

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

**Minutes: September 9, 2015**

**PRESENT**

Margaret Mitchell MSP; Johann Lamont, MSP; Felicity Hollands, Scottish Parliament; Marianne Paton, Scottish Parliament; Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh; Martin Henry, Stop it Now; Javita Narang, University of Edinburgh; Sandie Barton, Rape Crisis Scotland; Shaben Begum MBE, SIAA; Andrew Campbell, Bravemouth; Alison Christie; SFAD; Ann Donnan, Safe Space; Dr Sandra Ferguson, Royal Edinburgh Hospital; Sue Hampson, Safe to Say; Jonathan Hancock, CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup>; Dr Rachel Happer, CAMHS Meadows Service; Anke Kossurok, University of Edinburgh; Janine Rennie, Open Secret; Lorraine Sorley, Health in Mind; Jean Budge, Health in Mind; R. Eric Swanepoel, Writer & Publisher; Jen Stewart, RASAC P&K; Gillian Urquhart, Moira Anderson Foundation; Kath Muirhead, Pilton Community Health Project; Carol Willson, Independent; Digambar Narzary, NEDAN Foundation, India; Safia Ali, Open Secret; Valerie Barr, Break the Silence

**APOLOGIES**

Kenneth J Gibson MSP; Elaine Smith MSP; Jackie Baillie MSP; Alison McInnes MSP; Dr Richard Simpson MSP; Anne Macdonald, Professional Advisor; Elayne McBride, CAMHS Meadows Service; Sharon Guest, Barnardo's; Traci Kirkland, Open Secret; Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation; Dawn Fyfe; SAY Women; May Chamberlain; Relationships Scotland – CCCS; Joseph Lumbasi, Izzy's Promise; Marnie Collin, KASP

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the last meeting (June 2015) were agreed as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Margaret Mitchell updated the members about the action plans agreed upon at the previous (June) meeting regarding the 'CPG'S response to the Ministerial Statement'. The plan of organising the reception has not progressed so far and the budget for the same is being worked out. The meeting with the Minister did not go ahead, and it is proposed to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015. At the same time, on the suggestion of Johann Lamont, Margaret proposed a debate to be organised after the Members' Business at the Parliament, which is a good way of getting the CPG's concerns out and for receiving the response of the Minister. The members conceded to the proposal and it was decided to schedule the debate sometime around the end of October 2015.

**PRESENTATION: Lack of Service Provision for Survivors Experiencing Complex Mental Health and Trauma Symptoms: Kath Muirhead, Women Supporting Women, Pilton Community Health Project & Jean Budge, Trauma Service, Health in Mind**

Kath Muirhead and Jean Budge shared experiences of their service users and challenges faced by their services in accessing mental health and trauma services. Based on their presentations and discussion among the CPG members, following key concerns emerged:

- **Lack of services:**  
There was a consensus about the lack of sufficient trauma services across the board and access to appropriate services is a big challenge for the survivors. Overall, services are not consistent across Scotland.
- **Increasing waiting lists:**  
The waiting lists are high and are constantly increasing due to the inability to cope up with the demand.

- **Funding:**

The wider issue of funding allocation was raised again. It was reiterated that 80% of the survivors who need services are community-based, however there are not enough mental health services being provided for them. It again raised the concern about increasing focus on survivors of historic in-care abuse. It was felt that the 'funding follows a label rather than a person'. There was a real concern about the way services are being commissioned and offered, and it is unclear where the funding is being directed by the Survivor Scotland. Further, 'Prevention' does not feature in funding agenda any longer and it is important to bring this focus back in.

- **Focus and Direction of the Survivor Scotland:**

There were concerns raised about the direction that Survivor Scotland was headed in. Janine Rennie informed the members about a new model being proposed that she learnt about at a Survivor Scotland meeting – the Broker Model. The NHS mental health services would be brokered, which raises a concern about not making referrals to organisations that are trained in trauma and mental health services. It was felt that the Survivor Scotland should attend and inform the CPG about the Broker Model. Second, concern was raised about the shift of the Survivor Scotland towards a more medical model, moving away from the survivor-led model. Third, a fear of funding-cut or not being chosen for the next funding bid is becoming a barrier for organisations to share their concerns and challenges with the Survivor Scotland. Furthermore, CAMHS do not seem to be getting adequate funding, as most of it is going towards waiting lists and frontline services. It was expressed that it was advisable to be 'better-together' as both the CAMHS and the third sector organisations were feeling the same challenges and pressures. Overall it was agreed that it was not about pitching one service against the other, and it is wrong to take away funding from the third sector organisations who have the expertise in trauma and mental health services and divert it towards waiting lists.

- **Need for Consulting with the Survivors:**

It was stated that there is a greater need for consultations with the survivors to understand what they seek from their services, what their needs are and what works for them.

- **Need for an Alliance and Partnership**

A need for greater alliance between the voluntary organisations and statutory services was expressed, as was the importance of working in partnership and recognising where expertise lies.

**Action Plan:**

- Carol Wilson shared that she had prepared a note a few years ago about the difficulties experienced vis-à-vis mental health services, and she offered to email it to Margaret Mitchell.
- It was agreed that these concerns would be raised in the meeting with the Minister and in the Member's Debate. The motion would be drafted accordingly by the Deputy and Co-Convenors of the CPG.

**PRESENTATION: Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse from the Scottish Ethnic Minorities**

This presentation moved to the next CPG meeting due to the lack of time.

**AOCB**

Sandie Barton flagged the issue of removal of the three-year time bar for people abused whilst in care. She offered to share the government's consultation document with the CPG members through the Secretary. The deadline for making contributions is Friday, 18th September.

**Date of the next meeting**

Tentatively 18<sup>th</sup> November, however to be confirmed based on the Motion at the end of October 2015