

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

**Monday 30th July 2007 11-1pm
Marine Crescent Glasgow**

Present:

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| Gary Westwater | (Chair) - Co founder of INCLUDEM |
| Heather Gray | Who Cares Scotland- Director |
| Moyra Hawthorn | Scottish Institute on Residential Childcare Reference Group |
| Helen Holland | Reference Group |
| Chris Daly | Reference Group – Petitioner to Scottish Parliament |
| Harry Aitken | Independent |
| David Whelan | Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers |
| 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 |

1. Minutes from previous meeting amended and agreed (to be circulated separately)

1. 1 Matters arising

a. Update from Jackie

- Jackie confirmed that letters had been sent out to all local authorities and independent residential units reminding them of their obligations in relation to keeping children safe. This is one of a range of actions taken in response to Glasgow's investigation of abuse at Kerelaw school
- Tom Shaw's report is due in September-October 2007 and Ministers will consider the findings in the autumn. The findings will be released by the Executive thereafter
- Carolyn will contact the Scottish Law Commission to arrange a suitable time for one of their representatives to come along to a future meeting. It was asked if the SLC could send someone who will have some understanding from the perspective of survivors
- **AP1: Carolyn to contact SLC**

b. Update on work of National Strategy

- Jeannie has updated the Reference group on details of the first meeting of this sub group
- Annie is looking for help on content of In Care section on website from sub group. She will aim to have paper copies of the website at either the next meeting of the sub group on the 27th August, or the one thereafter. Jeannie will be contacting the Executive solicitors to run all content past them before it goes live
- The work of the group will have its own section within the website. Minutes from each meeting will be posted on the website and there will be a section on the aims of the subgroup.
- The website will feature a virtual network, where information on services, events, etc can be shared, There will also be a space where individual stories of recovery will be told, These will have to be cleared to ensure no inappropriate details, etc are included.

Harry commented on the National Strategy Document produced by the Scottish Executive, which Jeannie had brought to the table. On the whole he thought that it was a first class document, however, he would have liked to have seen references to the data that had been published in the document, and was disappointed that In care organisations did not receive any publicity in the report.

Jeannie explained that a lot of work had to be done in a short space of time while writing this report and but that it would be updated and linked to the SurvivorsScotland website.

2. Framework document

Harry talked us through the Framework document, commenting that there was nothing in this document that was not already in the strategy paper. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

3. Independent Enquiry of Fife Council

Annie had provided extracts from the Fife report. She provided a summary of the document and background information. The group agreed that it would be of benefit if we could see the full document

AP2: Carolyn will copy the full document and send out to the group for discussion at the next meeting.

4. Draft Letter

Annie will compose a draft letter for voluntary and statutory organisations that provide advice, advocacy, support and counselling for survivors to identify if they make provision for those abused whilst in care, as well as to raise awareness of the sub group's work and to ascertain what facilities are available in each local

authority and health board areas across Scotland. This letter will also offer an invitation to come along to one of our future meetings.

AP3: Annie to compose draft letter for next meeting

5. Additional representation

- It would be beneficial to appoint additional survivor representation.
- ADSW will nominate a member for the sub group at their next meeting which is due to take place mid August and hopefully they will be able to attend the next meeting.
- If group members have suggestions for additional attendees, please forward the details to Carolyn.

Mission Statement

David commented that he would like to see a clear mission statement for the group with clear objectives. Annie will start drafting a document which will cover these points.

AP4: Annie will start drafting this document and send out to the group. It is hoped that this will be agreed before the next meeting.

David raised the issue of people's expectations of the group and their roles within it. Helen and Chris emphasised that they were each there to speak from a survivor's point of view David would like to see an extension to this group, perhaps a Select Group in the Scottish Parliament or equivalent. It was noted that the Parliament does operate Justice Committees and The Cross Party Group on Survivors of Childhood Abuse could also be a useful vehicle to former children.

Quarriers now offer after care service for young people who have been in care and we discussed inviting care organisations along to one of the meetings. David thought this should be done on an individual basis; however it was clarified that this would be primarily to inform the group of their current practices and procedures in dealing with In Care issues and to give us an opportunity to inform them of our work.

Moyra from SIRCC told us that they had put in a bid to the Survivor Development Fund in regard to survivors accessing their records and case files during their time in care. Jeannie explained that all bids had been passed to an Expert Panel who would be analysing all applications and that hopefully the final announcement of successful bids will be made sometime in September.

AP5: David, Helen, Chris and Harry will provide their top 4/5 issues for the next meeting in bullet point form.

It was agreed that this sub group should cover all areas of looked after children in care, including foster care.

When agreed, all information from the In Care sub group would be publicly available. All members can then discuss the content with their own agencies, or groups, and post our minutes on their own websites, after they have been finalised.

It was agreed that a Confidential helpline was critical as part of a wider framework of support for abuse survivors.

Helen discussed the issue of mapping that had been discussed at the reference group meeting. In some local authority areas of Scotland, there are not the services there for survivors to access. It was agreed that often when people admit to abuse having happened to them it is after an episode of drugs/alcohol misuse and they need the support immediately.

Can we learn from other countries that have been through similar experiences of large scale in care abuse?

AOB

It was agreed that at the end of November we should do a stock-take of progress made by the sub-group. By this time Tom Shaw's report will be completed, we can then review next steps.

Heather commented that more people have been contacting Who Cares Scotland for help since the Kerelaw accusations.

Carolyn will aim to send out draft minutes during the two week period before the next meeting. The agenda and related papers will be sent out a week before the meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 27th August 2007, 1100 – 1300h

Includem Offices, Marine Crescent, Glasgow