

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

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 14th November 2018 6.00 pm

Scottish Parliament Committee Room 5

In attendance

Johann Lamont, MSP Convener, Fulton MacGregor MSP Depute Convenor, Anne Macdonald, Co-Convenor, Margaret Mitchell, MSP, Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation, Emma Bryson, Traci Kirkland, Wellbeing Scotland, Dr Eric Swanepoel, Writer and Researcher, Ewan Law Rowan Alba

Apologies

Sue Hampson, Safe to Say, Sarah Nelson, Researcher, Alison Tait, Break the Silence, Ruth Friskney, Barnardos, Maddie Kirkman, Barnardos, Janine Rennie, Wellbeing Scotland, Co-Convenor, Dr Javita Narang, Social Destination

Welcome , apologies and introductions

Johann welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Alison Harris MSP has tendered her resignation as she can no longer make our meetings due to time pressures; Ms Harris was thanked by the group.

Ruth Friskney from Barnardos has tendered her resignation from the group as she has left her post at Barnardos. Anne emailed Ruth to thank her for her participation in the group and wish her well in her new post.

Maddie Kirkman, Policy Officer with Barnardos has been in touch to attend future meetings in place of Ruth.

Sarah Nelson has contacted us with her apologies for the meeting and that due to other commitments finds it difficult to make meetings. Sarah does wish to remain a member and can be contacted for her input on any matters.

Approval of AGM Minutes

The Minutes of our AGM held on 12th September 2018 were approved.

Nominated: Traci Kirkland, Wellbeing Scotland
Seconded: Dr Eric Swanepoel, Writer

Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of our meeting held on 12th September 2018 were approved.

Nominated: Traci Kirkland, Wellbeing Scotland

Seconded: Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation

Matters arising

Invitation to Cabinet Secretary for Justice: A standard letter was sent to Mr Yousaf with a reply from his office. Johann and Fulton will contact him again as well as Claire Haughey, the Minister for Mental Health. **Action Johann and Fulton**

Video Conferencing: The Parliament's IT department has indicated that we can request teleconferencing facilities for CPGs; however, IT will provide limited support as their role is to support parliamentary business only. There is also the issue that the IT department does not work after office hours – which is often when most CPGs meet.

We are also required to give them 5 days' notice should we require teleconference facilities. It was suggested that it may be easier for Skype to be used on an office bearer's laptop (unfortunately, IT cannot provide a laptop for this purpose).

Although this has been requested by some members who travel long distances it is something we unfortunately cannot provide, hopefully if we interchange meetings during day and evenings this might help.

Treasurer: update

Transfer of the CPG chequebook from Wellbeing Scotland to Moira Anderson Foundation. **Action Traci and Sandra**

Mapping Exercise: update

The group have met twice and agreed it is the right time for such an umbrella organisation. The latest discussions were around trying to clarify the aims of such a body and this stimulated lot of dialogue and that people needed to go back to their own organisations to give it more thought.

Apart from the core organisations meeting to take this forward, many more are interested in being involved. Traci has issued a form with questions for everyone to complete in relation to their own organisations which Anne and Sarah will collate.

Nadine Milne from the Survivor Policy Team has expressed her support for this initiative and there may be an opportunity to receive some funding once we are at the stage of formalising an organisation to bring in an independent body to oversee and progress the development work, set up the legal structures and documents etc.

This work is separate from the work of the CPG and will keep members informed as relevant. **No further action**

Events and presentation: update

- Dame Denise Coia has been contacted and we are awaiting for a response
Anne to follow up
- Survivors Manchester has been contacted without success. Sandra suggested Duncan Craig for possible joint event with Mathew McVarish's play that highlights mental health **Sandra to provide Anne with details**
- Nadine Milne from the Scottish Government Policy Team is invited to attend future meetings **Traci to provide Anne with her contact details, Anne to send invitation to Nadine**
- Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre has been running a storytelling project for survivors of sexual violence and will be launching a book of creative writing by group members in the New Year and wondered if they could attend our next CPG meeting with their members to share their writing but also their views on their experiences

Anne replied to Nadine to say we would raise this request at our meeting, but was sure we would be interested in either a joint event with the CPG on Violence Against Women and Girls, or for us to host it with invitations to members of this group **Anne to follow up**

AOCB

Janine and Anne have attended the ACE CPG meetings. We have agreed to liaise as and when appropriate, perhaps giving a talk to their group and vice versa.

Criminal Injury claims. Emma highlighted some concerns on how CI is being processed with four to five examples of significant delays, documents being lost and their Complaint's Procedure being unhelpful. There was a general discussion and survivor agencies also have mixed experiences when applying on behalf of clients.

Perhaps there is a training deficit on how to meet survivor's needs? It was agreed this would be an important issue to highlight with Justice Minister. Sandra offered to discuss ways forward with Emma.

Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill Stage I: Stage I has been passed and Fulton gave some background information. Following a discussion on appropriate age of responsibility and the complexity of this issue it was agreed it would be useful for agencies to contribute to Stage 2 of the Bill. Fulton will circulate the link. **Action Fulton**

Emma highlighted the campaign by survivors on Corroboration and the differences between England and Scotland. They are speaking with MSPs and Justice in hope of debate and changes to the law. Following a wide ranging discussion it was agreed it was important to keep this issue in the public domain. Emma will keep the group informed of any developments

A woman who won a landmark civil action after the criminal case against the man she accused of raping her on a university fresher's week night out was found not proven is calling for the abolition of the controversial Scottish verdict that acquits an accused person but stops short of finding them not guilty. Rape Crisis and other groups are backing this campaign. We will keep informed about any developments.

Anne suggested rotation between evening and afternoon meetings could be helpful, using afternoon slots for business meetings and evening sessions for events.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20th February 2019 6.00 pm Committee Room 5 Scottish Parliament