundee Translation & Interpretation Service, Central Library, The Wellgate, Dundee. DD1 1DB. Tel: 01382 431563 / 431542. Fax: 01382 431542

For information about Dundee City Council visit our web site - www.dundeecity.gov.uk

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The explanation of the child protection policy remains problematic for the following reasons. There is no clarity in terms of decision making and accountability within the child protection policy. Given the nature of the service being provided, there are likely to be situations which may highlight possible child protection concerns. It would be helpful therefore if your clients could produce evidence as to how many referrals they have made to statutory organisations and what have been the circumstances of these.

Your clients' policy should clearly state in what circumstances they would make a decision to refer to a statutory agency, and what statutory agency they would choose for what circumstance. The policy as it reads seems to be dependent on the discretion of workers and in some cases the management team. Are there examples of how your clients have used this policy in practice?

It would be helpful also to clarify what advisory Group was first consulted to give advice on the drafting of the child protection policy. There appears to be some confusion regarding the role of the lead officer in that policy. That role does not give that person responsibility for giving advice or helping to make decisions regarding child protection matters, as suggested.

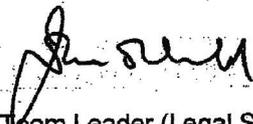
It would be the expectation of Dundee City Council that your clients would acknowledge and adhere to the document "It's everyone's Job to make sure I'm alright". Therefore the comment that your clients are under no legal obligation to report suspicions of abuse is not an acceptable one, and does not sit comfortably with those who have a statutory responsibility to safeguard children.

The reason the policy has not been identified as being inadequate until now is because the organisation was not reviewed and had not undergone the Council's Approved Provider's process which was going to happen at some point in the future. The raising of the complaint only accelerated that process.

In relation to recruitment and selection issues, the Council would welcome evidence that these procedures were fully implemented for all employees who were in the employment of 18 and Under or recruited while the project has received funding from the Council/Partnership. The dates of recruitment would be required. In addition, evidence that appropriate disclosure checks have been obtained would be helpful.

The work in schools was suspended because of the potential for pupils to self refer to 18 and Under as a result of the VIP sessions.

Yours faithfully



Team Leader (Legal Services)