

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

Virtual Business Meeting

Thursday 18th March 2021 10.00 am

In attendance

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

Sandra Brown, Treasurer, Moira Anderson Foundation, Lynn Burns, Break the
Silence, Andrew Campbell, Student, Alexa Green, Student, Tammy Kirk, Health in
Mind, Dr Javita Narang, Social Destination, Rukhsana Saleem, Moira Anderson
Foundation, Dr Eric Swanepoel, Writer & Researcher, Brian Whittle MSP, Carol
Willson, Student,

Apologies

Emma Bryson, SOS, May Chamberlain, Relationships Scotland, Ann Donnan, Safe
Space, Pam Hunter, Say Women, Margaret Mitchell MSP, Joy Patrick, KASP

Welcome and introductions

Johann and Fulton welcomed everyone to the meeting. Alexa our new member
introduced herself and we all look forward to her contributions in the future.

Fulton apologised to the group for the technical problems we encountered last week
resulting in the abandonment of the meeting. He highlighted the inconvenience this
may have caused. We all agreed technical issues happen and we cannot always
control these.

Minutes of meeting 20th January 2021

Approved: Carol Willson
Seconded: Andrew Campbell

Minutes of meeting 18th March 2021

Approved: Johann Lamont MSP
Seconded: Fulton MacGregor MSP

Matters arising

Anne sent confirmation to Alexa Green on the acceptance of her membership with
our Terms of Reference.

Anne distributed Stuart's PPT Presentation to the membership as agreed.

Updates on correspondence

Questions raised in parliament on COVID. There has not been any opportunity to raise any as yet. We agreed that time is short before the Election; however Johann and Fulton will attempt to raise in particular the issues survivors face from the Covid swab procedure. Carol and Andrew will attempt to put together a few bullet points on Disability Benefit and the trauma it engenders for survivors.

It was agreed that the many areas of concern from Covid for survivors and agencies will be a major part of our work in the new session of parliament. Millennium Goals should be brought in regarding the right for access to healthcare

Responses from Scottish Football Association and Cabinet Secretary for Justice on delays to final Report. Apart from the initial responses nothing else has been received, perhaps due to the Report being published. Johann brought up the need to revisit this and the Football Association Report in England to ensure the Recommendations were being implemented and the compensation was forthcoming. Children and young people are also at risk of sexual abuse; Sandra highlighted the Go Carting Industry as one example.

Cross Party Group Website

Emma raised this as a positive step to enable the group's purpose and work to be communicated to a wider audience. We sent round an example of Westminster's CPG website. Emma would be willing to set it up in accordance of the parliament's Standards Procedures. Emma unfortunately cannot make the meeting today. It was agreed that setting up a website is a good idea and we will raise this when the group is hopefully re-registered following the Election. Alexa kindly offered to help as she has experience of web sites. Fulton mentioned the use of individual's and agencies Twitter accounts, even to express the CPG meeting went well.

Cross Party Group re-registration following Election 6th May 2021

We need to have 5 MSPs registering, if possible across the political parties to enable us to register. We need one MSP to act as Depute. We have 90 days to re-register, if we can comply with this, we must hold an initial meeting and elect office bearers. Following this initial meeting the Convener, or the Convener's authorised signatory must submit a completed registration form to the Standard's Clerks.

Johann believes the importance of this group should attract newly elected MSPs but we should move quickly once they are sworn in. Parliamentary Committees should also be approached on the relevance our issues pertain to their work.

Following the last Election we produced one page information paper on the group and what we have achieved and why it is still needed. It was agreed that this should be produced and sent out to newly elected MSPs. **Action Anne and Janine**

AOCB

Fulton suggested we bring agenda items forward prior to the Votes of Thanks.

Andrew brought to the group's attention a miscommunication and misunderstanding with the Moira Anderson Foundation's Report on Positive Steps Evaluation and his and Carol's previous research with potential conflict of interests. Sandra explained that the Report was an Evaluation and MAF have agreed to include in the Report that questions posed to clients are not unique to MAF. Javita provided some input from her academic perspective and is happy to discuss further with Andrew and Carol.

Anne highlighted that Lady Dorrian's report on the Investigation and prosecution of sexual crime has just been published and available on the Scottish government's website.

Vote of thanks to Johann, Margaret and Fulton

Fulton requested we place on record his thanks to everyone on the group, but in particular Johann and Margaret who are not standing for re-election. He said that even with parties own political differences the collegiate nature of everyone working together to improve the lives of survivors was paramount and we have achieved so much in these past twenty years. His respect for them both and his five years on the group is something he is proud of. It is a pity that other parliamentary commitments have prevented Margaret being with us today but she will receive these final minutes to read our thanks.

Anne thanked Johann and Margaret for all their support and dedication to the CPG over many years. Their knowledge and passion to improve the lives of survivors has been beyond measure. She feels that we have all become friends as well as colleagues working together on very painful and unjust experiences that survivors have to endure. She thanked Fulton for his support and commitment as well and wishes him well in the forthcoming election.

Johann gave a heartfelt contribution on how much being part of our work for survivors mean to her personally as well as an MSP. Reflecting on her previous career in teaching she realises that abuse was occurring with some pupils but there was not the language or knowledge we have now to address it. She feels warmth and passion for the work of our CPG and it has been a privilege to be part of it. She feels sadness at leaving but will keep in touch and help in any way she can.

Johann thanked Margaret and Fulton for all their support. Finally the CPG can help survivors know that we are here in the parliament and trying our very best to change from a childhood stolen by sexual abuse to improving lives for all survivors in Scotland.

Anne concluded that the voices of survivors both in the group and in society must continue to be heard and she is proud to have been part of this group and its work since her petition in 2000.

The meeting ended.