

Minute of the meeting of the
Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children
5 June 2019, 17.30 – 19.00, Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 1

1. Present/Apologies

Present

CPG Members

- Claudia Beamish MSP (CB)
- John Finnie MSP (JF)
- Rhoda Grant MSP (RG)
- Rona Mackay MSP (RMk) – chair
- Amy Johnson – Zero Tolerance (AJ)
- Ania Kinross – Scottish Women's Aid (AK)
- Christine Gray – Individual (CG)
- David Morran – Individual (DM)
- Erin Mwebo – YWCA Scotland (EM)
- Katie Brown – COSLA (KB)
- Kelly Johnson – Individual (KJ)
- Linda Rodgers – Edinburgh Women's Aid (LR)
- Marsha Scott – Scottish Women's Aid (MS)
- Sandie Barton – Rape Crisis Scotland (SB)
- Sue McKellar – Scottish Women's Aid (SMK)

Apologies

- Ann Hayne – NHS Lanarkshire, EVA Services
- Catriona Kirkpatrick – Engender
- Davy Thompson – White Ribbon Scotland
- Emma Ritch – Engender
- George Eckton - Individual
- Katherine Gilmour - Church of Scotland
- Kelsey Smith – Close the Gap
- Laura Tomson – Zero Tolerance
- Linda Thompson – Women's Support Project
- Melanie McCarry – Strathclyde University
- Paula Mitchell – Individual
- Rachel Adamson – Zero Tolerance
- Sarah Weldon – Forensic Sciences, Glasgow
- Tammy Connell – Individual

Non-member visitors

- Minister for Children and Young People Maree Todd MSP (MT)
- Anna Mitchell – Safe and Together Institute (AM)
- Fiona Duncan – Independent Care Review (FD)

- Hannah Frodsham – Scottish Government
- Heather Cody – Independent Care Review
- Jane Callaghan – Stirling University (JC)
- Kate Robinson – Impact Funding Partners
- Laura Beveridge – Independent Care Review

2. Cross- Party Group business

A. Approval of previous minutes: minutes of CPG February 2nd 2019 were approved as an accurate record (proposed by MS, seconded by JF).

B. Implementation of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018:

MS clarified that, as discussed in the February meeting, implementation of the new law on domestic abuse has been added to the meetings' agenda as a standing item. This is to enable the group's members to share any issues around the policies and practice of the new law. SWA is running a series of seminars focusing on the implementation, the next one relating specifically to children and young people and the aggravator element of the law.

RMk asked about the ongoing training for the police and the judicial service. MS clarified that another agency was delivering training to Police Scotland, but that feedback from Judicial Studies Institute training was very positive.

RMk has also noted the first conviction under the new law.

C. Members' updates:

- a. Rape Crisis Scotland: roll out of new feedback protocol for prosecution of sex offences, involving a reference group of survivors, RCS is hoping for a nationwide participation.

RCS has also submitted a response to the consultation on [Clinical Pathway for Children and Young People who have disclosed sexual abuse](#). The consultation closes on 30th July 2019.

- b. JF: there's no implementation timeline for the Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Bill as yet, but the Cabinet Secretary is keen to progress with it, and there's a growing recognition of re-traumatising witnesses/victims.

3. Thematic session: Children and VAW

A. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and violence against women and children – Jane Callaghan, Stirling University

JC presentation argued that the ACES framework is problematic, as the criteria are outdated and don't include a gendered analysis.

After the presentation SB mentioned a short critique of the framework, put together by women's organisations and CYP organisations.

Action: SB to circulate the briefing to group's members.

MT echoed concerns from JC and SB, in particular that the ACES model isn't helpful in the context of VAWG as a public health issue.

- B. The Independent Care Review (ICR) and children's experiences of VAW - Fiona Duncan, Chair of the independent Care Review (see appendix 1)
FD gave an overview of the review methodology and the process so far, incl. the Stop:Go work group, informed by 1500 volunteers with lived experience of the care system. FD has repeated previous speaker's concerns about the ACES model as evidenced by examples from work carried out by ICR.
Big focus of the ICR's work is prevention, and information gathered from over three thousand interviewees shows clear pathways to prevention. Anyone who wishes to contact Fiona Duncan with relation to ICR's work should email her on fiona@carereview.scot
- C. System responses to children experiencing domestic abuse – Anna Mitchell, Safe & Together Institute [US]
AM gave an overview of the [Safe & Together™ approach](#) and the current work of the Institute. A recent case audit in Edinburgh showed positive signs of change in culture and moving away from blaming the non-offending parent.
- D. Questions and action points from the thematic session
Any questions or suggestions for action points following this session should be emailed to ania.kinross@womensaid.scot

Action: all members to email follow up actions to SWA for collation before the next meeting.

4. AOCB

- a. MS: New good practice guidance on domestic abuse for social housing providers will be launch in the Autumn. SWA is looking for an MSP to sponsor the parliamentary reception after the summer recess, in conjunction with the CPG on Housing. RMk has agreed to sponsor.

Action: RMk to liaise with SWA and CPG on Housing.

- b. RMk: consultation on the proposed Stalking Protection (Scotland) Bill closes on 21st July 2019. Details of the proposal and consultation can be found on the [Parliament's website](#)

5. Date and time of the next meetings

- September 18th (AGM) 5.30-7.30pm. Thematic session on policing of VAWG, Police Scotland Chief Constable Iain Livingstone will be attending.