

**Meeting of the In Care Institutional Abuse Survivors Sub-Group of the
Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse Reference Group**

**Monday 27th August 2007 11-1pm
Marine Crescent Glasgow**

Present:

Gary Westwater	Chair
Moyra Hawthorn	Scottish Institute of Residential Childcare
Harry Aitken	Independent
David Whelan	Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers
Jackie Brock	Scottish Executive – Care and Justice Division
Carolyn Wales	Scottish Executive – Care and Justice Division (minute)
Annie MacDonald	Professional Adviser to National Reference Group

Apologies: Helen Holland
Heather Gray
Chris Daly
Jeannie Hunter

1. Minutes from previous meeting of 31st July amended and agreed

Matters arising

David to e-mail Carolyn electronic version of the FBGA draft proposals

A file will be kept at INCLUDEM's office and Scottish Executive which contains all paperwork that we have referred to at each meeting.

AP01 Carolyn will arrange this

Harry did not receive an electronic copy of the minutes and they were not received within the agreed timescales. Due to unforeseen circumstances this could not be avoided however should there be any delay to issuing paperwork in the future, Carolyn will advise the group by e-mail.

It is hoped that Tom Shaw will come along to the next meeting. By that time his report will be published

AP02 Carolyn and Jackie will confirm his availability

2. Updates from each area

Jackie Brock thought that it would be unlikely that someone from the Scottish Law Commission will be able to attend one of the group's meetings, instead it

was suggested that a member of staff from Justice Department could come along. David told the group that he had spoken to a QC called Colin McEachram who will hopefully come along to one of the meetings. Colin has submitted a paper to the Scottish Law Commission and he would deliver a presentation based on his submission.

AP03 David to contact him to arrange.

Jackie updated the group on the position with ADSW. They did not manage to appoint a member at the last committee meeting, hopefully there will be someone nominated before our next meeting. Carolyn will send out an agenda and background papers and rationale for the purpose of the meeting highlighting the relevance and importance of their involvement.

AP04 Carolyn to send reminder to ADSW and send them our terms of reference as well

The visit from Care Organisations to meetings was discussed. It was suggested that we should invite them along once our proposals had been formalised and ask them what current practice models their organisation follows, and do they make any provision for former children who were in their care. It would also be useful if they could provide statistics showing how many children had made allegations of abuse and the number of staff involved.

3. Framework

We discussed Harry's framework papers, in conjunction with David's Draft Proposal for Institutional In-Care Survivor Services

The key aspects on which there was general agreement were:

- A system that would support survivors across Scotland.
- It would be an integrated team which links survivors to the appropriate services available.
- A flexible system where survivors are able to leave then come back when they felt happy to do so.
- The helpline as the first point of contact is crucial
- Initial assessment for accessing the service should be carried out by a practitioner, not a former survivor of abuse.
- The role of survivors providing direct help would not be appropriate but their involvement on the management committee, was essential

4. FGBA discussion paper

Permission and consent forms with regards to the Data Protection Act was discussed. It was agreed that protocols for sharing information were essential. Confidentiality at each stage is required. We discussed the various practices of retaining notes and files. Annie expressed the need for minimal details to be kept on records due to these being sought after by any defence team should a court action be raised.

Jackie reminded the sub-group that its purpose was to help identify the purpose, role and scope of a framework support service for survivors of in-care/institutional abuse. Once agreed and if funds were available, the Government would then initiate a procurement process as required by its contracting procedures. It was likely that the in-care subgroup would be involved in aspects of this.

At this point in time, however, no assumptions could be made about which, if any, existing organisation operating nationally, would take on this work.

David clarified the likely tendering process with Jackie and how he would like to see potential service providers give a presentation to the subgroup based on the specifications of the service provision for historical survivors when agreement is reached by the subgroup.

5. Who Cares? Scotland

As Heather Gray could not make the meeting, it was agreed to carry forward the Q and A paper to the next meeting.

6. Fife Inquiry report

Harry commented that the Fife Council Inquiry Report was outstanding with excellent recommendations. Members of the group commented that the findings from the inquiry had not been implemented throughout each local authority and that this should have been used as a model throughout Scotland to develop good practice.

David said that it was a good model which should have been used in the Quarriers cases.

7. Top Issues and priorities identified by members of the group:

Harry:

Free and fully funded system

24/7 helpline

All inclusive

Confidential

Professional

Fully integrated

Coherent

Monitored

David :

Integrated team

Inclusion of survivors

Developing system for survivors

FBGA draft proposals submitted covers all of the above in Harry's proposals.

FBGA has submitted its group objectives to the subgroup.

8. Draft letter/Mission statement

Annie presented a draft letter and questionnaire to issue to all appropriate bodies to ascertain what, (if any) services were available for in care and institutional abuse survivors.

She also presented a draft mission statement and aims and objectives that she and Gary had worked on. We agreed that this document be named as our Terms of Reference & Statement of Purpose.

As the meeting was due to end, Annie, Harry, David and Moira agreed to continue work and finalise these draft documents Which was subsequently issued to all members for final comment.

The questionnaire and letter will be issued on the 7th September with a 4 week response time. An analysis of the responses will hopefully be brought to the next meeting.

9. SurvivorScotland Website

The website papers were noted. It is due to be launched within the next few months. Harry was very complimentary on its design and content.

10. Additional representation

Gary will try to get a volunteer who is a client of INCLUDEM and has experience of abuse whilst in care.

11. AOB

It was clarified that the group would not be eligible to apply for the Survivor Service Development Fund as the sub group was not in existence when applications to the fund closed in March 2007.

David stated that he had asked at a previous meeting with the officials for funds from the development fund to be set aside for Institutional In-care, Historical Survivors.

Jackie stated that as part of the establishment of the development fund, a set of criteria and priorities was agreed. INCAS was not functioning at the time and subsequently no in-care abuse application was made. The fund was assessed by an independent team.

David informed the group that the UK Home Affairs Select Committee investigated the issues of historical abuse survivor issues in 2004 in the UK Parliament and FBGA would like to see a specific group of Scottish MSP's undertake a similar remit which involved survivors and how the Scottish system

has dealt with the issues to-date and are there any issues and lesson's to be learned.

Dates for the next meeting of the sub-group are subject to confirmation of the speakers. We would be grateful if you would pencil in Monday, 29 October and Monday, 26 November 2007 from 10am till 3pm at INCLUDEM, Marine Crescent Glasgow.

We will confirm as soon as possible.

Lunch will be provided.