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CPG Commercial Sexual Exploitation Meeting

Scottish Parliament

25th September 2018

6pm -8pm

Minutes

Apologies

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Pam Cairns | Soroptimists |
| Anne Hayne | NHS Lanarkshire |
| Dr Alison Scott | NHS Lothian |
| Jo Zawadzka | Zero Tolerance |
| Shairi Bowes | Scottish Women's Convention |
| Susan Moffat | individual |
| Erika Grant | Project Turnkey |
| Kieran Turner | Evangelical Alliance Scotland |
| Paula Mitchell | Women for justice |
| Shairi Bowes | Scottish Women's Convention |
| Tony Martin | Individual |

Attendance

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Gordon MacDonald | CARE |
| Louise Gleich | CARE |
| Rhoda Grant | MSP (Co-Chair) |
| John Mason | MSP |
| Jacci Stoye | ACTS |
| Frankie O'Rourke | CSG Routes Out (secretariat) |
| Aileen Fleming | CAHIRA |
| Kate Fry | Rhoda's Office |
| Linda Thompson | Women's Support Project |

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|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Bronagh Andrew | CSG TARA |
| Siobhan Jess | Nordic Model Now |
| Janet Warren | Graduate women Scotland |
| Chris Hall | Not for Sale in Scotland |
| Ann Hall | Not for Sale in Scotland |
| Janice Wilson | Soroptimists |
| Peter Hope-Jones | Scottish Government |
| Trevor Owen | Scottish Government |
| Vicki Gilden | The Salvation Army |
| Beverley Johnston | The Salvation Army |
| Katie Lang | Soroptimist International |

Agreeing the Minutes of the previous meeting

Rhoda opened the meeting and asked if the group could agree the Minutes of the previous meeting. Jacci Stoye agreed the minutes. There were no matters arising.

Input by Linda Thompson

Linda update the group on the Encompass network paper “Preventing and eradicate prostitution: a proposed approach for Scotland”. This paper outlines the Encompass Network's proposed approach for preventing and eradicating prostitution in Scotland. The Encompass Network has developed this approach in consultation with women involved in prostitution, and on the basis of evidence from research and practice about what is needed. The paper is consistent with Equally Safe, the Scottish Government's human rights-based strategy to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls. Prostitution is part of a continuum of violence against women and girls which stems from gender inequality. There are seven elements to the approach which, combined, are an effective strategy for reducing vulnerability to prostitution; for supporting those who are harmed by it; and for eliminating it entirely.

MSP updates

Rhoda informed the group that due to her appointment as Community Safety Minister Ash Denham is no longer permitted to sit on cross party groups. It was agreed that new office bearers would be elected.

Human Trafficking update

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Peter Hope-Jones from the Scottish Government's Human Trafficking team briefed the group on the current Human Trafficking Strategy. Peter informed the Group that the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy was published in 2017 and a progress report was published earlier this year. The Strategy has two areas particularly relevant to the work of the Group, to identify victims and support them to safety and recovery, and to address conditions that foster trafficking and exploitation.

Here are some links he offered to attendees for interest:

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy:

<https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/05/6059/0>

First Annual Progress Report on Strategy implementation:

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-exploitation-strategy-first-annual-progress-report/>

Standard Awareness Raising Presentation:

<http://www.migrationscotland.org.uk/our-priorities/current-work/human-trafficking-and-exploitation>

The group had some questions for Peter which he responded to post meeting.

Q. Are there any issues that you foresee in relation to human trafficking and Brexit?

A. Yes, like many other areas, we have concerns about the potential impacts of Brexit on human trafficking work.

First, in terms of operational activity led by Police Scotland – they currently have excellent working links across Europe with an embedded presence in Europol, and involvement in Joint Investigation Teams on specific cases. It's inevitable that these relationships will be less direct after Brexit, and this will potentially slow down investigations and prosecutions. COPFS also work closely with European bodies including Eurojust.

Secondly, changes to border controls and immigration and reduced availability of migrant workers may lead to increases in trafficking and labour exploitation.

It remains the case that there is very little clarity on what will actually be in place after Brexit, which makes it difficult to plan effectively. Nonetheless, the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, COPFS and other partners are working to ensure effective international relationships to minimise disruption and delays. An example of this is the direct links with Romania that we've been working to strengthen.

Multi agency group on commercial sexual exploitation

Trevor Owen from the Scottish Government Equality Unit updated the group on the first MAGCSE which took place in September. Trevor talked about the membership of the group which included representation of frontline services working across the CSE and VAW sector

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as well as representatives from services including NHS, Police Scotland and Scottish Government.

Trevor advised that the establishment of the Group was a commitment in the Equally Safe delivery plan, and that its findings would be fed into to the Equally Safe Joint Delivery Group, which focusses on implementation of the delivery plan.

AOB

There was some group discussion between members about how we work with the Scottish Government in driving forward any actions identified within the equally safe delivery plan.

DONM

The schedule of 2019 meetings will be issued in advance for the year.