

24th July 2009

Dear All,

Following the demise of INCAS we set up our own group to ensure that our issues were properly and accurately represented. FBGA remain ever vigilant and mindful of what happened to INCAS and how it folded, the reasons, causes and why.

Over the years FBGA and its representatives have helped to raise awareness of the Historical Abuse in-care issues in Scotland and elsewhere, how these issues have affected former children in care in Scotland and in particular in Quarriers Homes.

FBGA and its representatives have contributed, by engaging fully and constructively by attending all but one of the Subgroup meetings in 2007 and 2008. Yes, the issues we highlight are challenging. In addition we submitted comprehensive proposals to the Subgroup which we felt were appropriate and reasonable to address the issues.

FBGA have a style which is wholly upfront, honest and transparent. FBGA will not shrink from raising any difficult and uncomfortable issues no matter with whom or whatever organisation. FBGA do this constructively and respectfully with all we engage and meet with. All we ask that this is reciprocated with no pre-conditions.

Many True Victims-survivors abused in the past care system in Scotland have continually felt excluded and marginalised from the processes and continue to do so including at the recent so called Survivor conference in Edinburgh. The processes to date appear to have been professional driven, selective, not impartial and not inclusive of a diverse section of True victim- survivors and other voices.

This is despite the best efforts of FBGA and its representatives to engage fully and constructively. We believe, our contribution through the Subgroup helped bring about positive change and was partly instrumental in a Service provision being made available in Scotland for individuals affected by these in-care abuse issues.

In addition, FBGA have had constructive dialogue with groups with an opposing viewpoint to FBGA and given due courtesy and respect when attending such conferences which we have appreciated and reciprocated.

FBGA have found this engagement, particularly constructive and positive to help formulate our proposals for the future and give the FBGA group a better understanding of the issues including in relation to those accused of wrongdoing.

The campaigning which FBGA undertake is, we believe necessary, challenging, honest and transparent. Our campaigning is sometimes not always welcomed nor well received. Our messages and responses in the Media and on our website are sometimes not popular with Government and other organisations, including some so called individual survivors who purport and claim to represent our issues.

The group are contacted by Journalists on occasions and asked to provide comment to issues that affect those that we represent. FBGA will continue to raise issues which affect former children in-care no matter that it makes others uncomfortable.

FBGA endeavour to represent the issues openly, accurately, truthfully and in a balanced way and keep everyone informed as to progress or otherwise. It is the issues that affect us that we represent and highlight on the website.

FBGA have worked tirelessly in the background to bring about a better understanding with regards the issues that affect True victim-survivors.

Throughout this process of engagement, including while the subgroup was in progress, a number of attempts by other so called survivors from another institution were made, clearly these were deliberate and pre-mediated and designed to undermine and question the honesty, integrity of the FBGA group and its representative. This included passing false and malicious allegations concerning 2 founding members of FBGA, including its Subgroup representative, to a member of FBGA. FBGA brought this to the attention of a Scottish Official at the time (email).

Another attempt was made to discredit and undermine FBGA and its representative personally as the past attempts had clearly failed just prior to the completion of the work of the Subgroup. It is our intention in the near future to highlight publicly and fully these attempts and the individuals involved.

These attempts undermined open engagement and constructive dialogue, making it difficult, unpleasant and uncomfortable for the FBGA attendee-representative, as it created an atmosphere of mistrust. We believe these tactics by other so called survivors were an attempt to prevent and stop FBGA and its representatives from raising legitimate issues and challenging in an open and transparent manner the current status quo, including raising issues directly with the Scottish Government.

Some so called "Survivors" appear to have difficulty in accepting and understanding that those accused of serious crimes and abuse and the relevant organisations with whom they are linked, should have, in the view of FBGA, a full right of reply and fair hearing where it is at all feasible. This would include our call that all such abuse claims and allegations being made are properly scrutinised and validated in a due process, thus preventing false allegations and True Victim-survivors and innocent individuals from being tainted or tarnished by association with such individuals.

FBGA believe that all True victims-survivors with capacity have a "Right" to determine what is acceptable to them as individuals and it should not be determined by others, including Government.

The FBGA website highlights current and past issues which are of interest to the FBGA group and others. We consult UK and worldwide and have attended many conferences over the years on Historical Abuse issues, including conferences attended by those accused of such abuse.

Recent attempts to pressurise FBGA to remove items from its FBGA website will be resisted by the FBGA group and its representatives. FBGA will not bow to such intimidation or pressure, either directly or indirectly, from wherever it emanates.

FBGA will not be intimidated nor pressurised to submit to what others, including so called "Survivors" from other institutions, believe we should not highlight on the FBGA website, including any issues that may affect such individuals directly.

FBGA is self funded and is an independent campaign group. We decide what we represent and highlight on our website and this will not be dictated by others.

The True Victim-survivors of in-care, institutional historical abuse, call for Justice, Acknowledgement, Accountability, Restitution, and Reparation.