

The following questions seek your views on whether Scotland should adopt an acknowledgement and accountability model and how this might be done.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Should Scotland trial an acknowledgement and accountability forum?
2. If so, do you think 'acknowledgement and accountability' is an appropriate title, or would you prefer other terms to be used?
3. If you think it should be adopted, which of the following elements would need to be included in such an approach:
 - ❖ Establishing an historical record as an act of remembrance;
 - ❖ Identifying for current institutions additional ways of safeguarding children and young people in care;
 - ❖ Recognition of levels of accountability from the individual abuser through to Scottish society as a whole;
 - ❖ Acknowledgement and apology;
 - ❖ Acceptance of levels of accountability from the individual abuser through to Scottish society as a whole;
 - ❖ Public recognition of the survivors' experience;
 - ❖ Access for survivors to short, medium and long-term therapy and counselling as necessary;
 - ❖ Access for survivors to education and training to compensate for lost opportunity and to increase the likelihood of gaining employment;
 - ❖ Enhanced access to financial compensation for survivors.
4. Who would be eligible to apply and what criteria might be appropriate for determining which applications should succeed?
5. If you don't think that acknowledgement and accountability is the way forward, what would you like to see in place instead?
6. Available research emphasises the importance of having survivors shaping what a forum would look like and what it would do. Would you agree that this is the case and, if so, how best can this be achieved?
7. What additional involvement should there be to help shape the forum?

8. The experience of other governments indicates that it is also important to involve family members. Do you agree and, if so, how can this be achieved, given that for some survivors, certain family members may be safe and supportive, others unsafe and unsupportive?
9. It is also essential to get accurate staff perspectives. How would we set about doing this?
10. Focusing on the mechanisms and process of the approach, who should lead the work and how should these individuals be appointed?
11. Testing out the approach in one geographical area may be an appropriate way to begin. What are your views on this?
12. Public awareness and understanding is critical. How do we go about achieving this?

Please feel free to add any other information or views that you consider important.

It is hoped that the Forum may:

<p>Address the full range of needs of those who were abused, by a range of measures.</p>	<p>This might include compensation, counselling, education and retraining, medical or dental services, acknowledgments and apologies, and establishing a historical record of the abuse.</p>
<p>Recognise and seek to reconcile competing needs and interests.</p>	<p>For example, maintaining the confidentiality of victims, may, at times, conflict with the need to prevent future abuse. Alternatively, a process that does not compound the harm done to abuse victims, may compete with the interest in ensuring that individuals are not falsely stigmatised as abusers. An appropriate balance must be struck.</p>
<p>Where possible recognise the needs of the families and communities of people who were abused and seek ways of addressing those needs</p>	<p>Ensuring appropriate support systems in place for all.</p>
<p>Where it involves a validation process, attempt to minimise the potential harm of the process itself upon those affected.</p>	<p>This means that the emotional, psychological or physical impact of prior abuse felt by victims should not be unnecessarily compounded and those who are innocent of abuse or of wrongdoing should not be unnecessarily harmed.</p>
<p>Be enduring. It should complement what must follow.</p>	<p>This means that, where abuse has occurred, the response should seek to contribute to reconciliation and healing. Whether or not abuse has occurred, the response should recognise the need for its institutions to operate safely and effectively in the future. It should promote a healthy environment at the institutions, both for their residents and for those who work there.</p>
<p>Strive to prevent abuse from occurring in the future</p>	<p>Contribute to public education and awareness.</p>