

Consultation Questionnaire

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Comments

No.

We suggest that the forum should be broadened to include adults who spent time in THE CARE SYSTEM, eg including foster care.

We also suggest that the forum should be restricted to adults who would like to describe their experiences OR ABUSE OR NEGLECT, ie not to include those who wish to share only positive experiences.

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Comments

Advantage of being independent: the report may be less biased.

Disadvantage of being independent: Survivors need to be heard by the Scottish Government and statutory services directly, since they provided the care in which they were abused.

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

But ALSO all people who were abused or neglected IN THE CARE SYSTEM as a whole.

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

The forum should only be for people who experienced abuse or neglect. Otherwise these people risk being marginalised (again), and the record of their experiences may have less of an impact.

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

But ALSO all people who were abused or neglected IN THE CARE SYSTEM as a whole.

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

Comments

We are concerned that the participants get adequate and appropriate support to appear before the Forum. Our experience is that survivors can find it very liberating to be heard, but to tell their story may take a lot of effort. Our concern is that the emotional and psychological effects of speaking at the Forum are taken into account and adequate support be given not only before and during but for long enough afterwards that the participant doesn't feel left alone with the feelings that have been raised. The resources allocated to the Forum may not allow for the aftercare to be extensive but there should be a system of referral to an agency with sufficient skill and understanding to support the participant further.

Telephone support may also be a way to support participants who live in areas where face to face support is not available.

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

Knowing about it.

Being clear that that their experience is relevant in this setting. "Oh, I didn't think it was aimed at me."

Feeling able to participate.

Having to say to their current family that they were abused in their youth.

Distance to travel to the Forum.

Support issues.

Being clear about what the point of it is.

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

Men usually find it harder to disclose that they have been abused. Those who would now be considered to be elderly, may have kept the abuse secret all of their lives. The fear of what will happen to them (psychologically, emotionally) if they 'let it out now' may be greater than their wish to be heard.

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

Email the completed form to Julie.muir@scotland.gsi.gov.uk