**Non Recent Child Abuse Support Payment Scheme Consultation**

**Response Form**

You may find it quicker and easier to complete this survey using the council’s secure online consultation platform. This can be found at: [www.islington.gov.uk/NRCAconsultation](http://www.islington.gov.uk/NRCAconsultation). If you prefer, you can write to us with your own comments using the general comments form to share your views.

If you are responding by post or email, please use this form to share your views. You can choose if you want to answer some or all of the questions.

Please note we would appreciate that you complete the ‘**About You’** section and return this with your response. This helps us to understand the range of people and organisations who respond to this consultation. To maintain confidentiality and anonymity, this information will be separated from your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: [www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-governance/data-protection/privacy-notice](https://www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-governance/data-protection/privacy-notice)

**About You**Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Individual |
|  | Organisation |

Full name or organisation’s name

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If responding as an individual, do you identify as a survivor of abuse in care?

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| --- | --- |
|  | Yes, I am an Islington survivor of abuse in care |
|  | Yes, I am a survivor of abuse in care but not from Islington |
|  | Prefer not to say |

If responding on behalf of an organisation, please indicate which category best describes your organisation. Please tick all that apply.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Survivor Organisations |  | Other Public Sector |
|  | Care or Health Provider |  | Academia/Education |
|  | Third Sector or Community Group |  | Private Sector |
|  | Local Authority |  | Legal Sector |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Other | Please specify: |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Email |  |

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| Address |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Postcode |  |

We may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission. Are you content for the council to contact you again in relation to this consultation?

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|  | Yes |
|  | No |

If you would like to join our mailing list for any further updates on the support payment scheme, please tick a box below.

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| --- | --- |
|  | Email |
|  | Post |

If you are concerned a perpetrator of abuse may be working with children, please contact Islington’s Local Authority Designated Officer at https://www.islingtonscb.org.uk/key-practice-guidance/Pages/Local-Authority-Designated-Officer-(LADO).aspx. Alternatively, you can report a criminal offence by calling the police on 101.

If thinking about the scheme or taking part in this consultation is causing you distress, please go to [www.islington.gov.uk/emotionalwellbeingservices](http://www.islington.gov.uk/emotionalwellbeingservices) for services who can provide help.

# PART 1: Design of the Support Payment Scheme

## 1.1 Purpose and Principles of the Support Payment Scheme

**Q1.** The following wording describes the purpose of the support payment scheme:

“A scheme to provide financial support for eligible survivors of non-recent abuse suffered when in the care of LBI [London Borough of Islington] social services.

It forms part of a wider support scheme which encompasses counselling, care support and specialist advice in certain fields.

The scheme's objective is to facilitate a support payment to eligible survivors through a process that is as straightforward and quick to access as possible, and minimises the need to re-live past trauma, or the risk of further trauma or harm.”

What are your thoughts on this? Do you agree?

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| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

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If no, what are your thoughts on purpose?

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**Q2.** It is our intention that the support payment scheme should be underpinned by the following guiding principles:

* To make the scheme as straightforward and accessible as possible;
* To treat applicants with fairness, decency and respect;
* To ensure that the assessment and decision-making process is robust and credible;
* To minimise the potential for further harm through the process of applying to the scheme.

Do you agree with these guiding principles?

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| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Unsure |

Would you suggest any additions or amendments to the proposed principles?

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## 1.2 Eligibility for the Support Payment Scheme

**Q3.** This scheme is based on two criteria:

1. where LBI had responsibility in place of the applicant’s parent; and
2. that the applicant was a resident in an eligible LBI children’s home, having been placed there by LBI.

Given this scheme is in response to abuse within LBI-run children's homes, applicants who were abused in circumstances such as foster care, children’s homes that were not run by LBI or boarding schools and abuse by other residents in the children’s home would not be eligible to apply to this scheme.

Do you agree?

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|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Unsure |

Please tell us any comments you wish to make.

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**Types of abuse**

**Q4.** The following types of abuse are proposed to be covered by the scheme:

* Emotional (sometimes referred to as psychological) abuse
* Physical abuse
* Sexual abuse committed by, or aided, abetted, counselled or deliberately procured by a person who was at the time employed by LBI or was providing child care services to children on behalf of LBI on a voluntary basis.

(For a full description of the definitions for these, please see paragraphs 1.8 to 1.11 of the document called ‘Proposed Islington Support Payment Scheme Terms and Conditions’)

Do you agree?

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|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Unsure |

Please tell us any comments you wish to make.

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**Defining the relevant period**

**Q5.** The responsibility for children’s homes formally run by the London County Council passed to London local authorities during 1965.In 1995, the White Report of the Inquiry into the Management of Child Care in the London Borough of Islington was published.

Given this, our view is that 1966 to 1995 represents an appropriate period for the scheme.

Do you agree?

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|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Unsure |

Please tell us any comments you wish to make.

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**Applicants who have had involvement in or connection to adverse issues**

**Q6.** It is proposed that an application may be declined for ethical or moral reasons where an applicant has had an involvement in or connection to the following issues:

* terrorism
* links to a terrorist organisation
* organised crime
* murder
* manslaughter
* paedophilia

Do you have any comments about the eligibility of those who have had an involvement in or connection to these issues?

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**Living survivors**

**Q7.** What are your views on our proposed approach to allow applications for living survivors only?

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**Time period for making an application**

**Q8.** We are proposing that this scheme will be open for applications for a period of two years. Do you agree this is a reasonable timescale?

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| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Please tell us any comments you wish to make.

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**Other comment about eligibility**

**Q9.** Do you have any other comments on eligibility for this scheme?

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## 1.3 Information and material requirements for a payment

**Q10.** The applicant’s own account of the abuse suffered will be the key material for the scheme.

Do you agree?

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|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Unsure |

Do you have any other comments about the use of an applicant’s own account?

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**Q11.** Do you have any additional comments on information and material requirements for a payment?

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## 1.4 Consideration of other payments

**Q12.** Do you agree that the support payment from this scheme should be taken into account for any subsequent, related **future** civil compensation claim payments for the abuse they suffered in care?

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|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Unsure |

Please tell us any comments you wish to make.

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**Q13.** Do you agree that any **previous** civil compensation claim payments received by an applicant should be taken into account in assessing the amount of the support payment from this scheme?

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|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Please tell us any comments you wish to make.

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**Q14.** LBI is seeking an agreement with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that a payment made under this scheme does not affect a person’s eligibility for a social security benefit entitlement. In the absence of this, an applicant would need to notify the DWP that they have received a payment under this scheme.

How do you think applicants could be supported to minimise the impact of receiving a payment under this scheme on their benefits entitlement?

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# PART 2: Scheme Administration

## 2.1 Practical help making an application

**Q15.** Should provision be made by the scheme’s support team to assist survivors to obtain documentary records required for the application process?

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|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Please tell us any comments you wish to make.

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**Q16.** Other comments about how survivors could be supported to make an application and how this could best be managed.

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## 2.2 Application assessment and decisions

The assessment of applications and application decisions for this scheme will not be made by Islington Council.

**Q17.** How do you think the scheme should ensure applicants are treated fairly and that the assessment and decisions about applications is sufficiently independent and credible?

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**Q18.** Do you agree that the key skills and knowledge required by the team making the assessment and decision, should include legal knowledge and the understanding of complex trauma and its impact?

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| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Please tell us any comments you wish to make.

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**Q19.** Are there other specific professional backgrounds or skills you feel are essential for the assessment and decision-making team members?

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**Q20.** An Independent Review Panel will be in place for applications that do not meet the threshold to make a support payment. The panel will consist of members with legal expertise, social work expertise and applicable charity work expertise.

Do you agree that the Independent Review Panel should consist of these three members?

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| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Please tell us any comments you wish to make.

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**Q21.** How do you think survivors’ experiences of the application process should be considered as part of continuously improving the scheme administration?

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**Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.**

If thinking about the scheme or taking part in this consultation is causing you distress, please go to [www.islington.gov.uk/emotionalwellbeingservices](http://www.islington.gov.uk/emotionalwellbeingservices) for services who can provide help.