

**Meeting of the In-care Abuse Survivors Sub-Group of the Adult Survivors
of Childhood Sexual Abuse Reference Group**

**Monday 25th June 2007 11-1pm
Marine Crescent Glasgow**

Present:

Gary Westwater	(Chair) - Co founder of INCLUDEM
Heather Gray	Who Cares Scotland- Director
Moyra Hawthorn	Scottish Institute of Residential Childcare
Helen Holland	Reference Group
Chris Daly	Reference Group – Petitioner to Scottish Parliament
Harry Aitken	Independent
Jackie Brock	Scottish Executive -
Carolyn Wales	Scottish Executive (minute)
Jeannie Hunter	Scottish Executive – Community Care, Health Department
Annie MacDonald	Professional Adviser to National Reference Group

Apologies:

Alex Davidson	ADSW.
Martin Henry	Reference Group
Carol Wilson	Reference Group
David Whelan	FBGA

1. Introductions made and various introductory comments raised:

Gary provided background on his role with INCLUDEM and Save the Children

A. Files and records of Individuals

- Concerns raised that files have disappeared; no consistent storage or they have been destroyed. Not knowing what has happened to these files is extremely frustrating.
- Survivors think that the missing files could provide answers as to why they were put into care. They feel this has led to a lack of identity. Siblings were separated and many have still not been reunited. It makes it impossible to trace a family's health history.

B. The ongoing issues for in-care survivors

- Has there been progress in the last 40 years? The recent publicity about Kerelaw suggests not.

- Are care workers who abuse moving from one home to another?
- Who is taking responsibility? Are the institutions accountable for past abuse of children?
- Jackie will report back on response by Scottish Government to Kerelaw situation
- Might be a corporate Parenting Strategy

C. Time Bar

- It was emphasised that it could be years before people admit to this having happened.
- This can often come to the surface after alcohol and drug abuse has taken place. Insurance companies – not allowing Care Homes to apologies for issues from the past. Justice for those who have been abused

D. Awareness of the work of the reference group and the sub-group

- Concern that the new Government must be kept aware of the work of these groups. Jeannie, Jackie and Anne set out the various ways progress was being reported to Ministers. Anne reminded the group of the continuing interest of the cross-Party group on childhood sexual abuse.

2A Jeannie Hunter was invited to provide a progress update of the Survivor Scotland strategy

- Copies of the National strategy were circulated
- £2m development fund for individuals to take forward. Any additional funds would be considered as part of the Spending review decisions
- Conference was held in February 2007
- The Expert Reference Group is required to consider one of the recommendations in the Lady Cosgrove report on preventative work for those at risk of offending
- **The website** is being set up and should be launched within the next couple of months. This will contain links to other websites, all types of abuse research, events and training. Help lines will also be available for victims' families

2B Jackie updated the group on additional issues

- Scottish Law Commission –Its report on time bar towards the end of 2007. Jackie suggested the possibility of someone from SLC to come along to one of the groups' meetings. Agreed that we need someone to understand the perspective of survivors as it will relate to the SLCs report.

