

Consultation Questionnaire

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Preamble: The Care Inspectorate is not able, at this point, to inform this consultation on the basis of inspection findings. However staff in the Care Inspectorate are able to contribute to this consultation on the basis of relevant experience in front line practice, management of services and enquiries.

We agree with the purpose of a National Confidential Forum. The pilot has clearly borne out the hypothesis that giving adults, who had been in residential care as children the chance to describe their experiences, is of benefit to them. Of particular note is the finding that taking part in the forum led to improvements in their health and wellbeing.

The confidential forum will also provide important information about the experiences of children in residential care in the past. Hearing directly from adults who have spent time in residential settings will provide a rich source of information which will inform improvements in the future. The confidential nature of the forum should assist participants to feel safe in taking part.

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

Agree Disagree No preference

We agree that the forum should operate independently from government. This communicates independence and impartiality, both of which are likely to be vital to making sure all those people who want to take part feel confident to do so.

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

The forum must be seen as sufficiently independent of government but also separate from any other organisation with vested interests. Care needs to be taken in deciding which public body should host the forum. Having the forum as a clearly separate unit would provide an appropriate level of independence.

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

Having all adults who were placed in residential care by the state being eligible to take part in the National Confidential Forum conveys an important message that all experiences, good, bad or mixed will be heard. This will allow all those who want to take part to relate their experiences. The pilot has established very clearly the benefits for survivors of abuse in residential child care. Enquiries have found that adults who considered they had good experiences in residential childcare can feel that their histories are being questioned by the subsequent discovery of abuse in the place where they were cared for.

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

The process should be the same for all participants, while taking account of their individual needs. It is not so obvious what the benefits would be for those who had good experiences but it would communicate a sense of equality and that all histories were respected and heard. Some adults will have had mixed experiences and this may make it easier for them to come forward and be heard. Some participants may find they are only able to make sense of their experiences in the process of being heard. To have the same process for all participants will encourage many more people to come forward. This should enable more people to benefit from the listening process and more information to be gained which will inform improvements in residential care.

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

We agree that the forum should include people who were in the above different types of residential care.

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

It is essential that support be provided in preparation for the hearing, throughout the hearing, directly afterwards and also in the longer term. Consideration should be given to linking people with local services of their choice. This may not always be acceptable but could lead to a better support network for the person in the longer term. The forum should have access to a good range of different support services in order to allow some degree of choice to those taking part. The forum should have information readily to hand of what services are available throughout the country.

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

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

If the safeguards already mentioned are put in place there should not be any barriers which prevent people who are eligible to take part in the Forum from participating.

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

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

none

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