Dear Ms McKelvie,

Subject: Call for views on destitution, asylum and insecure immigration status in Scotland

In response to your email communication dated 10.02.2017 seeking views from public service providers in respect of asylum seekers or dealing with people with insecure immigration status, please see the response below from the East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

The responses you seek relate to the three areas of enquiry posed in your communication:

1. **What support are you able to provide to asylum seekers and those with insecure immigration status. Also what are the main barriers to providing support in these circumstances?**

East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) will, along with appropriate partners, offer the necessary support required to support asylum seekers and those with insecure immigration status resettle in the community of East Dunbartonshire. Whilst partner agencies will always strive to reduce (or where possible eliminate) barriers, the issues related to those who are asylum seekers and/or those with insecure immigration status can be complex and multi-faceted. Such barriers include the establishment of legal status, cultural sensitivities, language (if English is not the first language), etc. These issues can be magnified when offering support to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

2. **How an asylum seeker or a person with insecure immigration status’ need for support is assessed and what would make this assessment process easier, please make reference to any policies and procedures within your organisation.**

The assessment of the needs of asylum seekers and/or those with insecure immigration status will follow a similar model for any form of needs assessment. This means it will be holistic, person (or child) centred, flexible and bespoke to the needs of the individual. There are established policies and protocols for the assessment of people within our communities which rely on a multi-agency, coordinated and comprehensive approach to assessment and service planning. Beyond this, we have sought the expertise of other agencies who have experiences of working closely with are asylum seekers and/or those