

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

Wednesday 13th September 2017 1.00 pm
Scottish Parliament Committee Room 4

Annual General Meeting

In attendance

Stuart Allardyce, Stop it Now! Scotland, Andrew Campbell, Dr Sandra Ferguson, NES Scotland, Traci Kirkland, Wellbeing Scotland, Jessica Kozlak, Researcher, Johann Lamont MSP, Deputy Convenor, Neil Munro, KASP, Anne Macdonald, Co-Convenor, Fulton MacGregor MSP, Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh, Margaret Mitchell MSP, Convenor, Janine Rennie, Wellbeing Scotland, Treasurer, Lorraine Sorley, Health in Mind, Dr Eric Swanepoel, Writer and Researcher, Carol Willson

Welcome & apologies

Sharon Belshaw, Break the Silence, Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation, May Chamberlain, Relationships Scotland, Ann Donnan, Safe Space, Ilene Easton, Open Secret, Ruth Frinskey, Barnardos Sue Hampson, Safe to Say, Kirsty Louise Hunt, Researcher, Monica Lennon MSP, Dr Javita Narang, Independent Consultant, Alison Tait, Break the Silence

Johann Lamont MSP chaired this meeting due to Margaret Mitchell MSP being temporarily held up. She welcomed everyone, gave apologies and attendees introduced themselves. Elections took place and results are as follows:

Convenor: Margaret Mitchell MSP

Proposed: Janine Rennie

Seconded: Neil Munro

Deputy Convenor: Johann Lamont MSP

Proposed: Eric Swanepoel

Seconded: Fulton MacGregor MSP

Co Convenor: Anne Macdonald

Proposed: Janine Rennie

Seconded: Stuart Allardyce

Co Convenor: Andrew Campbell

Proposed: Janine Rennie

Seconded: Carol Willson

Treasurer: Janine Rennie

Proposed: Sarah Nelson

Seconded: Anne Macdonald

Convenor's Report

Johann gave a verbal report on the past year's activities of the group. It was agreed that this report would be made available in written format for members at the next meeting. It will also be made available as our Annual Report for submission to Standards. **Action Anne**

Treasurer's Report

A report and financial breakdown had been circulated prior to the meeting. Janine requested clarification if the accounts could run from September to September as there was some confusion over when members had paid their subscription fee. It was agreed that we will check this through Margaret's office. Janine also highlighted that there were many unpaid subscriptions and several people on the membership list had not attended meetings for some time. It was agreed that a letter would be sent out asking for confirmation of membership of the group as well as membership fees. Janine also requested a second signature for the bank account. Neil Munro from KASP agreed to act as signatory. **Action Janine**

AOCB

Fulton suggested that the group try to attract new members; there may be other relevant agencies not aware of the group. It was agreed that the group membership should consider ways to attract new members through their networks.

Johann thanked everyone for their continued support and closed this Annual General Meeting of 13th September 2017.

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Apologies

Sharon Belshaw, Break the Silence, Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation, May Chamberlain, Relationships Scotland, Ann Donnan, Safe Space, Ilene Easton, Open Secret, Ruth Frinskey, Barnardos, Sue Hampson, Safe to Say, Kirsty Louise Hunt, Researcher, Monica Lennon MSP, Dr Javita Narang, Independent Consultant, Alison Tait, Break the Silence.

Minutes of last meeting

There were two suggested amendments which Anne will include prior to posting the minutes on the Parliament website. **Action Anne**

Minutes Proposed: Johann Lamont MSP Seconded: Janine Rennie

Matters arising

Johann intimated that Sharon Guest has resigned her membership. Johann thanked Sharon on behalf of the group for her invaluable help and commitment over the years. Ruth Frinskey will continue to represent Barnardos. Anne has requested that Ruth pass on our best wishes to Sharon.

Child Abuse Prevention Framework Group:

The CSA prevention group hosted by Survivor Scotland facilitated by Evaluation Support Scotland met four times and worked collaboratively to develop a framework which might be helpful for practitioners. This was then presented at an event with workshops where a wider group of interested individuals had an opportunity to review it, give feedback on the current format, what was missing, and how and if this might be used going forward. Other ideas were sought as to how we could share practice and evidence in prevention work.

Apologies Act

The Apologies (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force on 19th June 2017. It allows for an apology to be inadmissible as evidence of liability, in civil legal proceedings. This means that someone can give an apology without the worry that it will be used against them in court. There were two further exemptions to the Act added by the Scottish Government after the Act was passed, using secondary legislation. These are any regulatory proceedings held by the General Teaching Council Scotland and the Scottish Social Services Council.

National Trauma Training Framework

Sandra updated the group that following the publication of the Knowledge and Skills Framework for trauma, we are now working on a number projects

- Broadly applicable training material for Trauma Informed Practice
- Trauma Informed Leadership Training
- Training strategy- this is focussing on recommendations for the requirements for training and trainers across the tiers partly to ensure commissioners know what will be suitable and quality training for their staff needs

Sandra will keep the group informed of future progress.

Membership requests

Ewan Law from Rowan Alba (Rowan Alba works with those whose lives are chaotic often, but not exclusively, due to domestic abuse, drug or alcohol dependency or mental health issues) has requested membership of the CPG. Anne read out his written interest and reasons why he would like to join. As these are wholly compatible with the interests of survivors and our work it was unanimously agreed that Ewan become a member. Anne will inform him of this decision and the date of the next meeting. **Action Anne**

Chris Murphy from Committed to Ending Abuse (CES) had requested membership of the CPG, however following emails from Anne asking for information on CES and their interest in joining the CPG there has been no response to date. It was agreed to defer to the next meeting.

Future Work Programme

The sub group have met and from the discussion it was felt that addressing these issues with the SurvivorScotland Policy Team would not be productive as they have decided their model of care and training which is not compatible with survivors and survivor agencies.

Meanwhile we agreed there is the need for a Forum and Public Campaign similar to Rape Crisis which will be survivor centred and led. This may have to become separate to the CPG but will be informed by and will feedback to the CPG.

- It will be independent with clear and defined principles and ethos

- It will work towards a shared understanding of the needs of female and male adult survivors
- It would establish a training model that addresses the psychological and health care needs of survivors, as well as life and social skills, including positive parenting, education and housing

It was agreed we should consider developing a mapping exercise on survivor organisations, what services they provide, if they provide advocacy, support with benefits, housing, etc. **Action Anne, Andrew, Carol and Janine**

SurvivorScotland: Policy Team Update

Jamie MacDougall and Vickie Milne from the Scottish Government Survivor Support Team were welcomed to the meeting. They provided a full update on their work (please see attached paper).

A wide and varied discussion with Cross Party Group members took place with lack of trust featuring highly, especially with survivors due to the change of direction of SurvivorScotland and its emphasis on a medical model approach.

That what had been achieved over the past ten years has been dismantled. For example the excellent SurvivorScotland website which provided reliable information on CSA and its effects as well as how to access help has been deleted.

That the Inquiry into In care and Historical abuse has become a priority for the government when most abuse happens in the home and community. The CPG recognises In Care and Historical abuse and its consequences, however there it is felt that there is no level playing field on funding for survivor services for those not abused whilst in care

An invitation by the Scottish Government Policy Team for the CPG to contribute to their proposed Reference Group was declined. It was acknowledged that members of the CPG can decide if they wish to join the Reference Group in their own capacity.

The Cross Party Group will continue to campaign for survivors by raising awareness on childhood sexual abuse and its long term consequences on health and wellbeing based on survivor's needs and aspirations.

The group thanked Jamie and Vicki for their attendance and contribution.

AOCB

The Tip of the Iceberg

We have been approached by the NSPCC Scotland to highlight the lack of services for children and young people and make us aware of research they are about to launch on the availability of therapeutic services for children and young people experiencing sexual trauma. This is an important piece of research and we agreed that the CPG would support it in any way we can.

It was agreed that Margaret and Johann look at tabling a motion for debate in the chamber and that once the report is available we will send out a link. **Action Margaret and Johann**

Sarah expressed great concern about the implications of a recent case of teenagers and pre-teenagers facing child sexual abuse or exploitation. This was heightened by concern that criminal injuries compensation had been denied young victims of CSE on the grounds that they had "consented". We agreed we will discuss this in greater detail at our next meeting.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that we will circulate dates in December to the membership once room availability has been determined.