

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry contribution slides for SIRCC conference

8 June 2017

SCAI – stages of the Inquiry

- set-up – now complete
- evidence-gathering and project planning – ongoing for over a year
- hearings – phase 1 hearings started 31 May 2017
- report writing – phased process will start on conclusion of phase one
- publication of report and recommendations
- winding up inc. transfer of “the record of the Inquiry” for preservation by National Records of Scotland

SCAI – remit

Remit defined by the Scottish Ministers' Terms of Reference.

Key features include:

- “nature and extent of abuse in residential care” within the Inquiry’s time frame
- “bodies with legal responsibility for the care of children” failing to protect children in care from abuse
- “systemic failures”
- care provided in, or arranged in, Scotland irrespective of location of abuse
- making systems and institutions safe for all children
- prevention of in-care abuse
- appropriate response to the impact of abuse
- time frame - within living memory to 17 December 2014

SCAI - powers

- set up under the Inquiries Act 2005 and Inquiries (Scotland) Rules 2007
- these give powers to the Scottish Ministers and to the Chair of the Inquiry
- these also limit what the Chair and Inquiry can do
- wide power given to the Chair, under the 2005 Act, to determine her own fair procedures within the Inquiry

SCAI key messages – hearings and investigations

- hearings divided into phases
- most phases will inc. case studies as exemplars
- not every instance of abuse requires to be considered at hearings
- Inquiry has required some care providers to prepare detailed reports
- these reports will allow Inquiry to make focused requests, if needed, for documents held by care providers, local authorities, Police Scotland etc.

SCAI key messages – areas of interest

- systemic issues as informed by evidence about abuse and evidence from institutions and organisations
- supervision, guidance, recruitment and ethos within care providing organisations
- comparison of policies vs practices at national and local levels – what should people do, what did they do, what did they understand, what could they have done?
- external oversight and inspections of care providers – changing legal landscape and practices over time
- handling of reports of abuse – changing legal responsibilities and attitudes over time

SCAI key messages – disclosing allegations

- Inquiry will share some names and allegations with organisations responsible for care of child and named abusers
- 14 days' advance notice to survivors – allows time to object to disclosure
- publication of all witness statements, with redactions, on Inquiry website
- more information on website about disclosure and anonymity

Contacting the SCAI

- witness support team:
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- for general enquiries:
information@childabuseinquiry.scot
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