

Consultation Questionnaire

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Comments

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

This type of Forum will provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their experience and opinions, allowing them to do so in ways which will inform and enhance service provision.

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

Agree Disagree No preference

Comments

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

The National Confidential Forum will give adult survivors who were abused in residential care as children the opportunity to describe their experiences in an informal Forum.

It is proposed that the Forum should be established and maintained by an existing public body which is independent of the Scottish Government.

Q3. Should the Forum

(a) be integrated into another public body ?

Agree Disagree (Addictions/ACMH) No preference (CAMHS)

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

Agree (Addictions) Disagree (ACMH) No preference (CAMHS)

Comments

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

It is suggested that it should operate as a separate forum with its functions clearly separated from the current work of the public body.

The venues and settings should be in confidence as far as possible, accepting that disclosure of confidential information will be necessary in some cases to prevent further harm or where required by law.

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

Adult Community Mental Health Services (ACMH) – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

The forum should be for those who have themselves been abused however not all people may consider themselves to be survivors until they have been able to reflect on their experiences. It should not therefore be exclusive.

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

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Process should be the same with support offered, help and advice before, during and after giving testimony.

CAMHS – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

The only proviso would be the type, and quality of support that is needed to those who may have experienced significant harm as a result of their experiences.

Adult Community Mental Health – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Response as at Q4.

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

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

The TTBH Report proposed that the following types of childcare provision 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, boarding departments of schools, and private homes through boarding-out and foster care arrangements.

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

Comments

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Participants would benefit for local community based support before, during and after the Forum.

A friend, family member or someone else to provide support at the hearing.

Support to the Survivor Stakeholder Group, to ensure that as many survivors as possible can have their voices heard.

CAMHS – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Information for the purpose of the forum should be provided. Access to ongoing emotional support, pre, during and after the forum, to assist the individuals with any issues that may arise from exploring past experiences.

Adult Community Mental Health – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

I think that access to emotional/psychological support should be available over and above family/friend as issues discussed/raised through attending forum may trigger significant distress and crisis for some. Existing services available for survivors need to be aware of the work of the forum and the potential for this to increase demand.

Q8. Do you think that the participants should be protected from legal action in connection with their work for the Forum?

Yes No (Addictions/ACMH) No preference (CAMHS)

Comments

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

The Forum will potentially bringing together individuals who are or have been vulnerable and these individuals will need to feel safe in the forum.

The Forum needs to operate within a general climate of confidentiality (although full confidentiality could never be assured as information would require to be passed to the police if the Forum became aware of an ongoing risk to someone).

The Forum will have a duty to report any ongoing crime that is apparent from the hearings.

Adult Community Mental Health – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

This would potentially lead to blurring of boundaries for some. The parameters should be explicit around what constitutes confidentiality and the types of situations that would require disclosure to third parties.

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

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

I am sure there are many barriers in a situation like this, fear , denial , shame are only a few

Participants may wish to report to the police allegations of criminal abuse that took place during their time in residential care.

CAMHS – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

The need for support has to be fully explored with the individuals taking part, possibly due to the nature of discussions that may take place in reliving past experiences.

There may also be a need to consult with any ongoing therapeutic work that the individual is taking part in related to these past experiences, and their ability to engage in the forum.

Adult Community Mental Health – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

The risks associated with personal disclosure particularly for survivors of sexual abuse.

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

Yes (CAMHS) No (Addictions)

Comments

CAMHS – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

The forum could be a useful vehicle for advising of any changes that will contribute to the overall protection of a vulnerable group.

All recommendations should be made public at some point, and used to influence the thinking about the viability, and usefulness of this type of establishment, and its potential benefits to a vulnerable group.

Adult Community Mental Health – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Whilst accepting the rationale for this to be focussed on survivors of child abuse in residential care, there are significantly larger numbers of survivors who won't come into this category. All survivors require access to the same opportunities and support.

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

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

It will also support participants who wish to report to the police allegations of criminal abuse that took place during their time in residential care.

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

Addiction Services – NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Lessons learned from the past can help to prevent abuse in the future, inform improvements for the health and wellbeing of children in residential care today and protect their rights more effectively in the future.

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