

## CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

### NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Adult Survivors Of Childhood Sexual Abuse

**DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED** (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

### DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015**

**DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 12 months of the previous AGM]**

**13<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

### DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

**30<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

### GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

**13<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Presentation to the Group by Ken Macintosh MSP regarding an issue with one of his Constituents relating to the lack of appropriate services for trauma survivors. All members agreed that there can be issues relating to services and treatment appropriate to the needs of a trauma survivor, in particular the sexual abuse survivor. Concerns were raised about;

- The different funding strategies between health boards
- The appropriateness of existing psychiatric and psychological services for trauma survivors

Sandra Ferguson, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, NHS Lothian, explained about their specialist service at the Rivers Centre. At the centre, efforts are made to track the patients' journey from the time the trauma was identified. It was found that there are a lot of barriers to providing appropriate services. There is lack of appropriate identification of trauma a lack of recognition of the difficulties patients are presenting with and lack of making sense of the patients' whole journey.

It was agreed by the CPG to write a letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Alex Neil, highlighting disparities and concerns about the delay in accessing proper traumatic services.

**MSPs attending: 3**

**Non-MSPs attending: 15**

### **19<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Anne MacDonald provided a brief overview of the National Strategy for Survivors of Childhood Abuse. She also raised the concern over the Public Inquiry into historical abuse. She indicated that it was a matter of concern that no one in the Strategy team has experience of working with the survivors and its implications were discussed. It was agreed that Margaret as the Convenor, would write to the Cabinet Secretary Angela Constance to share the concerns of the CPG over such a public enquiry.

Presentation by Ms Catriona Dalrymple, Head of Policy, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), who explained the Prosecutor's approach to child sexual abuse cases.

Presentation by Mr Malcolm Graham, Assistant Chief Constable, Police Scotland, who shared the following key aspects with the CPG members:

- Structural changes made in Police Scotland, i.e. clear leadership in divisions
- Different task forces and units have been set up
- A pilot initiative that is in the process of being developed - a helpline service with Rape Crisis Scotland to inform victims what police services will do to deal with a victim's case.
- Reporting of cases has been increased, which is being viewed as a positive sign that police has good structure and procedure in place. 1/4th of reported abuse cases are related to child abuse.
- While it was shared that reporting of cases has increased, it was also stated that only 1 in 5 cases of abuse are reported, with further decline in numbers of child abuse cases. Often victims contact the Rape Crisis after more than a year of the offense being committed without having contacted the police at all. Barriers for victims to come forward with their cases were discussed.

**MSPs attending: 2**

**Non-MSPs attending: 21**

## **28<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Sarah Nelson raised a concern about renewed backlash against revelations of Sexual Abuse - Historic and Current - and proposed to provide an update at the next CPG. This was based on research undertaken by the University of Edinburgh. She shared that this is a significant issue, which is raising a number of concerns that the CPG should be aware of.

Javita Narang suggested that there is lack of information about CSA among the SEM including data on its prevalence as well as services available. She has been doing research on this issue and working on a documentary on this with Roshni. There is a need for more research and work in this area. It was agreed to take up this issue and a presentation can be considered at one of the CPG meetings this year.

Margaret Mitchell MSP read out the summary prepared by Anne Macdonald on the background and key components of the National Strategy. The proposal of the sub-group (Anne Macdonald, Martin Henry and Sandra Brown) for celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the national strategy for survivors of childhood abuse was also shared. It was agreed to take forward proposal 1 i.e. to invite a representative from the Survivor Scotland team at the next CPG meeting to receive information on the current status, content, and achievements of the National Strategy, and to discuss the Scottish Government's future plans for meeting the aims of the Strategy and the Development Fund. As an outcome, representative(s) from Survivor Scotland would be invited at one of the next meeting of the CPG.

Margaret Mitchell read the correspondence received from Andrew Campbell. The two points that he raised are:

1. How many judicial reviews are required for historic looked after children?
2. He felt there to be a bias towards females survivors. He shared that, speaking to a few survivors organisation in December, it appears that only 20% of people are seeking support. His concern was that as a harmed child, their voices were not heard and even as an adult they are asked to wait. He urged the CPG to look into this matter and actively communicate to the government to not only focus on looked after children, but focus their attention to other adult survivors as well out of residential care.

**MSPs attending: 2**

**Non-MSPs attending: 12**

## **4<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Informal meeting as there was only one MSP present, Mrs Margaret Mitchell MSP.

There followed a presentation by "Survivor Scotland Team" (Ms Linda Watters, Ms Shana McIntosh and Ms Karen Lax). This was an update on the Public Enquiry into Historic Child Sexual Abuse.

The process started in January 2015 and would conclude by 26th March 2015, whereby a series of consultations with survivors and concerned organisations is being conducted with the view to develop scope of the inquiry and ToRs and

attributes for the chair and the panel. Following these consultations, the data would be collated and analysed by the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS) to put together recommendations for the ToRs for the inquiry and attributes of the chair and panel. The Cabinet Secretary plans to announce the ToRs and the Chair of the inquiry by end of April 2015.

The discussion after the presentation centered on the following key aspects:

Concern that the focus is perceived to have shifted to the survivors of historic in-care abuse.

Clarification to be sought on the funding aspect, i.e. will all or part of the existing Survivor Scotland Development Fund be diverted to the Survivor Support Fund?

Clarification on who the Survivor Support Fund will be created for - is it only for survivors of historic in-care abuse?

Ms Linda Watters clarified that the Survivor Support Fund is for all survivors of abuse, not only for in-care abuse survivors. She also added that no part of the Development Fund is being diverted to the current public inquiry or the Survivor Support Fund. She informed that there is funding for Survivor Scotland till 2016. There is no decision on funding yet after the next year.

Sarah Nelson informed that there is a growing backlash movement against the revelations of sexual abuse brushing it aside as panic. She shared about a current conflict at the Edinburgh University with some faculty in the Social Work department actively fuelling these ideas around moral panic with blogs, research projects and seminars. There is a growing movement and an opposition amongst many groups including a group of academics, feminists and others. Rape Crisis Scotland is aware of this too. There have been a series of very highly funded seminars by ESRC on Moral Panic. There is a movement to discredit child sexual abuse and it is important that the CPG is aware of it. Sarah Nelson would keep the members informed about the developments.

Margaret Mitchell MSP shared her disappointment for absence of other MSP members from the CPG meetings and shared that attempt would be made to ensure their participation.

Margaret Mitchell noted that Johann Lamont MSP has expressed her interest in becoming a member and the group agreed she would be a welcome MSP member of the CPG.

**MSPs attending: 1**

**Non-MSPs attending: 23**

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015**

The AGM was incorporated into this meeting, commencing with the AGM.

Convener's report: Margaret Mitchell MSP provided an update on where were are with the work programme.

Treasurer's Update: August 2014 subscriptions still not paid. The Treasurer to email individuals to request immediate payment.

Election of Office Bearers':

Convener – Margaret Mitchell MSP  
Deputy Convener – Kenneth Gibson MSP  
Deputy Convener – Johann Lamont MSP  
Co-convener – Sarah Nelson  
Co-convener – Martin Henry  
Co-convener – Anne Macdonald  
Secretary – Javita Narang,  
Treasurer – Marnie Collin

**MSPs attending: 2**

**Non-MSPs attending: 21**

**MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Margaret Mitchell- Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party  
Kenneth Gibson- SNP  
Johann Lamont – Scottish Labour  
Alison McInnes- Scottish Liberal Democrats  
Elaine Smith- Scottish Labour  
Jackie Baillie- Scottish Labour

**NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals	Sarah Nelson – Co-Convener Martin Henry – Co-Convener Anne Macdonald – Co-Convener Javita Narang – Secretary Marnie Collin – Treasurer Andrew Campbell R. Eric Swanepoel Anke Kossurok
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	Dr Sandra Ferguson
Organisations	<p>Safe Space</p> <p>Meadows Sexual Trauma Team</p> <p>NHS Lothian (CAMHS) and DCP-Scotland</p> <p>Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre</p> <p>Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project</p> <p>Barnardo's</p> <p>Rape &amp; Sexual Abuse Centre, Perth &amp; Kinross (RASACPK)</p> <p>Safe Strong &amp; Free</p> <p>Rape Crisis Scotland</p> <p>Health in Mind</p> <p>CHILDREN 1ST</p> <p>SAY Women</p> <p>Izzy's Promise</p> <p>Open Secret</p> <p>Break the Silence</p> <p>Safe to Say</p> <p>Moira Anderson Foundation</p> <p>Corner Stone</p> <p>Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA)</p> <p>Stop It Now</p> <p>Relationships Scotland</p> <p>Pilton Community Health Project</p>
<p><b>GROUP OFFICE BEARERS</b></p> <p>Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.</p>	
Convener	Margaret Mitchell MSP
Deputy Conveners	Kenneth Gibson MSP, Johann Lamont MSP
Co-Conveners	Sarah Nelson, Martin Henry, Anne Macdonald

Secretary	Javita Narang
Treasurer	Marnie Collin

**FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP**

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

**SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP**

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

£15.00 per parliamentary year for refreshments at meetings and travel expenses of speakers. Organisation members of the CPG who wish to contribute more are able to do so. Student members pay a fee of £5 per parliamentary year.

**CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS**

Name	Margaret Mitchell MSP
Parliamentary address	Room M2.09 Scottish Parliament EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 5639