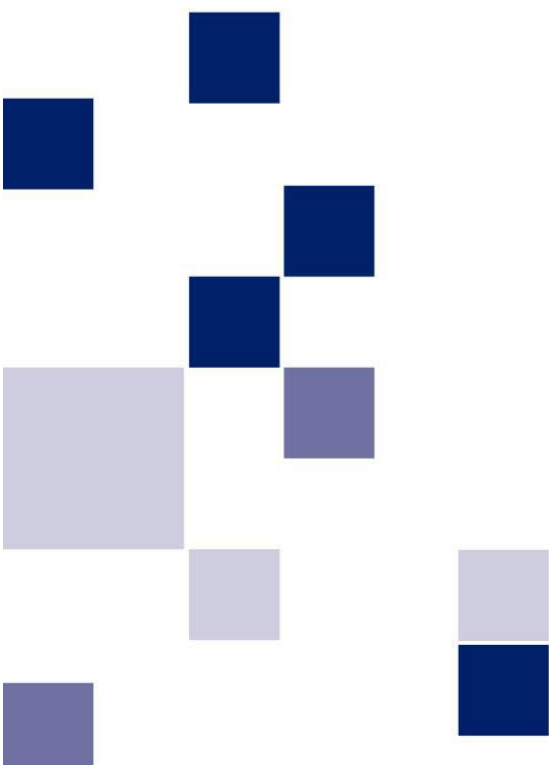


# **Whistleblowing Annual Report 2023/24**



# Prescribed Person (Whistleblowing) Report

1. The information reported below is an excerpt from the SSSC's draft Annual Report and Accounts for 2023/24, which are currently being prepared and due for approval at our Council meeting in November 2024. It will then be laid before the Scottish Parliament.
2. The SSSC has a dual role in responding to whistleblowing as an employer and as a prescribed person in the sector.
3. A social service worker can whistleblow to someone in their own organisation or to a third party known as a 'prescribed person'. The SSSC is a prescribed person listed in Prescribed Persons (Reports on Disclosures of Information) Regulations 2017. As a prescribed person, we are required to publish annually the details of referrals that qualify as whistleblowing and the actions we took.
4. In 2023/24 we received four whistleblowing referrals. We opened a fitness to practise case for all four referrals. By opening a case we investigate whether the fitness to practise of the worker is impaired or not.
5. For the four cases we opened:
  - one case is ongoing and under investigation
  - three cases have concluded and resulted in no further action due to insufficient evidence.
6. We have one ongoing case from a referral in 2022/23 which awaits the outcome of a police investigation.
7. We encourage staff to raise serious concerns about wrongdoing or alleged impropriety. Our Whistleblowing Policy informs staff on when and how to raise these concerns. The policy is consistent with, and makes explicit reference to, the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.
8. As an employer, we did not receive any whistleblowing referrals in 2023/24.





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