

**THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
CROSS PARTY GROUP ON ADULT SURVIVORS
OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE**

Draft Minutes: November 18, 2015 at 1 pm

PRESENT

Margaret Mitchell MSP; Johann Lamont, MSP; Felicity Hollands, Scottish Parliament; Marianne Paton, Scottish Parliament; Blair Heary, Scottish Parliament; Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh; Martin Henry, Stop it Now; Anne Macdonald, Professional Advisor; Javita Narang, University of Edinburgh; Marnie Collin, KASP; Shaben Begum MBE, SIAA; Andrew Campbell, Bravemouth; Carol Willson, Independent; Dr Sandra Ferguson, Royal Edinburgh Hospital; Ann Donnan, Safe Space; Lorraine Sorley, Health in Mind; Sue Hampson, Safe to Say; Alison Christie; SFAD; Kath Muirhead, Pilton Community Health Project; Valerie Barr, Break the Silence

APOLOGIES

Kenneth J Gibson MSP; Elaine Smith MSP; Jackie Baillie MSP; Alison McInnes MSP; Sandie Barton, Rape Crisis Scotland; Jen Stewart, RASAC P&K; Anke Kossurok, University of Edinburgh; Traci Kirkland, Open Secret; Janine Rennie; Open Secret; Sharon Guest, Barnardo's; Dawn Fyfe; SAY Women; Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation; Muriel Mowat, SIAA; R. Eric Swanepoel, Writer & Publisher; Dr Rachel Happer, Meadows Sexual Trauma Team, NHS Lothian CAMHS; Carol Targett, Pilton Community Health Project

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting (September 2015) were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Carol Willson and seconded by Sarah Nelson.

MATTERS ARISING

The key concerns of the CPG and issues that need to be clarified at the Member's Debate were discussed. It was broadly agreed that more information and clarity was required on the Broker Model of mental health services, accessibility and availability of mental health services for sexual abuse trauma survivors, and eligibility criteria for funding. These concerns regarding the lack mental health services for survivors of sexual abuse experiencing complex trauma were discussed in detail at the September 2015 meeting.

CPG MEMBERSHIP: MARNIE COLLIN, TREASURER

Marnie shared the information about the updated accounts of the CPG and members who had paid the membership fee. She requested the members who had not paid the fee to do so at the earliest.

PRESENTATION: SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE FROM THE SCOTTISH ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES: JAVITA NARANG

Javita Narang was involved in making of a documentary on the survivors of childhood sexual abuse from the Scottish ethnic minority (SEM) communities. The documentary film was funded by Roshni and the SEM fund of the Big Lottery Fund. Since the documentary film is of 50-minute duration, it could not be screened due to lack of time. However, a brief presentation was made on the key issues and recommendations that emerged from the documentary based on interviews with two adult survivors of CSA and key stakeholders in Scotland including MSPs, Police Scotland, voluntary organisations, researchers and practitioners. She also complimented these learnings with her findings from her research. Based on the presentation and discussion, following key concerns emerged:

- Cultural issues that lead to denial of CSA and prevent disclosures by the survivors in the ethnic minorities, and the need for community education and awareness.

- High prevalence of CSA recognised, however lack of research and data. Police Scotland confirmed in the documentary that there is no body who collates data on sexual abuse. CPG members suggested raising this concern with Police Scotland to understand what kind of crime data was being collated by them and ways in which it was done. Getting adequate data was considered important from the perspective of prevention as well.
- Need for educating children in schools and developing specific 'keep safe modules' to address issues of safety from CSA. Children from SEM communities tend to be pulled out from sex education in schools. Specific 'keep safe modules' for ensuring personal safety and prevention of CSA were considered useful.
- Lack of culturally-specific services for the survivors of CSA from the ethnic minorities, language barriers and need for translators and interpreters, and lack of information and awareness of services prove to be barriers for accessing services for the SEM communities. Need for training local lay people and working in partnership (ethnic communities focused and other local Scottish organisations) were highlighted as some of the ways of addressing these issues based on the recommendations received by different stakeholders and survivors in the documentary.
- Need for research on CSA in the ethnic minorities including the access and availability of service provision and best ways of reaching out to these communities.
- Need for understanding variations within different ethnic communities as well as the specific gender variations in survivors.
- Need for a specific dedicated section on services and strategies to reach out to vulnerable and hard to reach groups such as the SEM communities in the National Strategy for Survivors of Childhood Abuse.

It was agreed to share the link of the documentary with the CPG members for viewing and further feedback and discussion.

UPDATE: MEMBER'S DEBATE: MARGARET MITCHELL AND JOHANN LAMONT

Johann Lamont shared that the date decided for the Member's Debate was 9th December, 2015 at 5 pm. Organisations were urged to contact their local MSPs to generate interest in the Motion and ensure greater participation and support from them. Sparking interest in media prior to the Debate was also considered. Margaret Mitchell read the draft of the Motion. Following action plan was agreed upon for the Member's Debate:

- Briefing paper to be ready a week before the debate, by 2nd December, 2015. As discussed at the September 2015 meeting, the briefing paper would be developed by co-convenors: Anne Macdonald, Martin Henry and Sarah Nelson.
- CPG members should send their contributions for the briefing paper to the Secretary Javita Narang a week before the deadline for the final briefing paper i.e. by 26th November, 2015.
- A networking coffee-reception to be scheduled soon after the Member's Debate to facilitate greater interaction on the concerns of the CPG.

UPDATE: APOLOGIES LEGISLATION: MARGARET MITCHELL

Margaret Mitchell provided an update on the Apologies Legislation. The Bill had passed stage 1 but a big concern was the Minister's views about the inadmissibility provision and the possibility that he would table an amendment removing this at stage 2. All members agreed that an Apology should be inadmissible in civil proceedings and there were no dissenters.

AOCB

- Andrew Campbell raised a question about the funding to the national confidentiality forum. Anne Macdonald clarified that the confidentiality forum is independent of Survivor Scotland and is not funded by Survivor Scotland. It was agreed to add this question to the Briefing Paper for the Member's debate.
- Sue Hampson informed about the Fundraising Concert by James Rhodes, organised by Safe to Say on 28th January, 2015 at the Queens Halls. Tickets are for £25 and are available from the Queen Hall.
- Sarah Nelson informed about four pilots in Scotland that are being launched on child-centric slow-down of the investigation and disclosure process of sexual abuse of children. Pilots will be operated differently in different areas to see what works the best.

Date of the next meeting:

3rd February, 2016 at 1 pm