

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

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 1pm

Scottish Parliament Committee Room 4

In attendance

Margaret Mitchell MSP Convenor, Johann Lamont MSP Depute Convenor, Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh, Anne Macdonald, Co Convenor, Andrew Campbell, Co Convenor, Carol Willson, Sandra Brown Moira Anderson Foundation, Dr Eric Swanepoel, Dr Sandra Ferguson, NHS Education for Scotland, Ewan Law, Rowan Alba, Ruth Firskney, Barnardos

Apologies

Fulton MacGregor MSP, Sue Hampson, Safe to Say, Sharon Belshaw, Break the Silence, May Chamberlain, Relationship Scotland, Anne Donnan, Safe Space, Alison Harris, MSP, Traci Kirkland, Wellbeing Scotland, Ilene Easton, Wellbeing Scotland, Janine Rennie Wellbeing Scotland Treasurer, Neil Munro, Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project, Lorraine Sorley, Health in Mind, Jackie Smith, SAY Women, Alison Tait, Break the Silence, Stuart Allardyce, Stop it Now Scotland,

Welcome and Introductions

Margaret Mitchell MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 13th September were proposed by Andrew Campbell and seconded by Sarah Nelson.

The minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 13th September were proposed by Anne Macdonald and seconded by Dr Eric Swanepoel.

Matters arising

An updated register of membership and clarification on outstanding fee payments will be communicated to members. A designated second signatory for the CPG account will be carried out by Neil Munro, KASP. **Action Janine Rennie**

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. This feedback will be taken into account with a second draft distributed at our next meeting for finalisation.

Action Anne Macdonald, Andrew Campbell, Carol Willson, Janine Rennie

Police Scotland Presentation

Detective Chief Inspector Catriona Henderson, Specialist Crime Division and Detective Inspector Kerr Duncan were welcomed to the meeting.

Police Scotland has produced a leaflet titled 'Information for Survivors of Childhood Abuse'. DCI Henderson and DI Duncan requested feedback from the CPG on its content and accessibility as it is in the process of being reprinted.

An open discussion followed which drew praise of the production of a leaflet by Police Scotland for survivors; however it prompted several concerns in terms of content and terminology.

Some points that arose:

- Omission of child sexual abuse and child abuse being a crime
- Need for consistency in language use on abuse. The language used in the draft leaflet for survivors was a major issue for the group, the appropriateness and not user friendly
- Concern that reported sexual abuse police Scotland was treated in the same manner as reporting a stolen car; that this response from Police Scotland could make things worse
- Accessible format
- Reporting abuse can make things worse for some survivors due to police procedures
- What preparation does police Scotland provide for individuals whilst reporting abuse and what understanding and support around traumatisation whilst reporting
- Male survivors would not contact Rape Crisis. Understanding of gender and male victimisation requires greater understanding
- The helpline numbers are biased towards In Care abuse survivors
- Concern that the 101 telephone handlers are not a specialised unit that are trained to deal with such sensitive calls
- The link between health services and support to police Scotland - misunderstanding about the range of options
- Concerns regarding information access while transition between Police Scotland and Crown offices

The group thanked Detective Chief Inspector Catriona Henderson and Detective Inspector Kerr Duncan for their interest in our work and for their openness to our suggestions on Police Scotland's work in this field.

It was agreed that the CPG members can further comment and this will be passed to Police Scotland for consideration. **Action Anne Macdonald**

NSPCC: The Right to Recover Report Update

Johann Lamont MSP attended a presentation by NSPCC on the above Report in the Scottish Parliament and found this to be an area that we should be supporting.

Some members expressed regret that this issue of children and adolescent mental health is still unresolved after many decades of awareness raising and challenges for more and improves services.

Representatives from NSPCC will be invited to present their Report at our next meeting. **Action Anne Macdonald and Andrew Campbell**

AOCB

Johann Lamont attended Wellbeing Scotland's Conference in Glasgow with speakers including Dr John Read and Dr Sarah Nelson on the medicalisation of the consequences on a history of childhood sexual abuse.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed we would circulate dates once room availability was confirmed.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 7th March 2018 1.00 pm CR1 Scottish Parliament Building