Dear Ms McKelvie

I read with interest your report *Hidden Lives New Beginnings: Destitution, asylum and insecure immigration status in Scotland*. This is an issue of significant importance and the Care Inspectorate was delighted to give evidence to the Committee in preparation of the report.

I note recommendation 168 in the report. I very much agree with the Committee’s view that scrutiny brings awareness, consistency and the scope for improvement interventions to be targeted where necessary. We will be happy to update the Committee in 2018 on our continuing work on issues related to the report. There are two issues that I thought it might be helpful to draw to your attention before then.

First, in May 2017 we published a report into the services provided to children and young people in the city of Glasgow. In the course of our inspection, we identified a number of particular strengths that were making a positive difference for children and young people in the Glasgow Community Partnership area. These included the responsive approach to providing appropriate and targeted services to meet a wide range of specialist need, including work with unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people. Our inspectors found a positive picture of staff working proactively with children and young people to ensure they were included in their schools and communities, including those recently arrived from abroad, either with their families or as unaccompanied asylum seekers. We noted that there were good examples of identification of, and action taken on, potential emerging risks, including systems risks regarding the impact of the number of children seeking asylum. The full report is published on www.careinspectorate.com.

Second, the Care Inspectorate has recently concluded work which the Scottish Government commissioned us to do in partnership with Healthcare Improvement Scotland, namely to develop a new set of care standards across all social services and health provision. We anticipate that the draft standards will be considered by ministers shortly. Unlike the extant standards, these do not simply apply to regulated care services, but have relevance across all social care, social work, health and children’s services. They are firmly based on human rights and wellbeing principles, and describe the quality that people using care should experience. We expect people planning and commissioning care services to do this in a way which is informed by these standards. Such world-leading and radical...
standards have the potential to place Scotland at the forefront of rights-based approaches to care provision. I am sure that when these are published in the coming weeks, they will be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Karen Reid
Chief Executive
Email: karen.reid@careinspectorate.com