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CPG Commercial Sexual Exploitation Meeting

Scottish Parliament

26th June 2018

6pm -8pm

Minutes

Apologies

Johann Lamont	MSP
Pam Cairns	Soroptimists
Anne Hayne	NHS Lanarkshire

Attendance

Gordon MacDonald	CARE
Stuart Weir	CARE
Rhoda Grant	MSP (Co-Chair)
Ash Denham	MSP (Co-Chair)
Ruth Maguire	MSP
Jacci Stoye	ACTS
Frankie O'Rourke	CSG Routes Out (secretariat)
Kate Fry	Rhoda's Office
Linda Thompson	Women's Support Project
Kirsti Hay	CSG Glasgow VAWP coordinator
Janet Warren	Graduate women Scotland
Chris Hall	Not for Sale Scotland
Ann Hall	Not for Sale Scotland
Hannah Sanderson	
Paula Mitchell	women for Justice
Dr Alison Scott	NHS Lothian
Janice Wilson	Soroptimists

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Sally Trethewie

Susan Moffat individual

Shairi Bowes Scottish Women's Convention

Jo Zawadzka Zero Tolerance

Agreeing the Minutes of the previous meeting

Rhoda opened the meeting and asked if the group could agree the Minutes of the previous meeting. Jacci Stoye agreed the minutes. There were no matters arising.

Presentation by Kirsti Hay

Kirsti Hay the Glasgow violence against women coordinator gave a presentation on the results of a Glasgow CSE brief scoping exercise commissioned by the partnership in 2017. This generated some discussion with the group regarding legislation in general and legislation regarding other forms of violence against women and the judiciary. The group felt it may be useful for the CPG to write to the judiciary regarding increasing their awareness on the topic. Kirsti informed the group that Ayrshire had also commissioned a similar scoping exercise who we could potentially invite to the group upon completion later in the year.

MSP updates

Ash Denham informed the group that there were changes being made at cabinet level. It had already been announced that Humza Yousaf had been appointed Cabinet Secretary for Justice and that more announcements would be made in the coming days.

Equally Safe Delivery Plan

Linda Thompson from the women's support project highlighted some changes that have been made to the Equally Safe Strategy and latterly the delivery plan since it was created in 2014.

2014:

"The different forms of violence against women will demand specific interventions and these will be explored further as part of the development of outcomes and actions resulting from this strategy. For example we would expect to work with others to reduce the demand for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and ensure that women working in this area have other options than being driven into this work as a result of poverty, substance abuse or manipulation by abusive partners." (pg 24)

2016:

"The different forms of violence against women will demand specific interventions and these will be explored further; for example, we will work with others to develop thinking around Commercial Sexual Exploitation and ensure that women working in this area are protected

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from violence and abuse, and supported to exit situations where they are being sexually exploited for commercial purposes.” (pg 38)

Equally Safe delivery plan 2017:

There was a draft which went out for consultation in 2017 and in it there were 2 actions for CSE:

- *Engage with stakeholders on the findings of research into the evidence as to the impact of criminalising the purchase of sex. Over 2017 – Scottish Government*
- *Commission a mapping of exit routes, to inform guidance to public and third sector organisations on how to support women experiencing commercial sexual exploitation including prostitution - Summer 2017 Scottish Government*

It was also planned – *“To ensure that we strengthen our efforts to tackle commercial sexual exploitation, we’ll establish a multi-agency group to develop steps designed to reduce the harms associated with this kind of violence, support women to exit and tackle holistically the issues that can lead to someone becoming exploited in this way.”*

Analysis of consultation responses to Equally Safe delivery plan 2017:

“Many responded to that draft’s consultations and it was highlighted that a lot of respondents felt that CSE was not given enough of a focus and priority. A recurring criticism was that the delivery plan focussed too much on domestic abuse, and did not mention other forms of violence against women enough, this was particularly the case at priority 4.”

Some respondents felt that reference to specific forms of violence were missing, and called for the inclusion of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (including prostitution and internet pornography), honour based violence, childhood sexual abuse, and stalking.” (pg 12)

“Areas where it was felt that funding was required included: to support actions taking place in schools and colleges and in the community; the rolling out of the “Safe and Together” model; supporting Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs); appropriately supporting and funding organisations and workforces involved in early intervention and prevention work; providing funding for projects across Scotland so that access to services is not a “postcode lottery”; to increase participation; and providing and funding specialist services to support women exiting prostitution.” (pg 15)

The final Equally Safe delivery plan launched Nov 2017 now has only one action on CSE at 3.12

“Commission a mapping of existing specialist support for those experiencing commercial sexual exploitation, to better understand current coverage and good practice.”

There was some discussion from the group regarding how changes are made and how the Joint strategic board are notified/involved in any changes being made.

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SHAW- safety health and welfare

Linda Thomson briefed the group on the recent SHAW seminar organised by the Encompass Network. SHAW developed from a concept initially piloted in Glasgow and revised in Edinburgh in Partnership with NHS Lothian. The seminar with key stakeholders took place in Glasgow on the 15th May. The consensus on the day was that SHAW could potentially be rolled out nationally, however this would need a strategic planned approach and governance in place. A steering group will be formed to do this.

AOB

Stuart from CARE highlighted the awareness raising work they are currently involved in and extended an invitation to group members who are interested in becoming involved. This would need to be taken away from the CPG in line with CPG group governance. Anyone who wished to get involved can let Frankie O'Rourke (secretariat) know.

Ash Denham attended the launch of the Westminster APPG report Behind Closed Doors. Frankie agreed to circulate the report to members.

Behind closed doors- <https://appgprostitution.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Behind-closed-doors-APPG-on-Prostitution.pdf>

Linda Thomson informed the group that the consultation on guidance on the provisions for licensing of sexual entertainment venues closed in Feb 2018. The available responses have now been published. A summary of all responses will be compiled by the Scottish Government which will be circulated to the group in due course.

DONM

The consensus from the group was that an evening meeting was better. The 6pm- 8pm time slot was agreed. The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 25th September 2018.**

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