

PE1596/Q

Scottish Government submission of 14 December 2017

I am replying to the email on behalf of the Committee of 20 November, which asks for an update from the Scottish Government on the role of the survivor engagement manager and progress with regard to the ongoing engagement plan. Also:

- whether survivors from ICSSS have been consulted about what they need and about changes now in place and in the future? and
- Is there any evidence that survivors have had the opportunity to provide input when decisions about their future health have been discussed?

Survivors who were abused in care and who were receiving services from Wellbeing Scotland under previous grant arrangements have continued to be able to receive that support without interruption or change. The introduction of Future Pathways enables survivors receiving support from Wellbeing Scotland to access additional support from other services and to access a discretionary fund, depending on the personal outcomes they have identified with their support co-ordinator.

Future Pathways worked with Wellbeing Scotland to put in place interim funding arrangements from October 2016 that ensured survivors who were accessing support through Wellbeing Scotland continued to receive that support. Wellbeing Scotland signed up as a provider organisation to Future Pathways in August 2017. Funding for services provided by Wellbeing Scotland is therefore now made through quarterly advance payment and reconciliation agreed thereafter.

The Scottish Government remains committed to engaging with survivors to continuously improve support provision. A series of consultation events was conducted prior to Future Pathways being established, which included consideration of how the fund should be developed. In addition, the Scottish Government then arranged stakeholder and survivor events to further develop the specification for the service. This included local meetings, regional events, a telephone line and a questionnaire. ICSSS attended one of these meetings in Fort William.

Following the publication of the specification for the Fund, meetings with the InterAction Action Plan Review Group took place to explain the role of the Fund in providing enhanced and integrated services for survivors; and to clarify the purpose of the proposed discretionary element of the Fund and its future development. As a core member of the InterAction Action Plan Review Group, Wellbeing Scotland participated in all of these meetings and continues to do so.

Survivors who access support through Future Pathways do so by first having a discussion with their support co-ordinator. That discussion is focused on developing a package of support that meets the health and wellbeing needs of the survivor. The survivor's views are vital to that process and are central to the planning process.

Future Pathways is committed to ongoing engagement with survivors in the delivery of the fund. This includes survivor representation on the Leadership Team and the establishment of a Survivor Advisory Panel to ensure continuous improvement in response to survivor experience. Future Pathways and the Scottish Government also meet regularly with survivors and their representatives to address any issues or concerns arising from the wider survivor community. Future Pathways publishes quarterly reports on its implementation and

at its recent anniversary event produced a video which includes feedback from survivors who are receiving support.

While Future Pathways itself engages directly with survivors, some have chosen to speak to the Engagement Manager in Scottish Government and ask for their views to be presented to Ministers or to the management team of Future Pathways. The Engagement Manager also attends meetings between Future Pathways and survivor representative organisations. This has proved to be useful in joining up for survivors the connections between Future Pathways and other initiatives such as the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, National Confidential Forum and the survivor consultation on a potential financial redress scheme. The Engagement Manager is in regular contact with individual survivors as well as their representative organisations and the InterAction Action Plan Review Group.

I hope that the Committee find this update helpful.