

PE1596/C

15th February 2016

PE1596 (In Care Survivor Service Scotland)

FBGA campaigned for support services for victims-survivors along with others. In 2005- FBGA were members of a Survivor Scotland subgroup along with one of the Petitioners, INCAS and another independent survivor. FBGA submitted proposals for a dedicated integrated support service for survivors to the subgroup.

The In Care Survivor Service Scotland was the outcome of the work of the subgroup and Open Secret in partnership with others was selected to deliver the actual In Care Survivor Service.

For the Victims and Witness (Scotland Bill) Open Secret in their submission acknowledged the suggestion by Health in Mind that participants (victims-survivors) should have a choice of choosing their current support agency. Open Secret also recognizing there were many victim's-survivors who did not have any support mechanisms in place. They also recognized that some services need specialist skills in their submission.

There were concerns raised concerning the In Care Survivor Scotland Service previously including by the Petitioners of PE1351/B to the Petitions committee (petitioners response to the Government response of written questions) that the service at the time was not and I quote Point 10 in the submission not "fit for purpose". We understand the service did instigate changes and address a number of issues of concern.

- We are fully supportive of this 13.5 million pound initiative as this Support Fund including the broker model. As it will enable wider personal choice and more practical, holistic, therapeutic support going directly to many more victims-survivors covering a wider geographical area in addressing their own personal needs and requirements. This is what victims-survivors were asking for over many many years.
- The current In Care Survivor Service which FBGA campaigned for in 2005 along with others, while it has delivered services which have been appreciated and valued by those who use such services. In our view the In Care Survivor Service is somewhat limited and constrained in what type-range of practical, holistic and therapeutic services they can deliver in practice within Scotland and UK wide. (the Time to Be Heard report reported that up to 40% of applicants were from outside Scotland requiring some form of local practical, holistic, local therapeutic support and other services.
- Given that the current In Care Survivor Service has announced that they will not commission or tender for any services under the new arrangement. There are concerns as to whether the In Care Survivor Service is actually acting in the best interests of those service users who currently access the service and the wider survivor community. We are having difficulty reconciling what the service says

publically and how they think this will meet the needs of the current service users and wider survivor community.

- In our view a robust transition period has to be implemented, which we understand will be from the Survivor Scotland team and will be in place for as long as current service users need such services. This is reasonable and practical in all the circumstances in our view and fully protects current service users. Also victims – survivors can have continuity of care under the new service provision.
- We understand that there are ongoing discussions with Survivor Scotland and the current In Care Survivor Service and it is our expectation that any outstanding issues can be resolved amicably without further impacting on the vulnerable service users and the wider survivor community.
- In an ideal situation from FBGA point of view is it that the current In Care Survivor Service can hopefully reverse its decision and tender or commission for services within the New Service provision otherwise point 4 has to be implemented.
- Discretionary payment element, FBGA have put forward a discussion paper to the Interaction Review group and we continue to consult on this. We have also requested that any issues including this discretionary element are consulted on through the Interaction involving a wider range of victims-survivors.
- The Survivor Scotland Team have also clarified to the Interaction Review group and FBGA. The concern raised by the Petitioners regarding legal ownership of the client files within the In Care Survivor Service. As we understand it is that these file are protected by the Data Protection Act including that consent and permission has to be sought from any client regarding any issues pertaining to their client file.

There were a number of open supported events for victims-survivors including service specification presentation day. The Scotland Survivor team answered any queries that individuals or groups had. We were reassured as to the continuity of current care for current service users, including any transitional period. As one of the Petitioners states 26/01/2016 to the committee. The majority of the survivors who attended the meetings wanted the broker model!!

Yours Sincerely
Jennie Bristow
Secretary (FBGA)