

Consultation Questionnaire

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Abused as a child in foster care by foster parent and family member of that foster parent as well as by a putative father who was granted custody, visits/overnight stays and holidays. I believe we should have been heard and action taken on our behalf many years ago to put a stop to the abuse and suffering.

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Government participation and guidance possibly a benefit, although I believe the Forum should be solely responsible for its operation and structure.

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

Support, guidance and legal aspects will be required I believe.

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

Only those who have suffered can give the full details of living with abuse.

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

No-one can be ignored where abuse can be validated.

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

Access to all reports. Social Services, Medical records, Court reports should be made freely available where possible. The chance to meet with experts and talk about individual experiences. Advice on taking action against abusers or relevant bodies. Meeting other abuse victims/survivors.

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

This is not clear cut – why would legal action be taken against individuals? This defeats the purpose of setting up a Forum surely!

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

Fear of not being believed. Perhaps some will feel that nothing was done back then why is now different. A forum needs to offer protection, anonymity and understanding 100%.

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?

There should be no negativity.

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

Finding a voice. Putting right the wrongs.

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?

Having regard to understanding/compassion and belief.