

Victims & Witnesses (Scotland) Bill

Action for Children

We are very supportive of the Bill and other actions taken to support survivors of institutional abuse. Great strides have been taken by yourselves in what is a difficult area, and I'm sure this is to the benefit of survivors in Scotland.

Action for Children has already met with representatives of those developing the National Confidential Forum, and attended one of the forum days. As an organisation we have not had a significant number of allegations of institutional abuse in Scotland. However our experience suggests that a flexible service is needed as not all survivors have the same needs or interests. As an organisation we do ensure that all former service users have support in accessing their records, and have ensured that we have an efficient system to retain and access these. Again our experience is that these records can be invaluable to those who have been in care and as such need to be kept and accessed in a professional and sensitive manner.

As an organisation we will continue to support this process and would be interested in the progress of the Bill and the development of the forum. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have further questions you might want to ask.

I look forward to hearing about the development of the scheme.

Shaun Kelly
Head of Safeguarding
Action for Children

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