

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse

MINUTES

9th November 2016

Apologies

Sarah Nelson
Anne McDonald
Sandie Barton – Rape Crisis
May Chamberlain – Relationship Scotland
Sandra Brown – MAF
Sharon Belshaw – Breaking the Silence
Alison Tait – Breaking the Silence

Attendance

Andrew Campbell
Dr Sandra Ferguson NES
Sharon Guest Barnardos
Sue Hampson Safe to Say
Alison Harris MSP
Martin Henry
Kirsty-Louise Hunt, PA to Monica Lennon MSP
Traci Kirkland Open Secret
Johann Lamont MSP
Fulton MacGregor MSP
Margaret Mitchell MSP
Marianne Paton Margaret Mitchell MSP staff
Janine Rennie Open Secret
Lorraine Sorley Health in Mind
Eric Swanepoel

Minutes of 21st September 2016

Proposed – Janine Rennie

Seconded – Traci Kirkland

Matters Arising

- The CPG is now fully registered in the Scottish Parliament for this session
- Martin offered apologies for the glitches with the new Gmail for the CPG and reminded people to let him/Annie Macdonald know by

email in advance of meetings if they have heard nothing from us. This way we can identify any continuing problems with keeping people informed through the email account.

Johann Lamont (JL) proposed that the dates for the meetings for the coming session be arranged in advance. It was agreed that meetings be held on the 3rd Wednesday in the month on a bi-monthly basis.

The dates for future meetings are:-

- January 18th 2017
- March 15th 2017
- May 17th 2017

All meetings will be at 1pm in the Scottish Parliament.

Procedure and Terms of Reference

The Procedure and Terms of Reference for the CPG were previously circulated and adopted,

Future work programme

A variety of ideas were put forward for inclusion in the work programme for the CPG for this session and a wide ranging discussion held by the meeting:-

- Need to focus more on the *consequences* of sexual abuse for adult survivors and how their ongoing needs are seen and met. This should also include a focus on the physical health issues facing adult survivors. AC also raised the previous research completed by Sarah Nelson and proposed that she be invited to deliver an input to an away day for CPG members.
- The Survivors Fund may raise issues about the impact on lives of survivors and the implications for wider policy areas (JL).
- Further focus on awareness raising about the long term impact of abuse on the lives of adult survivors....some concern was raised that services seemed to be moving more towards a 'community care' model rather than an empowerment and community development approach (JR).
- MM urged some caution about the CPG becoming immersed in the issues being dealt with through the National Inquiry.
- SF proposed that we discuss the update on the current project to develop a National Training Framework for trauma and complex

trauma especially understanding evidence based approaches to trauma informed care, support and interventions.

- SH raised current concerns about changes to the ways that the veracity of survivors (and complainers in legal processes) were being perceived.
- AC thought it would be important also to focus on what good practice looks like especially in compassion-led models – giving people a sense of community and that their needs and objectives are being understood.
- MM proposed further reconsideration of any forthcoming legislation including issues like Time Bar.
- SH thought that prevention approaches should also be prioritised alongside consideration of 'treatment' models and interventions.
- MH reported on the establishment of a Think Tank to take forward the development of a national prevention model spanning child abuse and other forms of harm/interpersonal abuse and exploitation. This is being led by Evaluation Support Scotland funded by Survivor Scotland. SG is a member of the Think Tank as will be MH's successor at Stop it Now! Scotland (Stuart Allardyce). It was agreed that SG will report back on this work to the next meeting of the PCG (**ACTION SG**)
- The issue of how the effects of child sexual abuse and the experiences of adults affected by it cross cut a range of 'policy areas' and silos within government was raised (AC). It was suggested that the CPG needs to develop better ways of collaborating with other CPG's dealing with other policy areas which our area interfaces with. Access to support and services and systems for survivors in families and communities are affected by this and the effects of abuse overall are being missed. It is important therefore to see the *holistic* needs of survivors and not just focus on mental health and justice issues.
- JR thought that the physical health of survivors is one of the biggest impact issues but we also recognise that there is impact across all areas of the lives of survivors.
- AH was concerned that we continually put too much emphasis on the legal system and the remedies it is perceived to offer.
- MH again raised an issue previously raised by SN that survivors issues can be seen increasingly as equalities issues rather than directly related to health and suggested the CPG could unpick this further in future discussions about approaches to intervention, evidence-based practice etc.

The next meeting of the CPG will distil and prioritise these observations into a programme of work and discussion for the remainder of this session.

It seems important however to focus on:

- the needs of adult survivors
- interventions and approaches to improving the lives of survivors including evidence based practice
- prevention
- collaboration across other 'policy areas' and CPG's
- equalities – including how survivors needs are understood, access to services and interventions, the awareness and responses of general and specialist services in meeting the needs of survivors, empowering survivors towards recovery and integrated living.

Apology Bill

MM reported on the Apology Bill and changes made to it during its passage through the Committee stage. Further discussions have taken place between MM and the Minister and the SG team concerning waiving admissibility in civil proceedings. It was agreed that if CPG members are concerned about this issue they should write directly to the Minister (Annabel Ewing).

MM closed the meeting with thanks to all in attendance.

Date of the next meeting Wednesday 18th January 2017 at 1pm.