

Boarding School Survivors – Support, Newsletter – November 2020

Dear Supporters and Friends,

*We write to tell you about our recent activities which have been focused on the **Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)**.*

Since the sudden news of James Foucar's passing, we, the Directors of BSS-Support, have also taken on our work as the legal Directors of Boarding Concern. We are at present addressing several areas in the administration of that Company.

*This now includes work for the **Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)** as we heard last week that James Foucar was given Core Participant status for Boarding Concern as an organisation, not as an individual.*

*This Core Participant status enables us to be part of the session in the inquiry which is looking into '**Child Sexual Abuse in Residential Schools**'.*

*This includes boarding schools and **starts on the 15th November and lasts for two weeks**.*

To advise us with this work we have been allocated a specialist senior abuse lawyer who will represent Boarding Concern during the session. We have written the required statement for the Inquiry which asks for our stance on many aspects of boarding.

*These include ways sexual abuse within boarding schools can exist for children who are away from home and vulnerable to grooming and attack from predators in these settings. We also highlighted and stated the work being done on the **psychological and emotional impact on children attending boarding school** and ways to make boarding safer.*

Our statement has been added to by experts who have worked for many years in the field of boarding schools and sexual abuse. They have made several recommendations for future safe guarding, including advocating Mandatory Reporting of abuse or suspected abuse in schools. Many questions will be put forward by these experts during the session.

For those interested, below is the link to observe the Inquiry from the 15th November onwards.

This is the link to the IICSA website. *On a hearing day, you should go to the main page and there should be a link where you can click on the live stream:*

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/>

If you want more information during the two weeks when boarding schools are under discussion, please write to us at info@bss-support.org.uk.

We will be in touch after the Inquiry to let you know the progress of these sessions.

Our very best wishes to you all.

Keep well!

Allison, Margaret, Paul and Sam