

## Families for Children

Glasgow has the highest number of children who are Looked After and Accommodated, and who require permanent care. Families for Children (FFC) Service is an integrated and established approach housed within Glasgow City Council Social Work Direct Services. FEC received £730,000 from the Integrated Grant Fund in 2015/16 under the Vulnerable People and Families Programme. Its aim is to:

**"Improve outcomes for vulnerable children in Glasgow by delivering a high quality and effective fostering and adoption service".**

By increasing the numbers of adoptive parents recruited, assessed and approved, it will secure the future of an equivalent number of children who have been accommodated due to neglect, abuse, lack of parental care and so on. In achieving this within shorter timeframes, the outcome for the child is even more effective in terms of allowing them to form attachments and settle in secure families and communities at a younger age and/or earlier in their care journey. This is equally true for permanent carers. This also has the effect of 'breaking the care and deprivation cycle'; having assessed fully that the child cannot be rehabilitated to their birth family.

Progress to date includes:

- A recruitment campaign, including bespoke advertising, for permanent carers and adopters
- The use of national register and consortia to match specific needs of children, e.g. ethnicity
- Training programme for carers including preparation groups and external courses
- Support groups for carers and adopters taking place regularly and covering permanence issues; and
- Awards achieved in recruitment including Stonewall and employees of year in GCC

The positive social and direct impact for adoptive or carer families is also significant and as they have been fully checked, assessed and trained, we can be as confident as possible that the life chance for the children is of a high quality, and they will benefit from positive experiences of parenting, education, social skills & integration and lifelong care. This in turn increases their outcomes in life positively as well as the contribution they make to society and their communities.