

## Consultation Questionnaire

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

Agree  Disagree  No preference

Comments

It is our experience that survivors require a means to validate the experiences they have had and we feel the forum would enable that process. Another concern that we hear from survivors is their wish to prevent further abuse happening to others and lessons learned from forum would address this aspect.

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

Agree  Disagree  No preference

Comments

To instil trust in the process it seems that independence is necessary.

**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

Comments

**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

Comments

There may be a number of individuals who were abused in such settings but may not identify as survivors – it feels important that their experience is included.

**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

Comments

**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

Comments

It may be necessary to prioritise one group first but it feels important that the other groups are not ignored.

Special measures would need to be considered when focusing on persons with special needs to ensure that the process was relevant and accessible to their abilities and this would require careful planning.

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

Comments

**Participants may need access to support to prepare for the hearing giving information as to what to expect etc.**

**During it may be important to have a familiar worker or family member/friend to be available if needed.**

**For some individuals access to professional counselling support may be necessary after the forum.**

**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

Comments

**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

Comments

For example : people with learning disabilities may find the process is not accessible to them.

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

Yes  No

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

Comments

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

Comments

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

Comments

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

Comments

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

Comments

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

Comments

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

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

Comments