

## Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, Committee Room

### Present:

Malcolm Chisholm MSP (chair), Christina McKelvie MSP, Nancy Lombard, Napier University; Ellie Hutchinson SWA; Graham Goulden, VRU; Claire Pennock, intern Scottish Parliament; Amber Yatteau, intern Scottish Parliament; Suzie Mosson, Relationship Scotland; Lorna Kettles, Scottish Women's Convention; Keiran Watson, Eighteen and Under; Jenny Kemp, Zero Tolerance; Maureen Wylie, Scottish Women's Aid; Marsha Scott, West Lothian Council; Lily Greenan, Scottish Women's Aid (minutes)

**Apologies:** Louise Johnson, SWA; Sandy Brindley, RCS; Anne Salter; Ann Hayne, EVA Services; Mhairi McGowan, ASSIST; Jan Swan, FRASAC; Kathy Norrie, Open Secret; Drew Smith MSP; Anne Meikle; Miranda Pio; Rhoda Grant MSP ; Lorna Gallacher, PCHP ; Francine Orr; Michele Corcoran

NB: We agreed to take the presentations first, as some MSPs had to leave early to attend another event.

### Presentations

**Nancy Lombard** provided a presentation about her work on 'Young people's attitudes about violence' (presentation attached) which identified some concerning trends e.g. young girls having clear sense of their ambitions (doctor, teacher etc) at an early age, but identifying that these things will not be available to them 'when they have children'.

**Graham Goulden** provided a presentation on the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) programme being piloted by the VRU in 2 secondary schools in Scotland.

He talked about 'the switch-off' – that men are switched off by the discourse that identifies them as potential perpetrators because they don't identify themselves in that way. MVP originated in the USA and was developed to work with high school athletes initially. It is a bystander approach which aims to get people talking about violence in a safe environment and get them looking at tactics for intervention.

The pilot works with existing teams to embed the thinking into the fabric of a school. The aim is to recruit older young people in the school to mentor younger people. At the heart of it is a playbook that outlines a number of scenarios and explores what is going on in the minds of bystanders. Then it offers options.

Progress to date - the staff training has happened. They will now recruit 16-18 mentors who will be trained between now and the summer, and ready to start mentoring in September.

Next step – they want to embed it in the schools they are working with, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year look at how to embed it in those local authorities and then in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year look at national rollout.

**Ellie Hutchinson** delivered a presentation about Get Savi which is one strand of SWA campaign to STOP domestic abuse. Get Savi was developed in partnership with Zero

Tolerance, White Ribbon, Rape Crisis Scotland and LGBT Youth Scotland. It is a bystander approach working with young people aged 16+ to support and empower them to challenge the sexism and homophobia that underpin gender based violence.

The courses can be one hour, four hours or six hours, tailored to meet different needs, eg student welfare officers might want a 1 hour intro and then be able to think about how they will take it forward in their unions.

The courses have been delivered at universities and colleges all over Scotland. They are exploring ways to deliver to over 16 year olds in youth settings.

Get Savi is endorsed by UCU and NUS Scotland. It's an open source course and has been downloaded 440 times.

### **Questions/discussion**

Maureen Wylie - how to engage local partnerships? Ellie noted that college/university campuses are not well connected to other VAW work. Graham reported that MVP is linked into partnerships in Inverclyde and Portobello.

Marsha Scott - primary prevention of VAW is linked with women's inequality, how does the work on identifying gendered expectations link with the bystander approach?

Nancy sees the links clearly and is arranging to meet John Carnochan. Graham thinks it's about inviting men into this discussion, not indicting them.

Jenny Kemp noted that the Zero Tolerance education materials are being re-launched and they will be aimed at younger pupils.

Malcolm Chisholm suggested that this needs to be mainstreaming into Curriculum for Excellence; and that we are seeing a concerted effort to change attitudes.

Keiran Watson - lots of parallels with the work they are doing and he is keen to link with GG,EH,NL later. He especially likes the work with older young people to carry the messages forward so that e.g. Eighteen and Under don't have to go into schools every year (sustainability!).

Christina McKelvie mentioned The Street Project in Hamilton – a story telling/acting project to get young people talking about different situations.

### **Minutes and Matters arising**

Mhairi McGowan had circulated a paper re contact from prison. We had a brief discussion about this.

### **Information sharing**

The meeting finished with a quick round of information sharing. (NB have only minuted items that don't relate to events now past).

Marsha reported that there is a pilot DA court starting in West Lothian.

Jenny reported that ZT has 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations coming up.

**Next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

We had some discussion about a possible focus on CEDAW at the next meeting – e.g. looking at the devolved/reserved issues and how Scotland is represented to CEDAW.

Jenny noted that City of Edinburgh Council will be consulting later this year on licensing provisions; possible discussion about licensing/commercial sexual exploitation?

No agreement was reached about the topic for the next meeting.