

Minister for Children and Young People and Keeping
the Promise
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Ghealladh
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Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
The Social Justice and
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The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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19 March 2024

Publication of Kinship Care Guidance

Dear Convener

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the publication of the kinship care guidance for Part 13 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the kinship care assessment framework that has been developed to assist practitioners and kinship families.

I mentioned in my letter of December 2023 that the feedback from engagement sessions held in November of 2023, whilst positive, required further work on the guidance to clarify some sections carers and practitioners read as contradictory. We were also asked by carers to include additional cases studies specifically about pre-birth and bereavement. We wanted to take the time to make sure that we are getting this right for carers, practitioners and those who work with them.

I am now delighted to inform you that the refreshed kinship care guidance will be published on 20 March 2024. I am sure you will agree that this is an important step towards providing our kinship carers and practitioners with the clarity they have sought for guidance on Part 13 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

I also mentioned at the Committee in November that a New National Assessment Framework was in development, the aim of which is to reflect that a kinship assessment is unique in that it assesses a carer for the needs of a specific child. I would like to advise the Committee that the framework will begin user testing in three of our local authorities, Edinburgh, Highlands and Islands, and Falkirk, on 1 April and will conclude on 26 July 2024 with feedback sessions taking place at week six and twelve. The National Assessment Framework will be published later this year to allow sufficient time for amendments following the conclusion of user testing.

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I have included the link to the publication of the kinship care guidance which will be live from 20 March <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781835217429>.

Yours sincerely

NATALIE DON MSP

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