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The Scottish Parliament
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15 December 2017

Dear James

THE INDEPENDENT CARE REVIEW

As you will know, I have recently assumed responsibility for the Early Years and Childcare portfolio. One of the key Programme for Government commitments within my portfolio is the Independent Care Review.

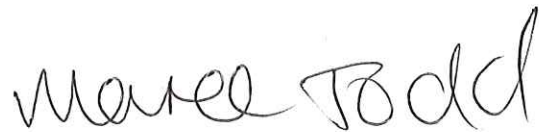
The Independent Care Review was announced by the First Minister on 15 October 2016, committing to undertaking a 'root and branch' review of the system for children and young people growing up in care in Scotland. Fiona Duncan, Chief Executive of the Corra Foundation, was announced as Chair of the Review on 16 February and the first stage of the Review was officially launched on 30 May this year. The Review will last up to three years.

Fiona has chosen to structure the Care Review into four stages, the first of which was called Orientation and was a planning and set-up stage. The current stage, Discovery, was launched in May and has functioned as a fact-finding and evidence gathering exercise. Discovery has given a platform to children and young people with experience of care, as well as workforce professionals and representatives of the third sector, to share their voices and experiences in order to shape the scope of, and vision for, the Review. The Care Review has made rapid progress during this period already and has engaged with a great number of people. The findings and recommendations made during this stage will inform and guide the remaining two stages: Journey and Destinations. The Review will publish these findings and recommendations in due course.



I would like to offer the Education and Skills Committee the opportunity to receive a briefing from Fiona in early 2018 where she would be happy to talk the Committee through the work of the Review to date. I would also be happy to accompany Fiona, should the Committee so wish.

I look forward to receiving your response in due course.



MAREE TODD