

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

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 15 May 2019 1.00 pm

Scottish Parliament Committee Room 3

**In attendance**

Johann Lamont, MSP Convener, Fulton MacGregor, MSP Depute Convener, Anne Macdonald, Co-Convener, Janine Rennie, Wellbeing Scotland, Co Convener

Stuart Allardyce, Stop It Now!, Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation, Treasurer, Emma Bryson, SOS, Sheila Gaul, Social Worker, Tammy Kirk, Health in Mind, Ewan Law, Rowan Alba, Margaret Mitchell MSP, Dr Eric Swanepoel, Writer, Alison Wales, NSPCC, Claire Wilson, MSP staff (Margaret Mitchell MSP)

**Apologies**

Jackie Baillie MSP, Sandie Barton, Rape Crisis, May Chamberlain, Relationships Scotland, Ann Donnan, Safe Space, Dr Sandra Ferguson, NES NHS, Traci Kirkland, Govan Community Project, Dr Javita Narang, Social Destination, Jackie Smith, Say Women, Lorraine Sorley, Health in Mind, Joy Patrick, KASP, Alison Tait, Break the Silence

**Welcome, apologies and introductions**

Johann welcomed everyone to the meeting. Noted that Traci Kirkland has left Wellbeing Scotland and is now with the Govan Community Project. Traci would like to continue her membership with the CPG. We wish her well in her new post and continued membership of the group. Lorraine Sorley from Health in Mind has stood down; Tammy Kirk from HIM will attend in her place.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of our meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were approved

Nominated: Janine Rennie

Seconded: Sandra Brown

**Matters arising**

Invitation to Cabinet Secretary for Justice: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice is unfortunately unable to attend today due to personal family circumstances. We will be in touch with his office to arrange another date. **Action: Johann and Fulton**

## Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill

Fulton provided the group with an update that Stage 3 of the Bill has been passed with the age of criminal responsibility raised to 12 years. Full details can be found on the parliament website.

There was some discussion on the Bill and that some young children are coerced into abusing other children by their abusers. Many services for children in these circumstances are now either closed or suffering shortage of funding. Stuart from Stop It Now! highlighted the research project Preventing sexual offending involving children and young people. Stuart is happy to provide the group with a presentation once it is finalised and in the public domain. **Action TBC**

## Sheila Gaul application to join the CPG

Anne and Janine contacted Sheila and provided her with our Procedures and Terms of Reference as well as future dates of meetings and events. The membership approved Sheila's application. Johann welcomed Sheila as a new member of the group.

## **Treasurer Update**

Sandra intimated that she has no detailed list of current membership to enable the collection of membership fees. We have not had responses to meeting requests by several individuals and agencies. It was agreed an email should be sent requesting confirmation of continued membership. If we do not hear within six weeks we will assume there is no wish for further membership. The membership fee can be issued at our AGM in September.

Anne and Janine will provide Sandra with a list of current membership and another once the six week period elapses. **Action: Anne and Janine**

## **Application for membership**

We have been approached by Adam Mahoney, Scottish Prison Service Psychology Manager at Cornton Vale requesting to join the CPG. Adam has been the Psychology Manager at HMP Cornton Vale for the last 10 years and is very interested in how we best help survivors in the criminal justice system.

Adam's membership was approved. Anne and Janine will let him know the outcome and provide him with our Procedures and Terms of Reference and dates of future meetings. **Action: Anne and Janine**

## **Parliamentary Reception: Discussion**

Some members contacted the Secretariat as well as Johann and Fulton on why the CPG was not informed about the event held in the parliament held by Rape Crisis and sponsored by the CPG on Men's Violence Against Women & Children with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in attendance. They felt there was this meant no

opportunity for collaborative working with survivor agencies and survivors between the two Cross Party Groups.

Johann and Fulton have contacted Rona Mackay MSP who hosted the event. It appears that there was a communication breakdown due to tight deadlines. It was agreed that there should be more collaborative communications in the future.

Ewan suggested another means to communicate in the parliament was by linking up to the new Community Engagement Team. Anne informed the group that we have been contacted to see if the organisers of CPG meetings would like to meet up to share ideas and experience. **Action: Anne and Janine**

## **Events Update**

### Networking Evening with the play Titus followed by Q&A

Sandra and Alison have secured a date for the above event. Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 6.30 – 8.30 pm. Claire Haughey, Minister for Mental Health has confirmed her attendance. Anne, Janine and Sandra will attend a meeting with the parliament's Event's Team to discuss costs, etc. Following on we will have a discussion with Johann and Fulton on the format of the Event. **Action: Anne Janine and Sandra**

### Nadine Milne, Policy Team, Scottish Government

Anne and Janine met with Nadine and she is happy to attend a future meeting to update on SG work for survivors. Agreed we will contact Nadine once we have dates. **Action: Anne and Janine**

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Petition and the Cross Party Group

Anne highlighted that 2020 will be the anniversary of her petition to the Scottish Parliament on behalf of adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse calling for a National Strategy and to secure funding for survivor agencies.

This petition resulted in the convening of the Cross Party Group for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse by Marilyn Livingstone MSP. Following lobbying by the CPG the National Strategy for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, SurvivorScotland was launched in 2005.

It was agreed that we should use this anniversary to acknowledge the journey from Anne's petition and how the experiences of survivors of childhood sexual abuse have been shaped since 2000. Anne has kept a timeline since the petition which can help inform how we mark this celebration.

Johann and Fulton will look at a potential debate in parliament and an event to mark the anniversary next year. Anne, Janine, Eric and Ewan will meet to discuss forma. **Action: Johann, Fulton, Anne and Janine**

## **AOCB**

Dr Sandra Ferguson has offered to update the group on the work on the National Trauma Training Project. The group welcomed Sandra's offer. We will contact Sandra regarding suitable dates. **Action: Anne and Janine**

## **Date of next meetings**

Johann proposed we set a date for our AGM in September. Johann's office will be in touch once availability is known. Anne and Janine will circulate these to members. **Action: Anne and Janine**