



Response to Public Petition PE1351: Time for All to be Heard

About CELCCIS

CELCCIS is the Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland based at the University of Strathclyde. Together with partners, we are working to improve the lives of all looked after children in Scotland. Established in 2011, CELCCIS has been committed to further improving the outcomes and opportunities for looked after children through a collaborative and facilitative approach that is focused on having the maximum positive impact on their lives.

Response to the Public Petitions Committee

In February 2012, the Centre of Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCCIS) was commissioned by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (the Commission) to carry out the preparation for an InterAction on Historic Child Abuse. A human rights InterAction is a forum for independent mediation and resolution which involves all key actors, to find a way forward within a human rights framework. The purpose of the InterAction will be to develop an action plan outlining agreed steps to advance access to justice, a time frame within which steps will be taken and an independent monitoring process.

The project is being managed by Professor Andrew Kendrick, School of Applied Social Sciences (SASS) and Moyra Hawthorn, CELCCIS, University of Strathclyde. A Project Team has been set up consisting of staff members from CELCCIS, SASS and external consultants. A Review Group involving representatives of key stakeholders provides an overview of the project and acts in an advisory capacity.

Project Team

Prof Andrew Kendrick – SASS
Moyra Hawthorn - CELCCIS
Paul Begley - CELCCIS
Martin Henry – Independent Consultant
Dr Phil Robinson - SASS
Roisin McGoldrick - SASS
Prof Charlie Irvine – Independent Consultant

Review Group

Prof Andrew Kendrick - SASS
Moyra Hawthorn - CELCCIS
Harry Aiken – In Care Abuse Survivors (INCAS)
David Whelan – Former Boys and Girls Abused of Quarriers (FBGA)
Duncan Wilson – the Commission
Paul Gilroy - Educating Through Care Scotland (ETCS)
Jean McLellan – Scottish Government
Belinda McEwan – Association of Directors of Social Work (ADSW)
Jennifer Davidson – CELCCIS

The Preparation Project has involved engagement with the range of stakeholders involved in historical child abuse in order to facilitate involvement and participation in the InterAction on Historical Child Abuse. This has involved establishing an infrastructure for engagement (web page, dedicated email and telephone, admin staff), identification of stakeholders, preparatory meetings with stakeholders, identification of an InterAction chairperson, planning of the InterAction format and content, identification of venue and event planning, and facilitation of the event. Project completion will occur with the successful stage of the InterAction event. It is important to note, however, that the InterAction is a process rather than a single event and that further action and timescales will be identified at the first meeting.

The complexity of the issues and the importance of establishing relationships with stakeholders have meant that the initial timescale of the preparation project has had to be extended.

Completed work:

- Initial stakeholder list drawn up and further stakeholders identified throughout the preparation process.
- Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategy drawn up and monitored and amended throughout the project.
- The infrastructure for the InterAction has been put in place with a website <http://www.shrcinteraction.org/>; a dedicated email and telephone line, and a records system.
- A number of preparatory meetings have been held with representatives of survivors/victims of abuse, statutory and voluntary providers, representatives of the Religious Orders, residential staff members, foster care agencies, and professional organisations.
- An information questionnaire has been designed to be circulated to a wider group of stakeholders and interested parties in order to gain a broader range of views.
- An independent chair-person has been identified to facilitate the InterAction meeting.
- A venue for the event has been identified.
- A provisional date has been set for the InterAction meeting for the end of February 2013.

Further work includes:

- Agenda and format of InterAction meeting finalised.
- Invitations to the InterAction meeting.
- Distribution of information questionnaire in various formats.
- Collation and preparation of representations and materials for the InterAction meeting.
- Logistics for InterAction meeting finalised on the day (communications/IT, venue and space management, accommodation, transport, refreshments and meals, event support).
- Evaluation of preparation process and InterAction meeting.

For further information:

Professor Andrew Kendrick	Andrew.Kendrick@strath.ac.uk
Moyra Hawthorn	Moyra.Hawthorn@strath.ac.uk
Jennifer Davidson	Jennifer.Davidson@strath.ac.uk

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