

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

**Meeting Minutes: Wednesday 3 June 2015, 1.00pm**

**PRESENT**

Margaret Mitchell MSP; Johann Lamont MSP; Felicity Hollands, Scottish Parliament; Marianne Paton, Scottish Parliament; Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh; Anne Macdonald, Professional Advisor; Javita Narang, University of Edinburgh; Ann Donnan, Safe Space; Sandra Ferguson, Royal Edinburgh Hospital; Sandie Barton, Rape Crisis Scotland; R. Eric Swanepoel, Writer & Publisher; Lorraine Sorley, Health in Mind; Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation; Marnie Collin, KASP; Valerie Barr, Cornerstone; Sue Hampson, Safe to Say; Irene Edgar; Safe to Say; Janine Rennie, Open Secret; Traci Kirkland, Open Secret; Julie Fisher, Barnardo's; Kath Muirhead, Pilton Community Health Project; Alison Christie, SFAD; Margaret Livingstone; SFAD; Sonal Raithatha, NHS Lothian; Dawn Fyfe; SAY Women

**APOLOGIES**

Elaine Smith MSP; Jackie Baillie MSP; Andrew Campbell, Bravemouth; Ilene Easton, Open Secret; Jen Stewart, RASAC P&K; Anela Anwar, Roshni; Kate Short, Break the Silence; Sharon Guest, Barnardo's; Anke Kossurok, University of Edinburgh; Carol Targett, Pilton Community Health Project; Rachel Harper, NHS Lothian CAMHS; Martin Henry, Stop it Now

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting (March 2015) were approved as a correct record. Proposed by Janine Rennie, seconded by Anne Macdonald.

**MATTERS ARISING**

None

**AGM**

The meeting began with the AGM. For details, refer to the minutes of the AGM.

**CPG'S RESPONSE TO THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

A key concern about the Survivor Scotland funding was raised and discussed.

Anne Macdonald briefed the members about two issues that have been raised at the CPG over the past few meetings as well as by others in the community including survivors of abuse. One, regarding the National Strategy and its way forward over the next ten years, and the second regarding the Scottish Government's focus on historic in-care abuse. While the latter is justified, it was noted that it should not detract from the key focus of the National Strategy, which is meant for all survivors of abuse.

Within this context, there concerns were raised about the development fund and how the funding is going to be utilised, with 5.5 million been announced for support services for survivors of historic in-care abuse. There was little clarity on the utilisation of funds as the terms of reference have not been agreed yet. Furthermore, there was a further announcement about 1 million in addition to the current 800,000 for Survivor Scotland for the Survivor Development Fund. The criterion for funding is not clear, which was raised as a concern by a number of members. Margaret Mitchell further clarified that there are two different kinds of funds – one being the Development Fund that the CPG was instrumental in working towards, and second is the Survivor Support Fund. Members expressed concern that there may be funds taken away from the Development Fund to focus on survivors of historic in-care abuse. It was noted that about 80% survivors are abused in community setting and 20% in in-care setting. A number of CPG members including Sarah Nelson, Marnie Collin, Sandie Barton, Sandra Brown and others reiterated these concerns. It needs to be ensured that the

funding for the core group of survivors would continue and if the Development Fund would continue, to support that.

Concerns were also raised about lack of sufficient communication about the Survivor Scotland meeting scheduled on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Many organisations were not aware of this meeting and it was unclear how the funding would be allocated. It seemed that only certain networks and survivors were being consulted and invited for the meeting.

To summarise, the CPG seeks clarification about two concerns: i) Communication around the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June, to clarify the purpose of the meeting, invitees at the meeting and how they have been selected, and direction of the Development Fund; and ii) Focus and direction of the new fund i.e. the Survivor Support Fund.

### **Course of Action**

Following actions were decided as an outcome of the above discussion:

- It was agreed that the office bearers would meet with the Minister to clarify the above-mentioned concerns and feedback to the members at the next meeting.
- Organise a Reception to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary National Strategy (which is in September 2015) and launch a debate to discuss the concerns of the CPG at this event. The co-conveners would work on putting the Reception together and would brief the CPG about it.
- Sandie Barton offered to share a copy of the invite of the Survivor Scotland meeting scheduled on 5<sup>th</sup> June to the CPG Secretary, who will forward the same to all the members.

### **AOCB**

- Work program for the year: Three parts of the work program that have already been decided to be taken up by the CPG are as follows:
  - Female perpetrators of CSA
  - Reception and debate (discussed above)
  - CSA within the Scottish Ethnic Minorities

Margaret Mitchell asked the members to think about one or two more bids to be added to the work plan. These could be discussed at any of the forthcoming meetings.

- Kath Muirhead (new member from the Pilton Community Health Project) raised a concern about insufficient mental health services for survivors of CSA, especially those with complex mental health and post-traumatic stress symptoms. She agreed to make a presentation on the same at the next meeting.
- Sarah Nelson informed about the Media Guidelines that are being launched by NUJ and NSPCC Scotland on reporting pregnancy and sexual abuse in very young children. These arose out of a case of an 11 year old girl who became the youngest mother as a result of rape and sexual abuse.
- Sandra Brown informed the members about the Conference being organised by them on October 26, 2015 at the Howden Theatre, Livingston.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

September 9, 2015 at 1 pm