

Cross-Party Group on Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Date and Time 23rd November 2022

Minute

Present

MSPs

Fulton MacGregor MSP, Convener, Brian Whittle MSP

Invited guests

Leigh McFarlane, Thirtyone:eight

Non-MSP Group Members

Anne Macdonald, Co Convener, Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation, Treasurer, Stuart Allardyce, Stop It Now! Scotland, Sharon Belshaw, Break the Silence, Emma Bryson, Speak Out Survivors, Andrew Campbell, Student, Ellie Forgan, KASP, Pam Hunter, Say Women, Ewan Law, Fife College, Dr Javita Naranf, International Trauma Consultant, Dr Eric Swanepoel, Writer & Researcher

Apologies

Katy Clark MSP, Daniel Johnson MSP, Collette Stevenson MSP, Sue Webber MSP, Sheila Gaul, Retired Social Worker, Dr Adam Mahoney, Napier University, Dr Sarah Nelson, Edinburgh University, Janine Rennie, Campaigner, Carol Willson, Student, Dr Peter Yates, Edinburgh University

Agenda item 1

Approval of Minutes of 5th October, Sandra Brown and Anne Macdonald

Agenda item 2

Matters Arising

Cross Party Group on the Prevention and Healing of Adverse Childhood Experiences. To date there has been no written response since our letter sent in June. However Sue Webber MSP, its former Convener, has met with Fulton and it appears this CPG may be folding due to resignations and some concerns that we cannot discuss here due to confidentiality. It was agreed that if this is the case we

cannot expect any further explanations as to why CSA was omitted from its 70/30 Inquiry. Sue has intimated that she would like to join our CPG.

Agenda item 3

Application for membership of the group

Leigh McFarlane from Thirtyone:eight. A UK wide independent safeguarding organisation. They offer a variety of services, including research, training, public policy, advocacy, helpline and listening service. They also hold the Secretariat for the All Party Group on Safeguarding in Faith Communities at Westminster. They understand how valuable these groups are in working towards a common goal, The group agreed their membership and welcomed Leigh to the meeting.

Agenda item 4

Discussion on Sibling Sexual Abuse Presentation: 18th January 2023

Sibling sexual abuse is considered to be one of the most common forms of sexual abuse in the UK. The trauma and psychological distress for survivors can be lifelong and the impact on all members of the family can be enormous.

The reason why the CPG should hold this presentation is that there is little public awareness of this issue and that this is an opportunity to learn about this complex subject and hear from the lived experience of survivors.

Fulton and the group agree that this will be an important event and thanked Stuart, Ellie, Peter and Anne for bringing this to our attention. We will seek to promote it to as many relevant organisations as possible.

Agenda item 5

Vacancy for Co Convener and Secretariat

Anne drew our attention that as Janine has left Wellbeing Scotland and has stood down as one of the Co Conveners that we require another person, preferably within an agency to carry out the joint Secretariat for the CPG. Anne is still happy to remain in this capacity but we must have another to ensure that we continue to ensure minutes and other conditions are met for us to be within the Code of Conduct with Standards & Procedures. As the agenda is tight for time, it was agreed that this will be sent to the whole CPG membership for response.

Agenda item 6

AOCB

Anne has been approached by a survivor of childhood physical and sexual abuse whilst at Fettes College in the 70s. He has written to the MSPs on our group about his experiences of abuse in childhood as well as the many failures of police and the legal and justice authorities over the years, culminating by giving evidence to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. George is aware that CPGs cannot take up individual cases; however the group are aware of the recent press and media attention by

Nicky Campbell and other survivors on horrific abuse carried out in private schools in Scotland. There are deep concerns on a ban by SCAI on the naming of his abuser in the press.

It was agreed to invite George to our next meeting to discuss further and offer our support in any way we can by highlighting the abuse suffered by children in private schools.

Date of next business meeting

TBC