

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

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 1.00 pm

Scottish Parliament Committee Room 4

**In attendance**

Johann Lamont, MSP Convenor, Anne Macdonald, Co-Convenor, Janine Rennie, Wellbeing Scotland, Co- Convenor, Margaret Mitchell, MSP, Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation, Emma Bryson, Ann Donnan, Safe Space, Traci Kirkland, Wellbeing Scotland, Dr Javita Narang, Social Destination, Dr Eric Swanepoel, Writer and Researcher Alison Tait, Break the Silence, Carol Willson, student

**Apologies**

May Chamberlain, Relationships Scotland, Ilene Easton, Dr Sandra Ferguson, NES NHS Scotland, Ewan Law, Rowan Alba, Sue Hampson, Safe to Say, Monica Lennon MSP, Rachel Love, NSPCC, Sarah Nelson, Researcher, Jackie Smith, Say Women.

**Welcome**

Johann welcomed everyone to the meeting. She particularly welcomed Emma Bryson who has newly joined the group. Emma gave a brief introduction about herself and her interests in raising awareness of childhood sexual abuse. Emma has a personal interest on reform for the legal requirement for collaboration and how this denies justice to survivors.

**Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 were proposed by Dr Javita Narang and seconded by Carol Willson.

**Matters arising**

Police Scotland's Information Leaflet for Survivors

DCI Henderson had been in touch with the penultimate version of the leaflet for final comment. Anne and some members of the group provided further feedback and some suggested changes.

Treasurer's Report

This was covered at the AGM (see AGM Minutes)

## Invitation to Cabinet Minister for Justice

As Mr Matheson has left this post we will contact Humza Yousaf MSP the new Minister to attend one of our meetings. It was agreed we approach him in the vein of informing him of our work and the issues that survivors of childhood sexual abuse face in the justice system and to find out how we can improve justice for survivors. Johann also would like an update on the In Care survivor's compensation scheme.

**Action Johann and Anne**

## Adverse Childhood Experiences Cross Party Group

There were some concerns as ACEs formed part of the original Petition and the National Strategy for survivors of childhood sexual abuse and appears to have been 're-invented'. Anne and Janine attended and were given an opportunity to highlight the number of ACEs that survivors of CSA experience (on average six). We recognised that the ACEs group is concerning early years and young people. There will be thematic groups throughout the year as part of the ACEs CPG work.

Break the Silence, Moira Anderson Foundation and Wellbeing Scotland mentioned a crossover as they work with young people as well as adults and some concern about medicalising adverse childhood experiences was expressed. It was agreed we would keep links open with the group and attend relevant meetings in the future. **Action Janine and Anne**

## **Mapping Exercise: Update**

The sub group carried out a mapping exercise for those who support CSA survivors but only seven (including Wellbeing Scotland) responded. It was decided we reissue to our mailing list and other groups.

It is agreed to have an umbrella organisation to enable survivor agencies, survivors and individual professionals in the field to unite and work together would be welcomed. This would give consistency, communication and research possibilities. It would also enable influence on policy direction. **Action Janine, Anne and Carol**

## **Suggestions for future presentations and events**

There was discussion on how we can direct some new growth and members to the group as well as have people with an interest, including researchers and PhD students, who might not wish to join the group to attend events and having these separate to meetings. It was agreed that any talks and events would be scheduled and advertised well in advance. **Action Anne and Janine with input from Johann and other members of the group**

- Survivors talking about their experiences, perhaps with an emphasis on different stages in their journeys and recovery with messages of hope
- Survivor agencies (we agreed that there is a lot of innovative work we are not necessary aware of happening across Scotland)

- Humza Yousaf and other relevant government Ministers, Claire Haughey, Minister for Mental Health was suggested
- Dame Denise Coia (CAMHS)
- The new Policy Team from Scottish Government (Nadine Milne)
- Duncan Craig, Survivors Manchester
- Justice CPG
- ACE CPG

## **AOCB**

The times of our meetings was discussed as some have had to be shortened at the last minute due to parliamentary business which is frustrating for those members travelling long distances. Johann suggested we revert to having evening meetings in the main as there is less pressure on MSPs.

Alison asked if there would be a chance to call into the meeting, or video conference. It was agreed to check this with the technical team at the Parliament. **Action Anne and Janine**

To discuss contact of Javita and Sandra's from Abertay University on resource for training at our next meeting.

## **Dates of Next Meetings**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 6.00 pm at the Scottish Parliament Building

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 6.00 pm at the Scottish Parliament Building