Dear Susanne Millar,

**Hidden Lives – New Beginnings: destitution, asylum and insecure immigration status in Scotland**

I am writing with regard to the recommendation at paragraph 166 of the Committee’s report.

Our inquiry identified issues around the interpretation and application of child protection legislation. What was less clear were the reasons for the different practice and interpretation of the legal framework when dealing with asylum seekers and those with insecure immigration status. We asked Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership to review its practice to ensure consistency of delivery across the Glasgow area. This was also to include delivery of continuous training and regular updates of social work guidance to ensure a clear and unambiguous approach. We did recognise the issues we heard about might be isolated incidents, but they could also be indicative of a system which is under sustained and growing pressure. As such we asked for a review of service delivery to ascertain the underlying reasons.

We would find it helpful to learn what progress has been made in addressing our concerns and whether you have identified particular causes for the uncertainty in
applying child protection legislation. We would appreciate a response by the end of this year as we will be considering our follow-up work in this area in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Christina McKelvie MSP
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee