

Cross-Party Group on Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Date and Time

3rd October 2023 Virtual Business Meeting 6.00pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Fulton MacGregor MSP, Convener
Collette Stevenson MSP

Invited guests

None

Non-MSP Group Members

Anne Macdonald, Health & Social Care Adviser, Co Convener, Secretariat, Stuart Allardyce, Stop It Now Scotland, Secretariat, Suzy Angus, Speak Our Survivors, Whitney Barrett, Wellbeing Scotland, Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation, Treasurer, Andrew Campbell, Student, Ellie Forgan, Campaigner, Fay Maxted, Survivors Trust, Leith McFarlane, Thirtyone:eight, Dr Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh, Janine Rennie, Campaigner, Dr Eric Swanepoel, Writer & Researcher, Carol Willson, Student

Apologies

Sharon Belshaw, Break the Silence, Emma Bryson, Speak Out Survivors, Katy Clark MSP, Thomas Hall, Survivors Space Daniel Johnson MSP, Ewan Law, Fife College, Dr Javita Narang, International Consultant Trauma Care, Joy Patrick, KASP, Philip Walker, Survivors Trust, Alison Wales, NSPCC, Brian Whittle MSP

Agenda item 1

Fulton welcomed everyone in attendance and read out apologies. He welcomed our new member of the CPG; Thomas Hall from Survivors Space who cannot make tonight's meeting. He also welcomed back Alison Wales, from NSPCC who had to stand down for a period of time due to other commitments.

We received this communication from David Whelan from Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers (FBGA) that he was scaling back his workload and stepping down from the Cross Party Group.

“I would like to thank you personally Anne and Janine and all the Cross Party Group members and MSPs for giving me the opportunity to represent Quarriers survivors and the wider survivors community issues on the cross party group these last few years.”

“I wish the Cross Party Group every success going forward as the real issues you have represented over many years and continue to highlight are fundamental to helping to provide a better understanding in Scottish society for all and in the protection of children going forward. In particular your continued support to the historical abuse survivors in their quest for ongoing adequate support services, Justice, Equitable Redress and Remedies that put them at the heart of the decision making processes.”

Anne responded and thanked David for his important contributions to the CPG over these past few years and wished him well for the future.

Agenda item 2

Approval of Minutes 27th June 2023

Approved: Dr Eric Swanepoel Seconded: Anne Macdonald

Agenda item 3

Matters arising

A letter to Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice was sent to raise concerns about older survivors who cannot access the Redress Scheme due to time bar. Apparently due to her new appointment and Mr Swinney's departure this correspondence went astray. Fulton has written a follow up letter to Ms Constance updating it with a response from the Scottish Law Commission to a survivor outlining potential routes for reform. This is an issue that is preventing many survivors from having access to Redress. We will hopefully have a response once parliament convenes following the October recess. **Action Fulton**

Mandatory Reporting of CSA. There has been a consultation in Westminster and the group wondered how the Scottish Parliament is responding to this? We could have an oral question raised in the Chamber. This prompted the wider implications of sex offenders changing their name by Deed Poll raised in the media recently. We agreed both of these need to be followed up once we have more information.

Action Fulton

Agenda item 4

Sibling Sexual Abuse Update

Stuart had prepared a brief paper that was sent out to the group prior to the meeting. We have arrived at some future work and proposals to progress these. Some do and don't require money, so we need to appraise the best way forward to not lose momentum from our event in January.

Fulton recommended that the briefing paper should be 'published' by the CPG and then distributed to all MSPs which clearly shows the impact this has on survivors, the family and wider community. Then we could hopefully hold a member's motion and debate. Recommendations should be framed as 'asks' and could include organising a conference and campaign.

We held a wide ranging discussion on the intergenerational damage from SSA, that there isn't clear guidance for social workers and some recent cases where there were failures by the authorities resulting in horrendous outcomes.

It was wholly agreed that lived experience by survivors will be central to anything we engage in. Fulton thanked Ellie for her inspiration and the small group who have worked on this.

Stuart asked for further comments by mid October. **Action Stuart and Anne**

Agenda item 5

Health Barriers and Inequalities for Survivors Updates

It was agreed that we should bring this issue to the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care and the Chief Medical Officer. Anne and Stuart have passed a draft letter to Fulton. Once this has been finalised with further comment and suggestions from the group Fulton can discuss with Monica Lennon MSP and Convener of the CPG on Women's Health. It was agreed that we must emphasise on physical health, not psychological, and policies, processes and procedures, not just training.

Anne and Stuart had a zoom meeting with Dr Sandra Ferguson, who leads on the NES Trauma Training Programme to bring to her attention the experiences of survivors in screening and health examinations. Sandra was very open with us on our concerns. She has sent us several links that may be useful and these have been sent to the membership. Sandra also offered to attend a meeting in the future to update on the Trauma Training Programme. It was agreed for the group to send in suggestions/additions by the end of next week to Anne and Stuart. **Action Anne and Stuart**

Agenda item 6

AOCB

The ISPCAN Conference held in Edinburgh and ChildLight. There was a discussion regarding concerns raised about the CPG not being informed about the conference as it was held in Edinburgh. We agreed that due to time limits we put this on the agenda for our next meeting.

COSLA removal of £7 million from Redress Scheme: COSLA says next year's Redress funding will be spent on the striking staff pay deal. We did not have sufficient time to discuss this and will carry it forward to our next meeting.

Sandra and Anne highlighted a play that was performed at the Edinburgh Festival called "Groomed", written and performed by Patrick Sandford, a survivor and former Director of Pitlochry Theatre. We thought if the CPG could host a performance of this play as we have in the past with others, this could be an important event that would hopefully attract MSPs and survivors to attend. Fulton and the group agreed that Sandra and Anne look into this for discussion at our next meeting. **Action Sandra and Anne**

Stuart raised that Child Protection Scotland are planning a campaign next year (what) and they wish to collaborate with survivors, so if anyone wishes to contribute to get in touch with Stuart by the end of the week. Tam Bailey, former Children's Commissioner, who is Chairing CPS could perhaps attend a future meeting and give a presentation on this work.

Date of next meeting

5th December 2023