

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

Wednesday 12th September 2018 1.00 pm
Scottish Parliament Committee Room 4

Annual General Meeting

In attendance

Margaret Mitchell, MSP, Convenor, Johann Lamont, MSP Depute Convenor, Anne Macdonald, Co-Convenor, Janine Rennie, Wellbeing Scotland, 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, Sue Hampson, Safe to Say, Ewan Law, Rowan Alba, Monica Lennon MSP, Rachel Love, NSPCC, Sarah Nelson, Researcher, Jackie Smith, Say Women

Welcome and introductions

Margaret Mitchell MSP and Convenor welcomed everyone to this AGM and informed the group of her decision to stand down as Convenor. Margaret has held the position of Depute Convenor and Convenor for almost fifteen years and it was time to have a new Convenor to take us through to our next stage. Margaret spoke to the many achievements we have made over the years for survivors, particularly the National Strategy. She has enjoyed working with members past and present and would like to continue to be involved as an ordinary member. Margaret thanked her staff over the years, and most recently Felicity Holland, who have played an important part in the organisational matters of the group.

Johann Lamont MSP and Depute Convenor thanked Margaret on behalf of the membership for her commitment and expertise in chairing and steering our meetings and actions over the years. Johann has agreed to put her name forward for nomination for the role of Convenor. Fulton MacGregor MSP has agreed to put his name forward for nomination as Depute Convenor.

Anne Macdonald Co Convenor and Petitioner expressed particular thanks to Margaret for her commitment and dedication to the group and the needs of survivors over these many years which has had its challenges as well as successes. Given the journey and working together with Margaret Anne is heartened to know that she will continue as a member of the group. Anne also thanked Felicity for her support.

Andrew Campbell has tendered his resignation as Co Convenor of the group due to University commitments. Andrew will hopefully return as a member of the group once he has more free time. Margaret, Johann and Anne all expressed their thanks to Andrew for his commitment and important input to the group over the years and record thanks to Andrew on behalf of the whole membership of the Cross Party Group.

Minutes of the AGM of 13th September 2017 were proposed by Andrew Campbell and seconded by Sarah Nelson at our meeting held on 6th December 2017. In accordance with protocols these Minutes were passed to Standards for posting on the Scottish Parliament website.

Election of Office Bearers

Convenor: Johann Lamont MSP
Proposed: Dr Eric Swanepoel
Seconded: Janine Rennie

Deputy Convenor: Fulton MacGregor MSP
Proposed: Dr Javita Narang
Seconded: Anne Macdonald

Co Convenor: Anne Macdonald
Proposed: Janine Rennie
Seconded: Carol Willson

Co Convenor: Janine Rennie
Proposed: Johann Lamont
Seconded: Sandra Brown

Treasurer: Sandra Brown
Proposed: Anne Macdonald
Seconded: Dr Javita Narang

Treasurers Report

The bank has a healthy balance of £837.27. With new membership fees for 2018/19 the balance would increase further. It was agreed to consider a future event as that would now be possible with the funds available.

Convenor's Report

Johann gave a verbal report on the past year's activities of the group:

Survivor Scotland Policy Team Presentation (September 2017)

The Survivor Support Team attended our meeting to provide an update on their activities. They provide policy advice regarding people harmed by child abuse in Scotland. Their vision is that Survivors should be supported to have equal access to

integrated care, support and treatment resources and services which can reduce the impact of the inequalities and disadvantage experienced as a result of abuse.

They work closely with other policy areas in the Scottish Government relating to childhood abuse including Child protection (e.g. the development of a National Child Abuse Prevention Plan) and Equally Safe (e.g. responding to the consultation on the draft delivery plan for Equally Safe, our strategy to tackle violence against women and girls).

The Team is responsible for delivery of Future Pathways, Scotland's in care survivor support fund, and holds the sponsorship role for the National Confidential Forum. They work with the SHRC Interaction Action Plan Review Group and contribute to wider SG commitments regarding apology, inquiry, support and financial redress.

Police Scotland Presentation (December 2017)

Detective Chief Inspector Catriona Henderson, Specialist Crime Division and Detective Inspector Kerr Duncan approached the CPG as Police Scotland has produced a leaflet titled 'Information for Survivors of Childhood Abuse'. DCI Henderson and DI Duncan requested feedback from the CPG on its content and accessibility as it is in the process of being reprinted.

An open discussion followed which drew praise of the production of a leaflet by Police Scotland for survivors. It was agreed members of the group would provide some suggested changes. Police Scotland has been in touch with a revised leaflet incorporating our suggestions.

NSPCC presentation: Right to Recover (March 2018)

NSPCC contacted us to highlight the issues that children who are sexually abused encounter when seeking services.

NSPCC Scotland calls for improvement, government investment in recovery services and establishment of "Children's House" as a long-term plan

Not all children and young people need a specialised service following an experience of sexual abuse. However, for those who do require help, therapeutic support can help them rebuild their lives.

These 2 reports look at what happens to children following the disclosure or discovery of sexual abuse in the West of Scotland. They investigate how the emotional needs of children are assessed following abuse and what services are available to help them recover from their experiences.

The main report summaries findings from:

- a mapping exercise to identify existing sexual abuse services
- a survey to gather more information on identified services

- facilitated discussion groups with professionals who work with children who have experienced sexual abuse.

More detailed information about the issues discussed by professionals is included in the companion report – The Voices of Professionals

NSPCC have joined the Cross Party Group.

Hidden in Silence Training Handbook (May 2018)

Dr Javita Narang gave a presentation about the Training Handbook that is being developed on Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA) within the ethnic minorities in Scotland. It will accompany the documentary film that was made by Javita and Nauman Qureshi on the same topic.

This Training Tool, 'Hidden in Silence', comprising the handbook and the film, is envisaged as a user friendly resource for training professionals/practitioners/service providers across Scotland on issues concerning survivors of CSA from the Scottish ethnic minorities. Based on the core issues identified in the documentary film, the training handbook covers four key modules including: 1. the basics of CSA; 2. Police and legal proceedings; 3. Psychological trauma and services; and 4. National policies, strategies and programme

AOCB

None

Johann thanked everyone for their continued support and closed this Annual General Meeting of 12th September 2018.