

NATIONAL REFERENCE GROUP – ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE – 14 SEPTEMBER 2011 – ST ANDREWS HOUSE, EDINBURGH

Minutes

Attending

Linda Watters – Chair
Harry Aitken
Sandra Brown
Andrew Campbell
Erica Clarkson
Marnie Collin
Lorna Ann Deans
Isabella De Wit
Theo Dijkman
Sheena Duboust
Ilene Easton
Sue Hampson
Martin Henry
Anne MacDonald
Sue Moody
Julie Muir
Lorna Patterson
Helen Provan
Nicola Radley

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jean Maclellan, Linda Treliving, James Evans, Thanos Karatzias, Rosina McCrae, Helen Holland, Carol Wilson and George Winslow. Harry Aitken of INCAS attended in place of Helen Holland.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 22 June 2011

2.1 Harry requested that the SurvivorScotland privacy policy was made more explicit. Survivors should be advised what information was being held and of their right to have that information deleted from Scottish Government records.

Action: SG to review privacy policy.

2.2 Lorna indicated that she had not received the information forms previously requested.

Action: SG to send forms to ICSSS.

3. SurvivorScotland Update

Revised National Strategy

3.1 Linda advised that a small group, who had volunteered at the previous Reference Group meeting, met on 13 September to discuss the action plan. A number of revisions had been suggested. The action plan would be updated and circulated to the Reference Group for comment. The communications strategy would also be circulated.

Action – SG to circulate minutes of action plan meeting, the revised action plan and the communications strategy.

Male Survivors

3.2 Theo provided an update of the meeting on 11 August to consider the recommendations on the mapping of services for male survivors. Four strands of work were identified for further consideration:

- Carry out an exercise to identify the learning outcomes of services that currently receive funding. A small sub group could conduct short interviews with these services clarifying what has worked and what could be done differently.
- Training for counsellors/psychotherapists working with men. Consider whether a strand needs to be added to the current First Steps and Safe to Say training.
- There are clear gaps in counselling/psychotherapy provision both geographical and gender specific in nature. It is currently not clear whether men will actually seek counselling/psychotherapy neither is there evidence that relates to the effectiveness of counselling as an intervention. Commission research on a range of counselling models to evidence the effectiveness of the different approaches.
- As part of the communication strategy develop guidelines for promotional material that would make all services more accessible to men.

3.3 There was considerable discussion about the need for research. The following points were made:

- there is already existing research on different approaches although it is not specific to male survivors.
- previous research had been carried out by Sarah Nelson and Dr Sheila Reid. (Erica Clarkson has a copy of this and will forward for information).
- BACP carried out some research on the reluctance of male survivors to seek support.
- Michael Kaufman gave a presentation on male survivors at the RAL conference in June. It would be helpful to consider his work.
- counselling is only one part. Consideration should also be given to other services.

- practical needs of survivors need to be considered in the inclusion of services.
- some organisations successfully provide services regardless of gender.
- need to consider how research is transferred into policy.

3.4 The group agreed that there should be a literature review to establish what research already exists. Nicola also highlighted the need for an evidence base and referred to the publication of the MATRIX on the NHS Education for Scotland website - <http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-discipline/psychology/matrix.aspx>. She also advised that a successful three-year pilot project, NHS Living Life Guided Self Help, providing a free, confidential service, for anyone suffering low mood, mild to moderate depression and/or anxiety was extending its specialist support service across Scotland.

Action: SG to consider how a literature review could be undertaken.

Irish Legislation

3.5 Linda advised that at the previous meeting Helen asked if the funding allocated for the Irish Redress Board could also have been used for people abused by the same organisations in Scotland. The SurvivorScotland Team had established that the Irish Act concerning the Redress Board lists the institutions whose former residents are eligible to apply for redress. These are (or were) all based in Ireland. The Board has now ceased to accept new applications.

National Training Strategy

3.6 Sue Hampson provided an update on the evaluation of the First Steps one day awareness raising which had been piloted with the Crown Office and Victim Support Scotland. In discussion the following points were made:

- it was unclear from the report whether any quantitative information had been used. Sue advised that the evaluation was based on both quantitative and qualitative information.
- the need to ensure that the content is regularly reviewed.
- clarity about which organisations would be targeted for this training.
- the need for training for teachers and young people in schools. On this point Ilene indicated that Open Secret did some work with schools. Lorna said that KASP had a Young People's Project for schools. Sandra also highlighted the work that Moira Anderson Foundation had done with schools in West Lothian and advised that there was now considerable interest from schools in Dundee.

Action: SG to consider at Training Strategy sub-group meeting.

In Care

3.7 Lorna advised that funding for ICSSS had been continued. A full evaluation of the service had been carried out and the report would be made available on the SurvivorScotland and ICSSS websites. It would also be sent to members of the reference group.

3.8 Members of the Group asked about the independence of the evaluations of the training and ICSSS. Sue advised that Sarah Nelson had been approached as she had unparalleled expertise in this area. The report was impartial and showed some areas for improvement.

3.9 Harry said that he had been a member of the sub-group set up to establish ICSSS and it had been understood that there would be independent monitoring. Erica advised that Thanos had carried out the ICSSS review in an independent capacity not as a member of the Reference Group and was bound by ethical standards. Martin added that it was actually Napier University who had been commissioned to carry out the evaluation of ICSSS and they had allocated the work to Thanos.

3.10 The Group recognised that there was only a small pool of experts in this field of work and, as such, that there might be times when 'trust' was required.

4. National Strategy Funding

4.1 Linda advised that the closing date for applications for the strategy funding was 30 September. As previously agreed at the Reference Group the priority areas for the past two years would be considered. This meant that the funding would be spread over a wider range of applications. While organisations were free to apply for more than one priority area the letter inviting applications had advised that, in the interests of being equitable, awards might be restricted. Notification of the outcome of applications should be sent out in November, once the decisions had been approved by Ministers.

5. National Confidential Forum

5.1 Linda said that discussions were still ongoing with other policy areas to explore options for the National Confidential Forum (NCF). Early briefing of the new Ministers had been provided. A meeting with SHRC had been arranged for 29 September to discuss options on stakeholder engagement. Further information would be available following this meeting.

5.2 Anne advised that a PHD student had been taken on, through the Scottish Government's Analytical Services Division, to take forward work on the recommendation on resilience in the Time to be Heard report. Sue Moody advised that the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children had begun work to assist with a scoping exercise on reparation. Harry said that INCAS had been contacted. He added that the Care Leavers Association would have some helpful information. The Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children would also contact ICSSS. In discussion the following points were raised:

- how far back would the scoping go? Sue advised that the specification was on the SurvivorScotland website. It was anticipated that this would go back to the 1930s.

- what about children who did not spend all their life in care? Sue advised that the pilot forum had seen people who had not spent all their life in care and others who had been in more than one institution.
- kinship care would need to be considered further.
- if apology law was introduced it would have an effect across all organisations. Sue advised that organisations could not be forced but only encouraged to apologise.

5.3 Sue advised that it was hoped the scoping work could be developed into an information database. Anne added that under the Public Records legislation the National Archives would be able to do this in the future.

5.4 Andrew asked about people whose abuse had occurred in a non-care setting. The Group recognised that there was a gap. Harry indicated that some members of INCAS were non - in care survivors. Lorna Ann asked about access to records for people in non-care settings. Lorna advised that ICSSS could provide some advocacy advice.

5.5 Sue advised that the final report on Restorative Justice had been delayed. Once available, it would be circulated to the Group and available on the SurvivorScotland website.

6. AOB

6.1 Andrew asked that consideration be given to a forum for non in-care survivors. Consultation on a National Confidential Forum should provide the opportunity to comment on this.

6.2 Harry noted that the Reference Group was due to end and asked what would happen in future. Linda advised that when the SurvivorScotland Strategy had originally been developed there had been no dedicated team to take the work forward and this was now in place. This did not mean that stakeholder engagement had come to an end. A separate arrangement would be put in place for the development of the National Confidential Forum. The Strategy and its action plan would continue to be reviewed and the views of survivors and other stakeholders would be sought in taking this work forward.

6.3 Harry asked if the Reference Group had met its objectives. Anne advised that the original objectives identified by the Short Life Working Group would continue to be reviewed as part of the SurvivorScotland Strategy.

7. Next Meeting

7.1 The final meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 December in Glasgow.

SurvivorScotland Team
September 2011