

## Consultation Questionnaire

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

Agree  Disagree  No preference

Comments

The Time to be Heard pilot has clearly evidenced the basis for developing a time limited national form.

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

Agree  Disagree  No preference

Comments

Independence ought to ensure maximum participation, independent conclusion and meaningful outcomes. It is also in keeping with the Ministers' commitment of 2011.

**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

The forum is a clear separate work stream and commitment. As such the perception of it as independent from government or other public bodies is important.

A separate unit would ensure objectivity.

Any relevant public body would have to evidence strongly that their current 'business' would not negatively impact on how they would ensure that Ministers received full information from the forum to ensure lessons are learned and current practice is informed.

**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

Given that evidence to date confirms that adults' health and well being is improved by having the opportunity to describe their experiences in residential care, the opportunity should be available to all. Not all adults will relate to the word 'abuse' but their reports of negative experiences nevertheless will be extremely important to acknowledge, record and learn from.

**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

Please refer to answer at Q4.

It is important that those who have had abusive experiences and negative experiences have the right to be heard, acknowledged and supported. The fact that children were placed for their own protection and were not protected is clearly a focus for the forum.

Lessons to be learned for the future can however come from reports of good experiences too so the suggestion that positive experiences can be recorded in written form by those wishing to do so is also welcome.

**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

There is no basis to exclude any of the settings noted above.

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

Comments

The support team in place for TTBH was clearly effective. This therefore ought to be replicated and also include flexibility to ensure a personalised approach to the particular needs of those individuals taking part. The particular support required should be dictated by the participant.

**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

Balancing confidentiality with risk/duty to report a crime needs to be up front and transparent. There is nothing further to add over and above points 26 and 27 except that unless appropriate protection is in place, it will be difficult to attract members to sit as part of this confidential forum.

**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

Issues regarding confidentiality, duties under law and safeguards for those participating will require to be clearly laid out.

**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