

West Lothian Council Social Policy Service
West Lothian Civic Centre,
Howden Road South,
Livingston,
West Lothian
EH54 6FF

29 January 2020

Email: SocialPolicyIR@WestLothian.gov.uk

Email: request-635513-b9b88476@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear enquirer,

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

FOI Request ID: 101006619007

I refer to your request for information received on the 17th January 2020:

1. Please advise your policy, procedures and training programme for Social Work staff dealing with and identifying 'Coached or psychologically coerced children'
2. Please provide your policy and procedures which explains types and examples of diagnostic criteria and/or indicators & signs of a child being coached and/or psychologically coerced.
3. Please advise your policy and procedures that explains appropriate methods of working with including but not limited to and consideration and intervention of a child presents as being subject to having been coached by psychological coercive control that is given when working with coached and/psychologically coerced children"

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL RESPONSE

1. Please advise your policy, procedures and training programme for Social Work staff dealing with and identifying 'Coached or psychologically coerced children'

There is no formal procedure or training covering this specific area. All social work qualified staff have undertaken a professional qualification and access training on a range of topics throughout their career. Social work staff reflect on their practice and professional development within regular supervision with their line manager

2. Please provide your policy and procedures which explains types and examples of diagnostic criteria and/or indicators & signs of a child being coached and/or psychologically coerced.

There is no formal procedure which explains this. The social work qualification and ongoing post qualifying training includes undertaking assessments.

Director: Allister Short

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3. Please advise your policy and procedures that explains appropriate methods of working with including but not limited to and consideration and intervention of a child presents as being subject to having been coached by psychological coercive control that is given when working with coached and/psychologically coerced children"

**There is no formal procedure that explains methods of working in this area.
Interventions are determined following the social work assessment that is undertaken.**

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If you have any complaint about the Council's handling of your request for information, you may require the Council to review its actions and decisions in relation to this response. Please write, within 40 working days from the receipt of this information, to Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor, West Lothian Council, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston EH54 6FF (Telephone: 01506 281605, email: carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk). The request should be in writing, email or other permanent format and should state your name, address and specify the original request for information and the reason for your dissatisfaction.

You may, within a further six months, if you are dissatisfied with the outcome or with the Council's failure to review its actions and decisions in relation to this response, apply in writing to the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS (01334 464610; email enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) requesting his decision in this matter. The application must be in the format and contain the information referred to in the paragraph above. The application should also state the reason for dissatisfaction with the Internal Review.

Yours Sincerely

West Lothian Council

DATA LABEL: Official (Sensitive)

In accordance with our Corporate Policy you may be contacted shortly to obtain your views on how we handled your request.

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