

Consultation Questionnaire

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Comments

The people most able to determine appropriate policy are those who have experienced life in care. Experienced support is required but their voice is the most important.

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Comments

To be effective the policy has to be free from party political influence and make decisions, or offer advice, based solely on the needs of survivors.

Q3. Should the Forum

(a) be integrated into another public body ?

Agree Disagree x No preference

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

Agree Disagree No preference x

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 x Disagree No preference

Comments

There should be no compulsion but the importance of their experience cannot be underestimated.

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 x 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 x Disagree No preference

Comments

I would only comment that their different experiences may affect their responses and it would be important for the decision makers to be aware of the different experiences of the group without necessarily identifying individuals.

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

Comments

There is little point in identifying a need without having in place some support to offer remedy. Even if the remedy may depend on future funding it needs to be identified and labelled. Without the offer of support the forum becomes a talking shop and will be seen as a waste of time.

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

Assuming no member of the forum deliberately commits an illegal act they should be protected.

There should be no threat of legal action because members of the forum were unable to address an issue raised.

However there should never be any attempt to cover up illegal action, particularly where it damages vulnerable adults or children. The forum should have a policy on this and members should be clear about when they must act.

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

We have to accept that some people will want to draw a line under unhappy experiences and not ever discuss them. There must be no compulsion to do so.

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

Yes x No

Comments

The proposed forum has the opportunity to support vulnerable young adults to make decisions about their lives and to improve the lives of future Scots. It is impossible to overestimate the benefit of this if handled properly and given the tools nec to change lives.

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 x

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 x No

Comments

It allows vulnerable adults to find their voice and be heard.

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

See 2 above

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

Give the forum some real power to change lives and make that difference

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

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

Comments

All of these need to be considered but surely any member of a forum like this will be aware of these issues and prepared to work meaningfully towards an equality agenda