

Time to be Heard – Pilot Forum for Adults in Residential Care as Children

26 March 2010

Dear Former Resident of Quarriers

I am writing to invite you to apply to take part in *Time to be Heard*. This is a pilot that will give up to 100 survivors and other former residents in Quarriers the chance to describe what it was like to be in care as children and the impact of that experience on their lives.

The Scottish Government has given funding and is helping with the preparations for the pilot. But *Time to be Heard* will be independent of government. I and one of two Commissioners, Anne Carpenter and Kathleen Marshall, will listen to each participant individually and with understanding and respect. Everyone who decides to take part will be offered support, help and advice before, during and after their involvement in the pilot. *Time to be Heard* is confidential and the identity of those who take part will not be made public.

Time to be Heard will begin on 17 May 2010 and will run for at least three months in central Glasgow. Travel costs will be paid for those who take part and for up to two supporters who can come with them. But if you are an older person, or are ill, or have other reasons why you can't travel, we will make arrangements to meet you at a location convenient for you.

Time to be Heard, as a pilot, will test how useful this approach to listening to and acknowledging the experiences of former residents could be. I will be writing a report on *Time to be Heard*, including a record of what the participants say about their experiences and what taking part meant for them. My report will be available early in 2011.

If you take part you will be helping to develop appropriate means of acknowledging the experiences, both good and bad, of adults who were in care as children in the past. You will also be helping to improve the provision for children who are in care now.

Further information and an information pack can be found from **7 April** at: www.SurvivorScotland.org.uk or by phoning 0131 244 3633 or 0131 244 3214 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays or by writing to the SurvivorScotland team, Area 2ER, St Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG.

If you wish to take part you are asked to make contact by 30 April.



Tom Shaw
Chair
Time to be Heard