

# News Release

24 April 2018

## Survivors sought to develop memorial ideas

Survivors who were failed by Jersey's child care system are being invited to help develop recommendations for a memorial.

They will join a group of Islanders, in confidence, to develop recommendations for how Jersey should acknowledge the children and young people who were failed and harmed in care.

The creation of a memorial was recommended by the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry as a way for Jersey to, 'acknowledge the realities of the past and speak to the future aspirations of the Island for its looked after children.'

In Recommendation 8b, 'Remembering and Recognising Jersey's Child Care History', the panel were of the view that remembering the past is one of the best ways to shape a better future.

The group will be meeting in May and June to explore different forms of memorial and ways of remembering. Participants will work with a number of experts before developing and refining their ideas for an appropriate memorial. This could be anything from a garden or sculpture to a bursary scheme. The memorial is intended to serve as a public acknowledgement to the many hundreds of children and young people who were ill-served by the child care system over many decades.

Jersey's Director of Children's Policy, Andrew Heaven said: "It is really important that survivors who experienced abuse in Jersey's child care system are part of the process to develop recommendations for a memorial, so their voices are heard. I would like to reassure anyone who might be interested in taking part that they will not be identified and will not be asked to share their story with others."

An independent organisation, Contact Consulting, has been appointed to lead this work on behalf of the States of Jersey.

Peter Bryant, Contact Consulting's Senior Associate, has experience of running over 30 similar projects across the UK on health and social care and issues relating to public health and wellbeing including alcohol and drugs.

Mr Bryant, who will be facilitating the group's work and is overseeing the recruitment of participants, said: "I would like to encourage anyone who experienced abuse while in Jersey's child care system to consider taking part. You do not need any special skills or knowledge to take part, all you need is to be willing to talk about your views and opinions and to listen to those of other people."

This is the second phase of recruitment to ensure that the group developing options for the memorial includes a significant number of participants with experience of Jersey's child care system.

Islanders who are interested in taking part, or who would like to find out more, are asked to get in touch by Tuesday, 1 May in any of the following ways:

**Phone** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [carememorial@gov.je](mailto:carememorial@gov.je)

**Online:** [www.gov.je/carememorial](http://www.gov.je/carememorial)

**-ends-**

**Notes to Editors:**

For further information, please contact [REDACTED], Communications, for the Department of Community and Constitutional Affairs on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Andrew Heaven, Director of Children's Policy and Peter Bryant, Senior Associate Consultant, Contact Consulting, will be available for interview.

**The memorial group's task:**

The memorial group's final recommendation will only determine the nature of the memorial to be created (E.g. a garden, a fountain, a sculpture or built installation) together with such detail as could be incorporated into a design brief. The group may also decide to propose a form of words to accompany the final memorial.

The group are not tasked with designing a specific memorial, identifying someone to do so, or securing a suitable site. However, they may comment on the sort of site that would or would not be considered suitable with regards to issues such as location, access or historic associations. They will be free to comment on any features or characteristics a memorial should or should not possess or to conclude that a tangible memorial ought not to be created. They may also choose consider alternatives to a tangible memorial, such as a dedicated bursary or scholarships.

In the first phase of recruitment, letters of invitation were distributed by those with contact networks within the survivor community. Members of the public with no care experience were recruited through a randomised process.

The memorial group's final recommendations will be presented to the new Council of Ministers as set out in [P.108/2017](#) - Independent Jersey Care Inquiry: Implementation of Recommendations.

### **Independent Organisation Overview**

Contact Consulting were appointed to lead this work following a rigorous tendering and evaluation process. The cost of this project is £28,500. Contact Consulting is a consultancy and research practice working in health, housing and social care. First established in 1995 Contact Consulting has worked with government departments, local authorities, housing associations, NHS organisations and commercial and voluntary sector bodies.

### **Citizens Panel Lead Facilitator - Peter Bryant**

Peter has 20 years' experience in community engagement. He has been and remains responsible for the design and implementation of various processes that allow citizens to have their say on key wellbeing and health issues. He has run over 30 Citizen's Juries on a range of subjects. These have included health and social care and issues relating to public health and wellbeing including alcohol and drugs.

### **Support Available**

Anyone who has been affected by any of the issues raised by the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry and who would like to speak to someone, a dedicated Freephone helpline is available between 9am and 5pm on weekdays by calling: 0800 735 1000.

Email support is available from: [InquirySupport2@gov.je](mailto:InquirySupport2@gov.je)

Victim Support Jersey can be contacted by calling: (01534) 440496 or by emailing: [victimsupport@gov.je](mailto:victimsupport@gov.je)

N.B - freephone helpline and inquiry support line (as highlighted above) are no longer supported