

PE1596/M

Petitioner letter of 22 December 2016

During my oral presentation on 26 January 2016 I made an appeal to the Scottish Government to continue the funding for the **ICSSS** and that the new service, **In Care Survivor Support Fund** (ICSSF) combine services to provide a holistic service for all survivors of child abuse.

Among the correspondence I received (19 letters in total) supporting the continued funding for the ICSSS are:

- 1) Police Scotland
- 2) Professor Alan Miller (retired) SHRC: Scottish Human Rights Commission
- 3) Rt Hn Lord Provost of Edinburgh
- 4) CELCIS: Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland
- 5) Val de Souza, Head of Social Work for Stirling & Clackmannanshire

At the close of the presentation it was requested that the following person(s) respond:

- A) Dr Sarah nelson
- B) Open Secret
- C) CELCIS: Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland
- D) SHRC: Scottish Human Rights Commission

The Scottish Government have made no comments on my appeal, no comments on the above (9) mentioned correspondence.

I would strongly urge that services for survivors of child abuse be funded continually without the need for them to rely on campaigning from the Scottish Government.

If the support fund doesn't refer to Open Secret, the service would slowly diminish, which would lead to a loss of specialist skills and wouldn't be cost effective for the ICSSF, the new service would not be in a position to provide the immediate and appropriate security for survivors that already exists, especially when a trusting relationship has already been established with their councillors which has taken a long time.

Through the support fund this only allows Open Secret to receive funding on a month to month basis, which is similar to the zero hour contract.

Is it morally right to expect those survivors to trust new councillors from a new service?

How long would it take for survivors to disclose to a new councillor (if they can or, decide not to), what would be the effect on them to lose their present councillor.

Child abuse is horrendous, the trust that was supposed to be there in their tender years was shattered, the facts show, survivors need constant support from the same people, and continuity must be paramount. When that continuity is interrupted it could be dangerous. It is because survivors are given long term support from the same councillors that there are those who can move on, and have, and if necessary they can call on that same support again.

I am a survivor of child abuse, I know the difference between those who care and those who don't, those who listen and those who don't, I am an adult, and I still suffer the triggers and flashbacks that most survivors are subjected to.

One factor has been clear to me and other survivors over the past several years, when other people make changes in services for survivors without an honest consultation with us, it hurts.

I would also stress, other survivors need more of a voice in matters relating to their journey, this needs to be broadened, survivors need the opportunity to engage more fully in discussions that affect their future, in meetings with professionals, this shows that they are valued. Many feel they are being left in the dark, we need to be heard, and, we want to be heard.