

Consultation Questionnaire

Q1. Do you agree or disagree with the purpose of a National Confidential Forum?

Agree Disagree No preference

BACP is supportive of a National Confidential Forum and would welcome further information on the operation of the Forum for a 'fixed period'.

Q2. Do you agree or disagree that the Forum should operate independently from Government?

Agree Disagree No preference

No specific comments.

Q3. Should the Forum

(a) be integrated into another public body ?

Agree Disagree No preference

(b) be a separate unit within another public body?

Agree Disagree No preference

Q4. Do you agree or disagree that all adults who were placed in residential care by the State should be eligible to take part in the National Confidential Forum?

Agree Disagree No preference

Q5. Do you agree or disagree that the process should be the same for all participants, regardless of whether they regard themselves as survivors of abuse in residential childcare?

Agree Disagree No preference

Q6. Do you agree or disagree that people who were in the following types of residential care should be included:

- residential schools and children's homes**
- residential educational provision for children with special needs**
- long-stay hospital provision for children with acute medical and/or mental health needs**
- secure accommodation**

Agree Disagree No preference

Q7. What other support do you consider that participants would benefit from before, during and after the Forum?

BACP would suggest that emotional support such as counselling is available before, during and after the Forum for those participants who need it. Counselling can help people resolve emotional, psychological and relationship issues within a context of confidentiality and clear ethical boundaries using evidence-based interventions to foster long-term recovery, increased resilience and wellbeing.

Practising counsellors should have appropriate training, work to an ethical framework (e.g. BACP, Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling & Psychotherapy), have developed high levels of self-awareness, be supported through regular supervision, be committed to high standards of practice and undertake continued professional development.

Q8. Do you think that the participants should be protected from legal action in connection with their work for the Forum?

Yes No No preference

BACP agrees that the confidentiality of the Forum is imperative but for example in counselling, if during a session with a client a disclosure is made that any individual is at risk of harm, there is a moral duty to disclose this information and inform the appropriate authorities. Participant's needs to be made aware that there are certain limits to confidentiality.

Q9. Do you think there are any barriers that would prevent people who are eligible to take part in the Forum from participating?

Yes No

Some people might find it difficult to discuss their experiences.

Q10. Do you wish to add any additional points about the Forum?

Yes No

No further comments.

Equality Impact Assessment

Introduction

The public sector duties require the Scottish Government pay “due regard” to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, victimisation, harassment or other unlawful conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic.

These three requirements apply across the “protected characteristics” of age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; sex and sexual orientation.

In effect, this means that equality considerations are integrated into all the functions and policies of Scottish Government Directorates and Agencies.

A key part of those duties is to impact assess all our policies to ensure that we do not inadvertently create a negative impact for equality groups and also that we actively seek the opportunity to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

The Aim of the National Confidential Forum

The aim of the National Confidential Forum is to give adults who spent time in residential care as children the opportunity to talk about their experiences.

In this section of the consultation questions we are particularly interested in finding out your views on whether the National Confidential Forum meets the needs of the following groups:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Race
- Religion and Belief

Your responses to the questions will help us to carry out a full equality impact assessment for a National Confidential Forum.

Questions

1. Do you think the creation of a National Confidential Forum will have a disproportionately negatively impact on particular groups of people in our target audience?

Yes No

2. Do you think the creation of a National Confidential Forum will have a positive impact on particular groups of people in our target audience?

Yes No

3. What negative impacts do you think the National Confidential Forum will have on a particular group?

No comments.

4. What positive impacts do you think the National Confidential Forum will have on a particular group?

It will allow adult survivors abused in residential care as children to talk about their abuse openly in a confidential environment and possibly allow for closure.

5. What changes would you suggest to reduce any negative impact you have identified?

No changes.

6. What changes would you suggest to enhance any positive impacts you have identified?

None.

7. Are there any significant issues we need to consider in relation to:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Race
- Religion and Belief?

No.