

The Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on
Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 18 January 2017

Attendance

Margaret Mitchell MSP, Convenor
Johann Lamont MSP, Deputy Convenor
Alison Harris MSP
Fulton MacGregor MSP
Martin Henry Stop it Now, Co-Convenor
Anne Macdonald, Co-Convenor
Andrew Campbell
Sandra Ferguson. NES
Sue Hampson, Safe to Say
Carol Willson
Javita Narang, International Consultant
Traci Kirkland, Open Secret
Janine Rennie, Open Secret, Treasurer
R. Eric Swanepoel
May Chamberlain. Relationships Scotland
Kath Muirhead Pilton Community Health Project
Lorraine Sorley Health in Mind

Apologies

Monica Lennon, MSP
Sharon Guest, Barnardos
Ilene Easton, Open Secret
Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation
Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh
Sandie Barton, Rape Crisis Scotland
Stuart Allardyce, Stop it Now!
Alison C. Tait, Break the Silence

Minutes of 9th November 2016

Proposed – Andrew Campbell

Seconded – Janine Rennie

There was one amendment from Sandra Ferguson NES which will be incorporated prior to posting the Minutes on the Scottish Parliament website.

Matters Arising

Membership of the CPG has been requested by StreetWork an agency who work with young people affected by homelessness many of whom are also directly affected by CSA. The Membership of the CPG approved this request and we will contact them with dates of future meetings.

We have been contacted by the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee regarding the Limitations Bill currently going through the Scottish Parliament. The Bill proposes to remove the current three year Time Bar that is in place for survivors of abuse bringing court action. The Committee asked if we could circulate their details to identify agencies and/or individuals who may be willing to share their views.

Some agencies said they had been in touch with the Committee; the details of the Justice Committee were given to the CPG Membership who can contact them directly.

Report from Child Abuse Prevention Framework Group

Janine provided a brief update on its activities. The Scottish Government have established a group working to develop a prevention framework for Scotland which has some members of the Cross Party Group in the membership. The work is being led by Evaluation Support Scotland. Four meetings were arranged to be followed with a meeting on 31st March to allow interested parties to attend and comment on the documents produced. There will be a further meeting to feed into the process and we will keep the Group informed of progress. **Action JR and others**

Frequency of CPG Meetings

Anne had been approached by some members of the group regarding the frequency of meetings, many who had understood that the CPG meets quarterly rather than two monthly. Johann felt it important that whatever we decide that dates were set well in advance to enable MSPs to work into their schedule. We agreed to keep to dates as best we can, and meet quarterly, with the option of additional meetings being held as business required. **Action CPG Membership**

Apologies Bill Update

Margaret updated the group on the Apologies Bill. The Cabinet Secretary is currently looking at it and realises its importance. Margaret will keep us informed of next steps. **Action MM**

CPG Work Programme 2017

Several ideas for the future work programme were included in the previous Minutes. Carol has also provided the group with a paper including ideas and areas that it is felt are important that we cover. Anne suggested that we form a sub group at the next meeting to go over these in more detail. **Action AMacd and MH**

Andrew raised the matter of lack of communication in the group, and considering we have considerable shared knowledge and experience, we should try and find some means of communicating better with each other. It was suggested we produce a CPG Newsletter/Update for members as there are many developments and news that we are failing to share due to the business part of our meetings. We can look at issuing this on a quarterly basis to coincide with our meetings. It was agreed that members should send in any news or information they would like to be shared with the group. A Macd and MH will gather these together and send them out with the Minutes. **Action CPG Membership and MH**

'Hidden in Silence' Screening

Previous screenings of Hidden in Silence have been met with an overwhelmingly positive response. Other agencies such as Police Scotland are also interested. The CPG plans to organise a screening in the Scottish Parliament. MSP's on the CPG (MM, JL, FMacG and AH) fully support this event. The Group agreed on Wednesday 26th April if a venue can be confirmed in the Scottish Parliament building available that evening. MM agreed to act as the sponsoring MSP. JN, AMacd and MH will liaise with Felicity to confirm a room and work on practicalities. **Action JN, AMacd, MH and FH**

SurvivorScotland Policy Update

The Survivor Scotland Policy Team from Scottish Government had been in touch with MM with a view to attending today's meeting. However due to our Agenda being set in advance we agreed that a paper sent from them could be circulated to the CPG members for discussion at our next meeting. **Action CPG Membership**

There was further discussion on the SurvivorScotland Policy Team and the Scottish Government's current direction. It's apparent adoption of a medical model and continued suggestion that a clinical background is required for direct work with survivors of CSA is causing concern to some survivors and agencies. Decisions also seem to be being made with little consultation with survivors and agencies. The model of the former Reference Group on the National Strategy was raised. This at least enabled some mutual communication between agencies and the Survivor Scotland Team in Government. It was agreed that it is worth considering establishing a joint group similar to the previous Reference Group so that communication and sharing can be improved. **Action CPG Membership**

National Trauma Training Framework Development Project

Sandra Ferguson (SF) provided an update on the project to develop a National Training Framework for Trauma and Complex Trauma. Sandra offered to draft something for the CPG as well as providing a presentation when this project is completed. **Action SF**

AOCB

The Scottish Football Association and historical abuse was raised by FMacG. Traci met with Children 1st Safeguarding staff and have jointly produced a briefing document for the SFA safeguarding officers in Scotland to support them with any adult disclosures and will be providing input at their next quarterly network meeting. Safe to Say has also been approached from a particular Scottish football club for their advice and support.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 26th April at 5 pm