

**THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
CROSS PARTY GROUP ON ADULT SURVIVORS
OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE**

Draft Minutes: Meeting held on 2nd April 2014

PRESENT

Margaret Mitchell MSP; Kenneth Gibson, MSP; David Stewart MSP; Felicity Hollands, Scottish Parliament; Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh; Javita Narang, University of Edinburgh; Anne MacDonald, SurvivorScotland Team, Scottish Government; Valerie Barr, Cornerstone; David Moore, Circle; Pauline McGee, Safe Space; Ilene Easton, Open Secret; Traci Kirkland, Open Secret; Andrew Campbell, Bravemouth; Marnie Collin, KASP; Irene Edgar; Sue Hampson; Eileen Munro, Author; Anke Kossurok, University of Edinburgh; Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation; Anela Anwar, Roshni; Nicola Wray, Barnardo's; Julie Fisher, Barnardo's; Lisa Gamble, Barnardo's; Mark Ballard; Barnardo's; Stuart Allardyce; Barnardo's Eileen Johnston; Health in Mind; Annie Taylor, Children 1ST; Sarah Vernon, Children 1st

APOLOGIES

Dawn Fyfe, SAY Women; Sonya Bewsher, SIAA; Dr R. Eric Swanepoel, Writer & Publisher; Thanos Karatzias; Sharon Guest, Barnardo's; Martin Henry, Stop It Now; Eileen Hone, Health in Mind; Dr. Sandra Ferguson, Royal Edinburgh Hospital; Kate Short, Break the Silence; Colin Howard, Harris Howard Psychology Practice

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Andrew Campbell, seconded by Anne MacDonald.

MATTERS ARISING

- Membership fee: The members who had not paid the membership fee were requested to pay the fee to Marnie.
- Margaret flagged that there have been suggestions for potential future speakers – Mike Russell MSP to look at how much childhood sexual abuse (CSA) registers with the education system; a representative from the Police Scotland and the Crown and Procurator Fiscal Service; and a presentation on programmes for female perpetrators of CSA –Ilene will present two case studies on this. The presentation by Irene on programmes for female perpetrators of CSA will be taken up at the next CPG meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS, ANNUAL RETURN FORM AND ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Minutes of the previous meetings held in May 2013 and September 2013, and the annual return form were circulated for approval. Though they had been approved by the members present at the respective meetings, those meetings were not quorate. The minutes and the annual return form were approved.

Similarly the office bearers elected at the September 2013 meeting were also approved.

DAVID STEWART: SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PUBLIC PETITIONS' COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:

David provided a comprehensive presentation on the Public Petitions' Committee Inquiry into child sexual exploitation (CSE) and its recommendations which included:

- The history of the petition system in Scotland and that Scotland has the first e-petition system in the world.
- Barnardo's involvement with the petition. Since it was decided not to engage child survivors for collecting the evidence, anonymised case studies from Barnardo's were reviewed, which are published in the report. The report is available online and CPG members were encouraged to provide their comments.
- Based on the evidence gathered, the Committee came up with a series of recommendations. Sarah Nelson was instrumental in drafting the report. It was presented in the Parliament and led to a major debate on the issue. 28 recommendations have been given to the government and feedback from the government is awaited.
- The lack of unified, upfront Strategy to address the issue of CSE in Scotland was emphasised. David reinforced the need for a separate specific Strategy in Scotland to address the issue of CSE. The report would be discussed again in the Parliament when response to the recommendations from the government is received.
- David reiterated some specific aspects that came out from the inquiry:
 - There is an important need for a legislative scrutiny into the Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act.
 - Third sector and the tremendous work being done by them are not recognized enough and this was emphasised to the government.
 - The role of residential care staff needs to be clarified.
 - Refuge for young people needs to be developed in Scotland. There was one in Scotland, which closed last year due to loss of finances.
 - Social Work child protection services should get higher priority particularly for addressing the issue of CSA.
 - Education programmes are important involving young people and parents. Higher priority needs to be given to this.

There was an agreement within the Group on the significance of the report and its emphasis on the need for CSE to be located under the wider spectrum of CSA. The Group discussed some of the points which David Stewart raised including:

- The need for legislative scrutiny.
- CSA is not just about legislation but also about attitudes towards the young people. The concern about decline in the priority to CSA in younger years was reinforced. While it is important to have an additional focus on CSE, disconnect between the two aspects of CSE and CSA is a cause for concern.
- The difficulty in gathering data on this issue; challenges of reaching out to children with specific vulnerabilities such as disability as well as those without necessarily a background of vulnerability but at risk, for example through net or online sexual exploitation; and significance of education programmes for prevention of CSE.
- Lack of treatment and prevention programmes for perpetrators including young perpetrators after they are released from the prison.
- The need for integration of various Strategies and for collaborative work by different child protection services. A plea was made towards a comprehensive Strategy by bringing together separate Strategies on child protection, adult survivors and CSE respectively for addressing the continuum of abuse and exploitation.

- Disappointment about very little focus on the Scottish ethnic minorities (SEM) in the report. In Scotland, not much information is available on this as cultural ties, shame and honour prevent disclosure within the SEMs. David acknowledged this concern and agreed to flag it up in the Petition's Committee.
- Limited research on CSE in Scotland especially amongst the rural population, young men and ethnic minorities. There is a need for higher funding for research on issues of CSA and CSE in the country – both population wide and specific vulnerable groups. Need to set up projects to address these issues was also identified.

REVIEW OF NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE: REPORT BY THE SUB-GROUP

Anne MacDonald presented the report of the Sub-group that was formed at the January 2014 CPG meeting to review the progress made since the inception of the National Strategy for Survivors of Childhood Abuse – over the past 10 years. The sub-group comprises of Anne MacDonald, Sandra Brown and Martin Henry.

Anne presented a copy of a short agenda proposed by the Sub-group focussing on what the group could potentially work on:

- Record the Strategy's achievements over its ten-year lifetime including the changes it has made to survivors and their family's lives, and financial savings.
- Develop a short paper (by the Sub-group) and set in motion a programme of engagement with Ministers and MSPs to inform them of the importance of what has been achieved and what the next ten year should include.
- Consult with survivors and agencies on their priorities and aspirations for the strategy's future.
- Discuss a possibility of a debate in the Scottish Parliament next year with Kenneth Gibson MSP.
- Organize a series of events to mark the ten years.

Margaret raised a reservation on the point of organizing a series of events. Anne and Sandra assured that it is not about organizing new events but to tag on to a number of events that are already going on such as a debate on the issue engaging parliamentarians, film screening with a question and answer session, a gathering on the issue and including it in a current newsletter and some other activities being planned by project called Road to Change being implemented by a male survivor of CSA.

As action points emerging from this report-back of the Sub-group, Margaret suggested for the Sub-group to continue to develop ideas and to come up with detailed plans at the next meeting of how the achievements would be recorded including some of the ideas suggested at this meeting.

Kenneth Gibson accepted the idea of debate in the Parliament as proposed by the Sub-group. Margaret reiterated the CPG's support towards the Strategy and after the referendum, actions on this could be taken forward.

Anne suggested for the CPG Secretary Javita's involvement with the Sub-group for any consultation with the members on their thoughts and aspirations. Javita agreed to help the Sub-group with this when required.

AOCB

- Sarah Nelson reported back on some of the projects she has been involved with. She has been working with Children 1st on a project on confidential space to slow down the process of disclosures with children and young people for investigations in order to develop a model. This model will be piloted in 2-3 different places in Scotland. Another project is an awareness campaign with NSPCC, which will be rolled out in 2-3 months.

- Margaret shared information about the Justice for Survivors of Historic Institutional Child Abuse Motion rolled out by Graeme Pearson. A note on the motion was circulated to the members for review and comments. Margaret shared that Sarah has looked at it and felt that the group may be broadly supportive. She encouraged the members to email their comments or suggestions on the Motion to Javita before the next meeting.
- Sue Hampson informed the members about the new film titled, Tell Tale Signs, on parent survivors of CSA. She can be contacted for DVD of the film, which is available for sale for £15 to individuals and £40 to organizations.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday September 24 at 01:00pm [changed to 13th August at 1pm]