

**EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE****9th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5), Wednesday, 14 March 2018****Fiona Duncan, Chair of the Independent Care Review****Background**

Fiona Duncan was appointed on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to chair the Independent Root and Branch Review of Care (Independent Care Review). The Independent Care Review will *identify and deliver lasting change in the care system and leave a legacy that will transform the life chances and wellbeing of children and young people in care.*

Those who have lived experience of the care system offer a unique perspective and so it is crucial that their voice is at the heart of any decision-making, therefore the Independent Care Review has made a commitment to ensure the care experienced voice is heard and is central throughout.

The experience of care is not one-size-fits-all and there exists a diverse range of perspectives within the population of children and young people with care experience. Crucially, the Independent Care Review will also ensure that it hears from those who have not previously had the opportunity to be heard.

**The Independent Care Review will be delivered over four stages:**

- *Orientation*: governance, principles, stakeholder mapping, early engagement to define methodology, budgeting, preparation of the *discovery* stage including recruitment of the Discovery Group
- *Discovery*: research, policy mapping and engagement to reach consensus on i. vision and ii. scope (i.e. what immediate actions can be implemented now and what requires more detailed review), finalising methodology for the *journey* stage, carrying out recruitment and commissioning
- *Journey*: delivering discovery outputs, carrying out deep dives into complex areas, gathering data, exploring technology, economic modelling
- *Destination*: consolidation and final report

The Chair devised this methodology to allow each stage to be built on the findings from the previous one, ensuring that the Independent Care Review is responsive to emerging ideas and best practice throughout its duration, making changes where and when it can. Transitions have been built in between each stage to allow for full and proper analysis and evaluation to enable any refinements to be made to the next stage.

The Independent Care Review will demonstrate that change can and will be achieved, building trust and confidence with all stakeholders - particularly with children and young people, whilst continuing to extending its reach.

The Independent Care Review officially launched on 30<sup>th</sup> May after the conclusion of orientation, with the announcement of a Discovery Group which comprises representation from care experienced individuals and key stakeholder organisations.

Details of the Discovery Group members:- <https://www.carereview.scot/who-we-are/>

## Timeframe

The *orientation* stage took place between mid-February and May 2017, with the *discovery* stage launching in late May 2017 and concluding in April 2018; the *journey* stage will commence in May 2018 and is planned to run until late summer 2019 with the final stage *destination* concluding spring/summer 2020.

## Highlights to date:

- A nominations and representation process was used to recruit the Discovery Group from key stakeholder organisations, ensuring representation from care experienced individuals. The group met seven times between June 2017 and January 2018 to oversee the work of *discovery* and reach conclusions.
- A model of participation was designed to maximise meaningful and ongoing engagement. So far, over 1600 children, young people and adults have spoken to the Independent Care Review:
  - 817 children and young people and adults with care experience across all care settings;
  - Who Cares? Scotland was commissioned to continue the 1000 Voices campaign, hearing from 396 of the 817 children and young people;
  - 789 members of the paid and unpaid workforce.
- The Independent Care Review team engaged widely throughout Discovery - the Chair, the Secretariat and Discovery Group made road trips across Scotland, spoke at meetings, events and dinners, had one-to-one conversations, delivered workshops and presentations at conferences, camped out, received postcards, letters, phone calls, emails and formal submissions.
- All 32 local authorities participated in the *discovery* stage, as did national and local charities and independent providers, Audit Scotland, the Care Inspectorate, Scottish Social Services Council, COSLA, Social Work Scotland, the Children and Young People's Commissioner, Young Scot, Children's Parliament, Scottish Children's Reporters Administration and Children's Hearing Scotland and many others.
- Policy mapping identified that the interests and needs of care experienced people cuts across 6 out of 9 Scottish Government ministerial portfolios and departments and spans 44 pieces of relevant legislation, 19 pieces of secondary legislation and three international conventions
- The recommendations from six recent (2009-2016) reviews in Scotland into related childcare practice were considered, as was their implementation, and the Chair engaged with and sought advice from Chairs including Catherine Dyer (Child Protection Systems Review) and Peter Doran (Strategic Review of Learning Provision for Children and Young People with Complex Additional Support Needs).
- The Chair also engaged with Chairs and members of other major UK Reviews including Sandy Cameron (Jersey Inquiry), Kate Lampard (Saville) and Lord Farmer (Preventing Reoffending)
- The 16 national initiatives (advisory groups, commissions, boards etc.) advising the Scottish Government on related matters have been mapped, contact made and meetings held with Chairs including Lady Anne Smith, Douglas Hamilton, Jon Sparkes and Linda de Caestecker (a member of Discovery Group).
- A focused review of evidence from around 80 discrete UK-wide studies and research was compiled and reviewed as was the work carried out by the Care Inspectorate to take account of learning from significant case reviews conducted in Scotland over recent years.
- Efforts were made to produce a comprehensive statistical overview of Scotland's care sector; this provided a snapshot and an assessment of the strengths, limitations, and challenges with extrapolations of the existing quantitative data, as well as identification of issues regarding

collection methodology and gaps.

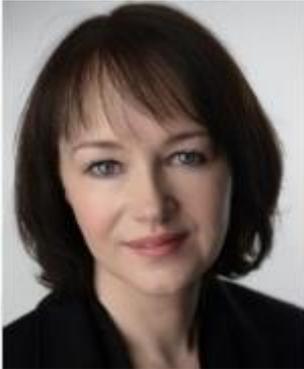
- The Chair has engaged with cross-party MSPs during February and March.
- A vibrant visual identity for the Review was launched in January with a new website and brand that were designed with the involvement of children and young people.

**What next:**

- The Independent Care Review team is in the process of engaging 'GOTO' groups of care experienced children, young people and adults to consider and 'endorse' the findings and action plan emerging from *discovery* stage and the principal areas of focus for the *journey* stage.
- A communications plan is in development and will be finalized after the 'GOTO' groups have given their feedback, with the organisational stakeholder briefing event planned for 18<sup>th</sup> April.

## Biographies of attendees:

**Fiona Duncan**



### **Chair**

Fiona brings significant professional experience and expertise, passion and determination to make change happen for children and young people, and personal experience and insight of the care system to the review.

Fiona is the CEO of the Corra Foundation – a philanthropic grant-giving organisation for people and communities experiencing disadvantage – and has over 20 years' experience working in the voluntary sector. She is a regular speaker at conferences and contributor to sector journals. In 2016 she was a judge of NESTA's New Radicals for The Observer.

**Kevin Browne**



### **Nominated by Who Cares? Scotland**

Kevin is a Strathclyde University graduate who has dedicated his professional career to ensuring care experienced people are understood in our society and achieve equality. He has 15 years of personal care experience, which includes being looked after at home, respite care, foster care & residential care. In a professional capacity, Kevin manages the National Corporate Parenting Education and Training Programme with Who Cares? Scotland. He has overseen the delivery of innovative programmes which place care experienced people at the forefront of corporate parenting approaches. Kevin has been successful in engaging with hearts and minds, against the complex backdrop of legislation, policy and regulation. Kevin previously worked for the office of Scotland's Commissioner for Children & Young People on a number of national children's rights based projects; he also has substantial practice experience as an independent advocate and independent safeguarder, which was through Ministerial Appointment.

**Rosie Moore**



### **Nominated by the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland: care experienced member**

Rosie is 24 years old and originally from Manchester but has lived in Glasgow for the past three years. She is a care experienced individual who spent the first part of her childhood in kinship care with her grandparents and the second part in numerous foster homes. She is pursuing her passion for improving the lives of children and young people as a Social Work Honours student at the University of Strathclyde, working for both Aberlour as a youth worker and the Life Changes Trust as part of the care experienced advisory group.