

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

Approved Minutes: Meeting held on 13 August 2014

PRESENT

Margaret Mitchell MSP; Elaine Smith MSP; Ken Macintosh MSP; Felicity Hollands, Scottish Parliament; Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh; Martin Henry, Stop it Now; Javita Narang, University of Edinburgh; Sharon Guest, Barnardo's; Mark Ballard, Barnardo's; Dr. Sandra Ferguson, Royal Edinburgh Hospital; Valerie Barr, Cornerstone; Dawn Fyfe, SAY Women; Dr R. Eric Swanepoel, Writer & Publisher; Andrew Campbell, Bravemouth; Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation; Anke Kossurok, University of Edinburgh; Irene Edgar; Sue Hampson; Steve Mayes, Health in Mind

APOLOGIES

Kenneth J Gibson MSP; Anne MacDonald, SurvivorScotland Team, Scottish Government; Pauline McGee, Safe Space; Marnie Collin, KASP; Eileen Johnston; Health in Mind; Jen Stewart, RASAC P&K; Colin Howard, HarrisHoward Psychology Practice; Kate Short, Break the Silence; Anela Anwar, Roshni; Ilene Easton, Open Secret; Traci Kirkland, Open Secret; Janine Rennie, Open Secret; David Moore, Circle; May Chamberlain; Relationships Scotland – Couple Counselling Central Scotland; Annie Taylor, CHILDREN 1ST; Sarah Vernon, CHILDREN 1ST

AGM

- The minutes of the last AGM were approved.
- Convener's Report: Margaret gave an overview of the work the group had undertaken in 2013-14.
- Treasurer's Report: The treasurer, Marnie was unable to attend the meeting however had emailed a brief overview of the accounts, which was shared with the members. It was agreed that the complete report by the treasurer would be provided at the next CPG meeting. Hence the treasurer's report is pending approval until a full report is provided.
- Election of Officer Bearers, chaired by Martin Henry:
 1. Margaret Mitchell MSP was elected Convener of the CPG. (P) Elaine Smith MSP (S) Sharon Guest
 2. Kenneth Gibson was elected as Deputy Convener of the CPG. (P) Margaret Mitchell (S) Andrew Campbell
 3. Sarah Nelson was elected as Vice-Convener of the CPG. (P) Sandra Brown (S) Eric Swanepoel
 4. Martin Henry was elected as Vice-Convener of the CPG. (P) Margaret Mitchell (S) Sarah Nelson
 5. Marnie Collin was elected as Treasurer of the CPG. (P) Sue Hampson (S) Martin Henry
 6. Javita Narang was elected as Secretary. (P) Sandra Brown (S) Sharon Guest

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Minutes of the last meeting (April 2014) were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Martin Henry, seconded by Sarah Nelson.

MATTERS ARISING

None

PRESENTATION BY KEN MACINTOSH MSP

Ken Macintosh MSP presented a case of one of his constituents, who has a history of mental health problems and complex trauma due to repeated sexual abuse including childhood sexual abuse. The constituent contacted Mr Macintosh regarding the lack of appropriate trauma services within her area and in particular, her lack of choice in accessing services. Mr Macintosh highlighted three key issues including the issue of access to appropriate services, choice of an individual in accessing services, and the criteria that allows an individual access to services in different parts of the country. Since her needs were not met adequately, she is seeking a referral to a specialist treatment centre.

The CPG members empathised with the constituent and echoed her concerns regarding the lack of appropriate services for trauma survivors, the lack of choice in accessing services, funding issues and the diversity of services within different areas. The following issues were discussed by the group:

- All members were in agreement that the key issue for the constituent was about the lack of choice in accessing services and treatment appropriate to the needs of a trauma survivor, in particular the sexual abuse survivor. NHS Glasgow are offering services at their psychiatric wards, however according to the constituent, these services are not helping her as her needs are not being met. It is noted by members that it is significant that this woman has the ability to identify her needs and seek specific services accordingly, as it is an important aspect in achieving successful outcomes from treatment. However, lack of funds and being unable to gain an appropriate referral to the treatment of her choice, is inhibiting her from accessing services that she feels would be helpful for her.
- The issue of funding was discussed. Some NHS areas finance some patients for accessing specialist services, for example Manor Hall, while others don't. At a broader level, it is difficult to ascertain the different funding strategies between health boards.
- A concern regarding the appropriateness of existing psychiatric and psychological services for trauma survivors was raised. On the whole psychiatric services, specifically with regards to sexual abuse trauma, are still wedded to the medical model. Members expressed that the psychological services have been patchy. One of the vice-conveners of the CPG, Sarah Nelson, informed the group that Greater Glasgow representatives have been sharing improvements made in Greater Glasgow to improve the psychological services for trauma in general. It was expressed that this could be a factor leading to resistance in providing funding or referral for other services for trauma survivors. It was speculated that it could be a local problem at the Greater Glasgow level, which needs to be looked into.
- Sandra Ferguson, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, NHS Lothian, explained about their specialist service at the Rivers Centre. At the centre, efforts are made to track the patients' journey from the time the trauma was identified. It was found that there are a lot of barriers to providing appropriate services including lack of appropriate identification of trauma, a lack of recognition of the difficulties patients are presenting with and lack of making sense of the patients' whole journey
- Andrew Campbell stated a need for a separate funding stream within Government for trauma as a health issue. He also stated a need for a Nationwide centers for trauma modeled on Maggie's Cancer Centre's as one stop shop for advice outside of medical process. Where there is one flagship with multiple center's with the same ethos or excellence in information and care with the good levels of staffing and models of care.
- Sandra Brown noted that, more than 10 years ago, when the National Strategy was set up, a snapshot of services right across Scotland was done. It was recognized then that while there were some NHS trauma services of excellence such as the Rivers Centre, overall "on the ground" services were very thin. The issue of a post-code lottery was raised then identifying that there were areas, specifically the rural areas of Scotland, where survivors were struggling for services.

Course of Action

It was agreed by the CPG to write a letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Alex Neil, highlighting disparities and concerns about the delay in accessing proper traumatic services and lack of choice for the survivors in accessing services appropriate to their needs. As a result, they are taking up other resources that are neither helping them, while they can be put to better use for other users who may need it.

CASE STUDIES ON PROGRAMMES FOR FEMALE PERPETRATORS OF CSA:

Since Ilene Easton had to tender her apology for this meeting, this presentation could not be made. This would be taken up at one of the next CPG meetings.

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE: Report-back by the Sub-Group

Anne MacDonald sent her apologies for this meeting; however she shared the progress through an email to the CPG Secretary. The update was read out by Sandra Brown, one of the members of the sub-group:

- The Scottish Government Survivor Scotland team has agreed that Anne will write up the history of the Strategy and its achievements. They will then consult with stakeholders, including survivors, on what difference they think it has made. They will also ask what still needs to be done, and what aspirations they have for the next 10 years. The CPG will be one of the groups consulted.
- The sub-group members including Martin and Sandra agreed that for the CPG to do a similar exercise would be duplication and could confuse matters.
- Anne is in the process of putting a précis together in a format for MSPs and Ministers. Martin shared that the précis would have been ready for the CPG meeting, however as this meeting was brought forward from September to August, it was not ready yet. It would be ready for circulation at the next CPG meeting.
- The sub-group also felt that it might be better to circulate after the Referendum.

ACTION POINTS FOR THE NEXT CPG MEETING

- The précis prepared by the sub-group for review of the National Strategy for Survivors of Childhood Abuse would be presented at the next meeting.
- Write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health, and report response.
- To invite representatives from Police Scotland and the Crown and Procurator Fiscal Service to the next meeting, since this was agreed as one of the action points for the group this year and has been pending.

AOCB

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

November 12 or 19, 2014 at 1:30 pm or 5:30 pm - It will be confirmed based on the availability of the representatives from Police Scotland and the Crown and Procurator Fiscal Service.