

PE1596/K

Scottish Government Letter of 17 June 2016

Dear Ms Lamont

**PETITION PE1596:
IN CARE SURVIVOR SUPPORT FUND**

Now that the Public Petitions Committee for the current session is in place, I thought that it would be helpful if I updated the Committee on for the In Care Survivors Support Fund development.

On Monday 14 March the Scottish Government announced, in response to a written PQ from Kenneth Gibson (appended at Annex A) that a consortium bid consisting of three organisations: Penumbra; Health in Mind, and the Mental Health Foundation, supported by a further 26 organisations that provide services for survivors across Scotland, had been successful in securing the tender to administer the Survivor Support Fund for people who were abused while in care as children.

The Purpose Of The Support Fund

Survivors have told us that they need services that are designed around their own individual needs, including: specialised counselling; physical and mental healthcare; and support in terms of education, employment, benefits, legal advice, housing and practical matters. The Survivor Support Fund, with a total budget of £13.5 million over the next 5 years, will work with survivors and the services that support them to expand and enhance existing survivor support. It will offer survivors personalised care and treatment based on their individual needs, aspirations and personal goals. The aim is to provide a full range of services across Scotland, including rural areas.

The Support Fund will offer a person-centred, outcomes-based, approach that identifies what matters to survivors. By offering every survivor a needs-based assessment, personal care, support and recovery plans will be developed for them. The Support Fund recognises that survivors' needs are unique to the individual. The personal outcomes approach places people at the centre of their own support and is not restricted to health and social care needs, but rather encompasses a much wider range of support.

How The Support Fund Will Work In Practice

The Fund will provide a bespoke package of care, treatment and support, achieved through the co-ordination of existing and new services. This will give survivors access to support that meets their needs and enables them to achieve their personal goals, with personal outcomes that they wish to see. Once registered with the Support Fund, survivors will be offered support from an appropriately trained and trauma informed personal outcomes support co-ordinator (POSC), who will work with the survivor to identify their needs and the personal outcomes they wish to achieve. In partnership with the survivor, the POSC will develop a bespoke package of

treatment, care and support, bringing together the different services that meet the needs of the survivor.

Bespoke support will be achieved through engaging with statutory and non-statutory agencies and professionals who provide existing services at local level, utilising their expertise. Where services do not exist or access to them is delayed or difficult but are required to meet the immediate survivor needs, the Support Fund may commission such services. Scottish Government Officials are working closely with the consortium members and have formed an Alliance to develop and administer the Survivor Support Fund, which will become fully operational in the autumn.

Support Fund Discretionary Element

The Support Fund will also have a discretionary element. Where support is not available through existing statutory or non-statutory means, or has been exhausted, the intention is that the discretionary element may be used as an additional resource. Survivors who are registered with the Support Fund will be eligible to apply for needs-based and outcomes-focused support from the discretionary element. By way of example only and not an exhaustive list, this could be for vocational training, tracing and travel to see family, , , travel costs to access services. It is, however, important to note that the discretionary element is not a form of redress or compensation.

The In Care Survivors Service Scotland (ICSSS)

Existing survivor services will continue to play an important role, working with the Survivor Support Fund in providing valuable support for survivors. Scottish Government officials and Open Secret (the organisation that administers ICSSS) are working together to facilitate and enable in care survivors to continue to receive support consistent with their needs and with no breaks in service, during the transition period and beyond.

Open Secret has received £100,000 in Scottish Government grant funding from 31 March to 30 September 2016. This will ensure that in care survivors who are currently accessing services through ICSSS can continue to receive the support they need. Survivors supported by ICSSS will then have the option of registering with the Survivor Support Fund to receive new or existing services. However, there will be nothing to prevent them from continuing to receive services from their local support organisations, who will be able to apply to the Support Fund for funding for the in care survivors they provide services for, if they meet the Fund's access criteria. This will include Open Secret.

I would be pleased to provide any further information on the Survivor Support Fund that the Committee would find helpful.

Yours sincerely

JESSICA MCPHERSON
Head of Strategy & Delivery Learning Disability,
Autism & Survivor Support Policy

ANNEX A

Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it will announce the outcome of the invitation to tender, carried out between 1 October and 6 November 2015, for service providers to administer the dedicated Survivor Support Fund for adults who were abused as children while in care. **(S4W-30625)**

Jamie Hepburn: A consortium bid consisting of three organisations: Penumbra; Health in Mind; and the Mental Health Foundation, supported by a further 26 organisations that provide services for survivors across Scotland, has been successful in securing the tender to administer the Survivor Support Fund with a total budget of £13.5 million over the next five years. Survivors have told us that they need services that are designed around their own individual needs, including: specialised counselling; physical healthcare; and support in terms of education, employment, benefits, legal advice, housing and practical matters. It is also important that, in moving forward, survivors will continue to have their needs met through existing services and that services are developed and enhanced to meet these needs.

The Survivor Support Fund will work with survivors and the services that support them to expand and enhance existing survivor support. It will offer survivors personalised care and treatment based on their individual needs, aspirations and personal goals, and provide a full range of services across Scotland, including rural areas.

The core components for the support fund have already been developed through the consortium proposal and are in place. Essential work will now focus on engagement, agreement and partnership working to deliver the support fund. During this time survivors will continue to have their needs met with no breaks in service. The 26 support organisations referred to above are:

Action in Mind
Argyle and Bute Rape Crisis
Break the Silence
Birchwood Highland
Dundee Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
Fife Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre
Gay Men's Health, Edinburgh
Hear Me Counselling
Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project
LGBT Centre, Edinburgh
Moira Anderson Foundation
Moving On, Ayrshire
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Psychological Trauma Services
Partners in Advocacy
Pilton Community Health Project
Rape and Abuse Resource Centre
Rape and Abuse Service, Inverness
Rape and Abuse Support, Aberdeen

Rape Crisis Centre, Edinburgh
Rape Crisis Centre, Forth Valley
Rape Crisis Centre, Glasgow
Rape Crisis Centre, Lanarkshire
Rape Crisis Centre, Western Isles
Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre
South West Rape Crisis Centre
Talk Now Counselling