

# Consultation Questionnaire

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

Agree  Disagree  No preference

I think that the level of damage done to young people in care needs to be thoroughly assessed and acknowledged, lessons learned and changes made.

In order for the assessment to be even partly carried out there needs to be a National Confidential Forum where people who were brought up in care as children can discuss the good and the bad of their experiences.

I feel very strongly that abusive members of staff (sometimes ex-boys and girls themselves) need to be brought to account, and their abusers brought to account as well.

I would hope that after the assessment of the National Confidential Forum future generations of children in care will feel that they are "safe" and that any abusive behaviour by staff, and other children too, will be immediately and publicly addressed (in contrast to this current report which addresses abuse some 20-50 years later).

The danger of the Forum is that it may simply be ignored as it ignores children who were abused by birth families, relatives, and others without being 'in care'.

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

Agree  Disagree  No preference

There are pros and cons to whether the Forum is independent from Government. On the one hand where it is independent it may be considered "less than" a Forum that is part of the Government – a sort of side issue.

On the other hand, the report's impartiality, especially with more recent instances of abuse in care, might be politically uncomfortable if a government is seen as not protecting young people in care. I note from the Scoping Review that this has been the case in the past where changes of government have led to "shelving" of enquiries and recommendations (ie. The Kilbrandon Report in the 1960's).

This is an international issue. I would suggest that any Forum works from the assumption of children's rights and be more inclusive than exclusive; that it works closely with other children's organisation and links up with WHO and other international bodies such as the Red Cross, etc. rather than be exclusively about children in care in Scotland

**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

**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

**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

Using "what works" is useful. There were some things – like having 3 square meals a day – that were great – I'd never had that before. These small things should not be overlooked. Being "in care" was at times horrendous but at others not so bad. The good and the bad of it needs to be taken into consideration.

It might be that the whole idea of "resilience" and surviving life in care is connected to having an overall, balanced view of life in care.

My wife was never in care but her childhood was not a happy one and included rape and sexual assault by strangers and by family members.

Ignoring her experiences and concentrating resources on the experiences of one (small) segment of society does seem a little unfair?

**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

I was in all of the above. The residential educational provision for children with special needs and the hospital provision as well as the approved schools were FAR, FAR worse than homes such as Quarriers in my experience. They were brutal in the 1960's and 1970's and I suffered some terrible things which even now I cannot bring myself to face.

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

Perhaps support could be pro-active?

**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

I don't know what this means. As part of the Forum they would be "as one" – a body and therefore not individually liable.

People who have been abused learn what abuse is about and how to abuse. Some don't act on this, others do. I don't know whether those who disclose their abuse in the Forum would be liable? I think the facilitators have a very difficult and complex role.

**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

Knowledge about the Forum. I think it should have coverage on national TV and invite participants nationally, including those in prison and/or mental health institutions. The Directors of Social Work could top-down information about it and get forensic social workers involved.

Emotional pain. For people with criminal histories, approved school or disciplinary school, they feel they "deserve" bad treatment – all part of "do the crime take that time". There doesn't seem to be any encouragement of a human rights perspective that imprisonment or containment is the punishment and that anything else on top is torture. This is true of younger human beings as well as older ones.

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

Yes  No

Where abuse is disclosed within institutions it should be acted upon automatically in conjunction with the police as a matter of course.

I might feel worried that the people who abused me were themselves abused and it terrifies me that they might attend the Forum. I would feel sick if they were there.

**(b)** Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

**Please tick ONE of the following boxes**

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

*or*

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

*or*

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

**Please tick as appropriate**

**Yes**  **No**

**(d)** It would be helpful if you could let us know whether you:

Were previously in residential care as a child

Previously worked in residential care for children

Other/prefer not to say

**(e)** We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate  **Yes**  **No**