

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

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 7 March 2018 1pm

Scottish Parliament Committee Room 1

**In attendance**

Margaret Mitchell MSP Convenor, Johann Lamont MSP Depute Convenor, Andrew Campbell, Co Convenor, Anne Macdonald Co Convenor, Janine Rennie Wellbeing Scotland, Treasurer, Traci Kirkland, Wellbeing Scotland, Dr Javita Narang, Social Destination Trauma Care Services, Allison Smith, Break the Silence, Jackie Smith, Say Women

**Invited Speakers:** Rachel Love, NSPCC, Alison Wales, NSPCC

**Apologies**

Fulton MacGregor MSP, Elaine Smith MSP, Stuart Allardyce, Stop it Now Scotland, Sandie Barton, Rape Crisis, Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation, Ilene Easton, Open Secret, Dr Sandra Ferguson, NHS Education for Scotland, Ruth Firskney, Barnardos, Sue Hampson, Safe to Say, Neil Munro, Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project, Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh, Dr Eric Swanepoel, Researcher

**Welcome and Introductions**

Margaret Mitchell MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that due to the adverse weather conditions there were unfortunately time constraints and that the meeting would have to end at 2pm sharp.

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th were proposed by Johann Lamont MSP, Deputy Convenor and seconded by Andrew Campbell, Co Convenor.

**Matters arising**

Comments and suggested changes to Police Scotland's Information Leaflet for Survivors were forwarded to DCI Henderson. DCI Henderson thanked the group for our input.

The group asked if there has been any update following this communication. It was agreed we would contact DCI Catriona Henderson to enquire on progress and request copies of the new leaflet once it is finalised. **Action Anne**

## **Future Work Programme**

There was a brief discussion on progress on the above which has been problematic due to constraints of time by the sub group; however a draft questionnaire was distributed to members requesting initial feedback. It was felt there may have been some misunderstanding on the purpose of the questionnaire and that it is not meant to be an academic exercise but more a Community Development approach to gather some basic information and to ascertain if the development of a Network Model might be of interest to survivor agencies. It was agreed rather than delay this exercise we put it out to members and other related agencies over the next few weeks. **Action Andrew, Carol, Janine and Anne**

## **Treasurer's Report**

Janine has contacted the membership to highlight that membership payment has been erratic and that we will begin afresh taking payments at our next AGM. Janine will also be in touch with Joy Patrick the new Manager at KASP to ask if she is prepared to be a second signatory for the bank account. The balance of our account currently stands at £822.06. **Action Janine**

## **NSPCC: The Right to Recover Report Presentation**

The group thanked Rachel and Alison for their excellent Report and presentation. There was a full discussion which highlighted that little has really progressed for children for many years and is an indictment on what priority vulnerable and traumatised children are given by decision makers. There were some questions on why the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector was not involved in the facilitated discussion groups by NSPCC. Janine also pointed out that there has been services provided to children in Clackmannanshire by Open Secret and this was not recorded in the Report.

Johann and Margaret had lodged a motion in the Parliament on the findings of the Report; they had unfortunately been unable to secure a slot for a member's debate. The NSPCC may wish to consider lodging a Petition to the Scottish Parliament on the lack of services for children who have experienced sexual abuse.

Rachel and Alison requested membership of the group which was unanimously agreed by those members present.

Anne requested a brief of the Presentation to send out to members. Rachel and Alison will send this for circulation. **Action Rachel and Alison**

## **NSPCC: Rise in sexual offences against children in Scotland**

Due to time limitations we did not cover this agenda item. Their statistics will be sent out to the group prior to our next meeting. **Action Anne and Andrew**

## **AOCB**

It was agreed that we will contact Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice inviting him to attend our autumn meeting to discuss relevant justice issues facing survivors. **Action Margaret and Johann**

It was suggested we might look to see if Dr John Read who gave presentation at the Wellbeing Scotland Conference might be able to attend any future event we might hold. **Action Carol**

Javita informed the group that a Training Handbook has been developed following the film Hidden in Silence and will be available this April. It was agreed that Javita should give a presentation on the Handbook at our next meeting. Action **Anne and Javita**

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 1.00 pm **CR1** Scottish Parliament Building