

**Cross Party Working Group on Men's Violence
Against Women & Children
15th May 2013, 5.30pm-7pm
Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament**

Present/Apologies:

Present:

Christina McKelvie MSP(Chairing)
Nadine Jassat (SWA, Minutes)
Lily Greenan (SWA)
Malcolm Chisholm MSP
Jenny Kemp (Zero Tolerance)
Isy Hart (Student)
Pam McKinnon
Joan Skinner
Graeme Richards (Circle Scotland)
Jacq Kelly (Hollaback! Edinburgh)
Claire Gibson (Street Work)
Eva Kestner (on behalf of Rhoda Grant MSP)
Susanne Boethius
Nancy Lombard (Glasgow Caledonian University)
Melanie McCarry (University of Central Lanarkshire)
Mary- Louise Corr (Edinburgh Napier University)
Jacquie Morgan (Central Scotland Youth Project)
Laura Kemp (Central Scotland Youth Project)
Keiran Watson (18 and under)

Apologies:

Anne Salter (Stirling Council)
Megan Bastick (WILPF)
Kim Smith (YWCA Scotland)
Rhoda Grant MSP
Louise Johnson (SWA)
Maureen Wylie (Improvement service)

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Action:

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

There were no matters arising.

3. David Gadd Presents on Boys to Men Project

Action:

David Gadd presented on the research findings from the Boys to Men Project, funded by the Economic and Social research council. **David's presentation can be accessed here:**
<http://prezi.com/kpfdpofcvdzt/longb2m/>.

David gave a summary of the findings from the past three years, and stated his interest in

hearing what recommendations should follow the research, with the view to creating a fourth booklet (to follow the three already in print). When focusing on his Phase 2 findings, DG stressed that they targeted a varied research group – including young men already excluded from schools and identified as being 'in trouble', and young men from LGBT and BME communities. In his coverage of phase 4, DG stressed that young people who had experiences of domestic abuse were generally more accepting of abuse – whether they be perpetrators or victims. In particular with relation to attitudes, DG found that 'hitting back' was the most acceptable scenario identified by young men in which it may be okay to hit their partner. When it came to attitudinal change, DG highlighted that 6 months in a preventative educational programme saw a significant change in attitudes; however boys still did not catch up with girls in the levels of identifying certain behaviors as abuse. DG reflected that by age 13, CYPs experiences of sexual abuse was already gendered. DG focused a lot on the 'This Is Abuse' ad campaign released by the Home Office (*NJ Update*: <http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/>). He said that when young men identified with the perpetrator this identification was short lived, and was switched to an immediate attempt to demonize perpetrators. DG reflected that the terminology of domestic violence was often not used when describing instances of violence; terms such as 'fight' preferred.

DG reflected on an overall emphasis on physical performance for young men; to solve disagreements or confront perpetrators by 'knocking them out', or following an abusive male parent or parent figure leaving, to step up to be the physical protectors of the household. DG also highlighted the positive role played by grandparents, grandmothers in particular.

DG recommended that preventative education needs to reach outside of school to exclude young people not in school (i.e. under exclusion) and to engage with boys on their own terms. He also raised the need for family interventions, and highlights a need for professional support for young men who find themselves with large family responsibilities.

There were several questions, which followed:

Joan Skinner asked: how many men in the study were survivors of childhood sexual abuse?

DG: 3/30. DG said that some of the most 'sadistic' violence committed by those in the project was perpetrated by those with experience of extreme childhood cruelty. JS reflected that though DG's number is 3/30, it may have been higher as it can be difficult to disclose experiences of sexual abuse.

Callum Hendry (White Ribbon Scotland) reflected on DG's finding that girls noticed abuse more. Asks did DG unpick why young men were noticing it less?

DG: There were similar rates of victim and perpetrator being described in this age group, but their perceptual worlds were different, so that men's and women's responses may alter depending on the different things they were exposed to (DG gives the example of mothers making disclosures to daughters). Quantative work isn't enough to explore the connection between experiences in childhood and adulthood.

Pam McKinnon asked if, in the mention of the 6 week programme used to change CYP's mindset on domestic abuse, was there a particular programme used?

DG: Relationships Without Fear asked DG to develop their 6 week healthy relationship programme. DG worked with them to develop resources and evaluations tools for the programme. ½ the sample did not receive the intervention, ½ did, which showed that event modest interventions were worth having, and that young people with problems and difficult experiences may surface during the course of the programme, consequently allowing them to be directed towards the appropriate help agency. *NJ*

update: link to RWF web information <http://www.archnorthstaffs.org.uk/domestic-violence-services/relationships-without-fear>.

Christina McKelvie MSP asked DG if he unpicked why the identification with perpetrators from the 'This Is Abuse' ad was short lived. DG reflected on a conflict between the need for an attitudinal change and the question 'do you see yourself?' The film was unsettling for young men, and some young people can only hold this for a few minutes. Consequently, once this conversation had been opened, someone (for example a teacher) needed to keep it going. In further advert campaigns the ripple effect of violence needs to be shown, not just a focus on the incident. DG concluded that the film is valuable, but that it is just the first step.

Jenny Kemp (Zero Tolerance) commented that the demonization of perpetrators and the characterization of domestic abuse as a fight or argument is profoundly reinforced by the media. Jenny Kemp wants to know when the media is going to be held to account for the normalization of violence against women. LG added to this that some young men grow up with experiences of violence, and to 'other' this violence makes it easier to cope with. This process of othering is a consequence of a lack of support services. These same people end up in high level positions, and their personal experiences are carried into their work. LG echoed that the personal is still political.

DG: the issue of challenge (to physically hurt or punch a perpetrator as a way of resolving difficulty) was often raised. DG asked what we are to tell young people to do to challenge routine perpetrators.

Keiran Watson highlights available bystander programmes, and will email David Gadd with the details of them.

LG asked DG where he plans to go next to spread word of the project. DG: Home Office, Welsh Government, Respect, NSPCC. Looked forward to producing a 4th report with recommendations, as well as holding an event in future with increased publicity. LG recommended DG looks into the educational work Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland is doing with women, children and young people in refuge. CM recommended DG send his findings to the Cabinet Secretary Alex Neil.

KW to email DG

LG to email DG details of WAFNI work.

4. Jacq Kelly from Hollaback! Edinburgh presents an introduction to Hollaback! Edinburgh

Action:

Jacq Kelly (Hollaback! Edinburgh) introduced Hollaback! Edinburgh. Hollaback! Edinburgh are the local branch of an international anti-street harassment organisation. They work to challenge common place attitudes in which Street Harassment is accepted or brushed off. JK reflected that this doesn't simply mean engaging with the perpetrators of SH, but that many women who are victims don't recognise it as a form of sexual harassment, but rather a 'compliment'. Hollaback! Edinburgh's successes include a harassment free club night, awareness raising activities, statements in the media and media coverage of Hollaback! Edinburgh's activities, as well as lodging a motion in parliament via Marco Biagi MSP. This followed the release of a survey amongst young people examining experiences of SH. JK detailed that the youngest respondent, age 12, was sexually harassed walking home in school uniform - and passers-by did not intervene. JK highlighted LGBT experiences of SH; quoting one respondent saying that as a gay woman, no streets felt safe for her. JK highlighted Hollaback!'s concerns on expanding their focus not just on the streets but towards safety on public transport and in pubs and clubs – stressed that alcohol is not an excuse. JK to send CPG link to report. *Update: link to report given here*

<p>http://edinburgh.ihollaback.org/files/2013/03/hollaback-report-2013.pdf.</p> <p>Nadine Jassat (SWA;Hollaback! Edinburgh) drew attention to Hollaback! Edinburgh’s website in which those with experience of Street Harassment can post their experience, and have their voices empowered and validated by other users who say that SH is not okay. This links those with experience of SH to a wider, empowering, community. NJ reflected on the findings of Hollaback! Edinburgh’s report, which showed that for the majority of women who responded, the threat of sexual violence following an incident of SH was strong. However, when respondents were asked why they thought perpetrators harassed on the street, respondents said: ‘because they know they can’. This stresses the need for Hollaback! Edinburgh’s work to challenge SH as one of the most pervasive forms of Gender Based Violence. <i>Update: weblink www.edinburgh.ihollaback.org.</i></p> <p>Lily Greenan (SWA): reflected that SH is the most pervasive form of GBV, and that it contributes to the sense of men’s entitlement to women’s bodies which then in turn feeds into more serious incidents of violence such as domestic abuse. LG wished that anti-street harassment campaigning had played more of a role in the establishment of the early women’s movement in Scotland, and pledged support and encouragement for grassroots organising challenging this now.</p>	
<p>5. Support for the CPG – Marsha Scott</p>	<p>Action:</p>
<p>Marsha was unable to attend the CPG, so this item will be carried to the next agenda.</p>	
<p>6. AOCB</p>	<p>Action:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joan Skinner – Highlighted that the 15th May is National Children’s Day, drew attention to Child’s Eye campaign. <i>NJ update: http://yourchildeyes.wordpress.com.</i> • Nancy Lombard – drew attention to the ‘Say No to Page 3’ campaign. The founder will be at the ‘Next Generation Feminists’ event at the Scottish Parliament on the 14th June. <i>NJ Update: http://nomorepage3.org.</i> • LG covered success of the new Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy courses being run jointly between ASSIST, CAADA & SWA; an accredited SQA Qualification equipping workers to deliver specialist independent advocacy services. 2 courses have been run in Glasgow and Edinburgh, 50 people have taken the courses with great feedback from them. SWA are optimistic for phase 2 – which will focus on Scottish legal issues. • CM gave a funding update on the Big Lottery, who have committed 8 million pounds for organisations who work with domestic violence. • LG enquired about the impact loss of third sector intervention fund subsidy has had on organisations who applied for, but didn’t receive, funding. • Nancy Lombard: Gender Based Violence Research Network that have put together the briefing including those from four universities, ASSIST and SWA. The briefing will be launched at their (gbvn) annual conference on August 29th where Prof Evan Stark will do the plenary. 	
<p>7. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Action:</p>
<p>The date for the next meeting has not yet been set, but will be circulated by NJ once made.</p>	<p>NJ to circulate date of next meeting.</p>