

Consultation Questionnaire

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Comments

In general we agree with the purpose of a National Confidential Forum. The work undertaken previously and Time To Be Heard provides the evidential basis.

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Comments

If a purpose of the Forum is for full participation without barriers then it is important that it operates independently from the Government.

Q3. Should the Forum

(a) be integrated into another public body ?

Agree Disagree No preference x

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

Agree Disagree No preference x

Comments

A separate public body would be simpler however crosscutting issues may make it more appropriate to be delivered if it were integrated into another public body. An objective of the Forum is to encourage participation and deliver outcomes. If the Forum is integrated into another public body then there will be a need for openness and transparency. There would need to be evidence to demonstrate that the core business of the body did not impact on their ability to report objectively from the Forum.

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

In order to be fully inclusive it is important that all adults who were placed in residential care are eligible.

There will be some adults who had experiences in residential care that they do not consider as abusive and it is equally important to take these views into account.

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 needs to be inclusive and supportive and therefore processes need to take account of the diverse range of needs of the adults. Many children were placed in residential care to be protected and this did not happen. It is however important to draw on the views of those who had positive experiences as this also provides the opportunity to learn.

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

It is important that all adults who were looked after away from home can participate and there should be no reason to exclude certain groups.

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

Comments

Time To Be Heard has already demonstrated what range of support is required throughout the process. Support needs to be flexible and take account of a range of needs as expressed by the participants.

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

This is a very complex area which requires openness and transparency from the beginning. We would have reservations about protection from legal action due to the risk of perpetuating some of the problems. A difficult balance will need to be reached between protection and responsibility to report crimes.

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

This links to Q8 and how full participation can be encouraged. Areas surrounding confidentiality and protection will require to be clearly addressed.

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

If it is fully inclusive

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

TTBH gave evidence that participation improved wellbeing of those who participated.

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

Comments

Only if certain groups are excluded or supports are not put in place to reduce further trauma.

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

Comments

If supportive and takes account of diverse needs should have positive impact on mental health /wellbeing

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