Research into the role of the wider family with children on Edinburgh’s Child Protection Register

Becky Dunn and Lesley Henderson, City of Edinburgh Council
becky.dunn@edinburgh.gov.uk • lesley.henderson@edinburgh.gov.uk

“there are risks involved... but it’s right that we always look to family”
Children and Families’ Social Worker

What we did
• Interviews with social workers
• Focus groups
• Literature review

Why we did it
• To gain a better understanding of the impact of wider family’s involvement in the child protection process
• To share information about current practice
• To help inform social workers when carrying out their work in child protection

What we learned
• Social workers understand wider family to be any one who is considered to be family by the parents of the child or the child
• Overall social workers perceive that the involvement of wider family with children on the child protection register is of benefit
• Social workers were more likely to make greater effort to involve wider family when it was likely that a child would need to be accommodated.
• Involvement of wider family was complex and time consuming for the worker
• Discussions need to be held with management to introduce greater clarity about involvement of family members

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