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James Dornan MSP
Convener
Education and Skills Committee
The Scottish Parliament

23 February 2017

Dear James,

As I indicated in my previous letter on financial redress (dated 13 February), a special meeting of the InterAction Action Plan Review Group was called for the specific purpose of discussing the consultation and engagement with survivors and others on this subject. I have now been given a note of the outcome of that meeting which took place on 14 February. The meeting was chaired by the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS) and attended by its members which include survivors, SHRC, a government official and a representative of care provider organisations.

The InterAction Action Plan Review Group will work in partnership with CELCIS to develop and steer the consultation and engagement process. Following a further period of preparation and piloting, there will be three parallel strands of consultation, focusing on survivors' views, care providers' issues and gathering evidence and lessons from international experience. Each strand of work will be led by a sub-group of the Review Group and all will include survivor representation. Survivors will therefore be at the heart of the process.

All survivors and other interested parties will have the opportunity to respond to the wider consultation, which is likely to take place in the May to July period. Different ways to take part are being developed to ensure the consultation is as inclusive as possible. Findings will come back to the InterAction Action Plan Review Group for analysis and development of options. The Review Group has considered the timescale required to carry out each stage of the process properly and is of the view that it should be in a position to present options to Scottish Ministers by the end of 2017. I attach an overview of the process which has been prepared by CELCIS based on the discussion at the latest Review Group meeting.

I understand it is the intention to publish all materials, updates and details of how to be involved on the CELCIS website. I will continue to provide further updates to Committee as progress is reported to me.

Yours,
JS

JOHN SWINNEY



