

## Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women & Children

**Minute of meeting Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015; 5.30pm – 7pm  
Room TG20/21- Scottish Parliament**

Item	Action
<p><b>1 Attending</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malcolm Chisholm- MSP</li> <li>• Claudia Beamish MSP</li> <li>• Alison McInnes MSP</li> <li>• Jamie McGrigor MSP</li> <li>• Rhoda Grant MSP</li> <li>• Louise Johnson - Scottish Women's Aid</li> <li>• Marsha Scott - Scottish Women's Aid</li> <li>• Mhairi McGowan - ASSIST</li> <li>• Stuart Valentine - Relationships Scotland</li> <li>• Jan Macleod - Women's Support Project</li> <li>• Alys Mumford - Engender</li> <li>• Billie Welleans - Soroptimist International</li> <li>• Marianne Simpson - Soroptimist International</li> <li>• Callum Hendry - White Ribbon Scotland</li> <li>• Jenny Kemp - Zero Tolerance</li> <li>• Graham Goulden - Violence Reduction Unit</li> <li>• Ashley Thompson - Shakti Women's Aid</li> <li>• Isy Hart</li> <li>• Louise Power - GCU</li> </ul> <p><b>In Attendance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catriona Dalrymple and Jane Benson - COPFS</li> <li>• Trevor Owen -The Equality Unit, Scottish Government</li> </ul> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christina McKelvie MSP</li> <li>• Graeme Richards - Circle</li> <li>• Nina Murray - Scottish Refugee Council</li> <li>• Christine Gray</li> <li>• Melanie McCarry - Strathclyde University</li> <li>• Cath Logan - Big Lottery Fund Scotland</li> <li>• Vikki Kerr - City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• Mandy McKerl</li> <li>• Jen Richards - Pilton Community Health Project</li> <li>• Lily Greenan</li> <li>• George Eckton</li> <li>• May Chamberlain - Relationships Scotland</li> <li>• Gillian Baker -Domestic Abuse Transitions Advice Project</li> <li>• Elaine Smith MSP</li> <li>• Sandie Barton - Rape Crisis Scotland</li> <li>• Davy Thompson - White Ribbon Scotland</li> <li>• Eva Kestner - office of Rhoda Grant MSP</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2 Approval of minutes of previous meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were approved</p>	

<p><b>3 Discussion with COPFS - Catriona Dalrymple, COPFS Head of Policy and Jane Benson, COPFS Victims' Policy Team</b></p> <p><b>Police reporting</b> -COPFS has developed a pilot with Police Scotland to improve police reporting. This 3 month pilot in Dumbarton, Falkirk and Inverness addressed information around the risk assessment carried out by police at the scene of a DA incident, particularly whether the current offence was part of a course of behaviour. Evaluation being carried out and if positive, consideration will be given to rolling out nationally. A question was raised around what COPFS' desired outcomes were and what indicators of "success" and "what worked" would be. COPFS will write to the CPG around outcome measurement.</p> <p><b>Dual Arrest &amp; Counter Allegations</b> - The meeting was advised that the Joint Police Scotland/COPFS Protocol was very clear on this but was perhaps not being followed consistently by attending police officers. For COPFS, decision making in relation to prosecution of parties reported by the police was around the whole incident, risk, typology, background of parties, other offending, conviction and other information.</p> <p>Discussion highlighted that the dual arrest response from the police was often wrongly ascribed to a "<i>pro-arrest policy and blanket approach</i>" despite the fact that the Protocol did, in fact, give police discretion, so this seemed to be a police training issue. The COPFS are working to address problems in this area through training. Desired outcomes and what constituted success in COPFS' eyes were raised.</p> <p>The meeting further noted that the problem was exacerbated by other statutory agencies' perception of DA and lack of awareness of coercive control which led to DA being labelled as a "misunderstanding or dispute". In certain areas, more women appear to be released by police on undertakings and the police have issued guidance around this and dual arrest. Since women were more likely to be detained over the weekend, it would be useful to obtain gender-disaggregated statistics over detention and arrest, and the COPFS said that this was possibly available and would investigate.</p> <p><b>Implementation of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014</b> - COPFS have fully implemented. For cases where a report has been received by the procurator fiscal on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, all adult and children under 18 victims of stalking, DA, human trafficking and stalking now have automatic access to standard special measures.</p> <p>COPFS are implementing automatic application/compliance schemes/change to Police Scotland reporting mechanisms so that police can report vulnerable witnesses and the COPFS has "visible information" on vulnerability needs. Will require a culture change in both the police and COPFS, so COPFS will review after 2 months to determine whether Police Scotland are identifying "deemed" vulnerable</p>	<p><b>ACTION – COPFS to contact CPG re outcome indicators on police reporting pilot and gender disaggregated "dual arrest" statistics</b></p>
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	<p>witnesses and whether VIA/COPFS has also identified them and sought special measures. The meeting commented that the type of special measure offered and used will make a difference and that this should be tested with stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Court times</b> - Court delays in specialist DA settings are significantly reduced, and COPFS has committed to getting trial diets within 16 weeks across Scotland, with the goal of reducing this further to 10-12 weeks.</p>	
4	<p><b>Statement of Intent (SOI) update - Callum Hendry, White Ribbon Scotland</b></p> <p>Callum had prepared a presentation to facilitate discussion on the next steps around the SOI. This document had been launched at the 2014 event - 48 MSPs signed up (5 party leader/reps) and another 9 on the 24<sup>th</sup> May. RCS, SWA, ZT, Engender and White Ribbon met in August. A briefing for MSPs on the range of VAW developments, intended to “join the dots” across all the work being done, was subsequently sent out to all MSPs. This produced 11 responses and more MSPs indicated that they would sign the Statement of Intent. Jenny from ZT advised that ZT had offered, as an interim measure on behalf of the CPG, to “host” a list of those MSPs and organisations that had signed up.</p> <p><a href="http://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/resources/ending-men%E2%80%99s-violence-against-women-statement-intent?destination=node%2F355">http://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/resources/ending-men%E2%80%99s-violence-against-women-statement-intent?destination=node%2F355</a></p> <p><b>Discussion on the next steps around the SOI followed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-How do we ensure that the work around the SOI and other relevant ongoing issues is preserved, as all legacy CPG pages are wiped after the end of each Parliament and the information on CPG work disappears? It is not possible to use the current Scottish Parliament website to “preserve” this information and it is also not set up for interaction to support networks, etc. Should the CPG develop an online hub to communicate with MSPs around the SOI and other CPG issues and to retain this information? The Women 50:50 website was quoted as an example of a website carrying out a similar function.</li> <li><a href="http://www.women5050.org/">http://www.women5050.org/</a></li> <li>-Would it be appropriate for the CPG to consider shared online ownership/ a CPG webpage to facilitate ongoing communications with MSPs generally and to preserve information and campaigning material? Concerns were raised about the practicalities of maintaining such a website and members’ capacity to do this. Would this be useful for MSPs or just duplication and “another” website they had to check? On the other hand, it could be an opportunity to improve engagement. It would be positive to have a public record and visual record/publicity of those who had signed.</li> <li>- How do we engage MSPs? Need to keep this as a cross-party issue and focus on VAW issues. Do we use Twitter and have a CPG Twitter feed that they could participate in? Alison Johnstone MSP reassured the group that MSPs are always open to phone contact, which would allow them to address</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p>

	<p>urgent issues more quickly and effectively. Most MSPs have a Twitter account - another avenue of communication and publicising events/issues, etc.</p> <p>Further discussion followed around the SOI; public commitment around VAW expected from those who sign? CPG role and how can the CPG provide MSPs with opportunities relevant to their parliamentary work that will support them in honouring the SOI commitment and backing the VAW agenda and Equally Safe?</p> <p>Trevor Owen mentioned that the SGov VAW Bulletin was being refreshed, particularly around the e-mail database and this may provide another opportunity to publicise the work of the CPG.</p> <p><b>Further work?</b>  -For those MSPs who have not signed up, suggestion that we run an event “CPG - Statement of Intent 2015 - One Year On” or something similar? This would afford those who have not signed up the opportunity to do so and also celebrate achievements around VAW work.  -Noted that the CPG is holding a meeting of its own as part of the 16 Days, on 9<sup>th</sup> December, so could the CPG host another “signing” event before that CPG meeting? Could other CPG members also hosting events during the 16 Days possibly incorporate a “drop-in” session? Is there any possibly of a “signing” on the date of the VAW debate (not yet known) or on a Thursday during the 16 Days since MSPs are in Parliament on that day?</p>	<p><b>MSP briefing to be sent around CPG</b></p> <p><b>Callum Hendry to e-mail SOI presentation</b></p> <p><b>Callum to e-mail CPG &amp; collect views on SOI next steps</b></p> <p><b>Callum will check 9<sup>th</sup> December CPG and other opportunities re further SOI signing, including the day of the SPAr VAW debate</b></p> <p><b>ZT to host information around the SOI on their website</b></p>
5	<p><b>16 Days Events</b>  <b>Discussion around structure of CPG agenda on 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>  -Use this as a vehicle for further SOI signings - see above?  -The Cabinet Secretary for Justice has been invited but are there any other ideas for content/invitations/ presentations for that CPG on what is happening on VAW around Scotland? The meeting is an opportunity to reflect on what is happening , geographically and sector-wide and to present service-led user policy to the Cabinet Secretary  -CPG can be used as a vehicle to disseminate information on the 16 Days - can we collate information about what is going on around Scotland and in the SPAr and share this? We could send out a once-a-week update on events during the 16 Days - members to send information to SWA.  -Children and Young People - hold a focussed event on how DA diminishes their space for action? Can the CPG produce a video on 16 Days based on the work Shakti, etc. are doing - see below? Take up the theme of helping girls’ education? Link with “Equally Safe” - invite the Education Secretary and/or Alex Neil?  <b>Other CPG member events during 16 Days</b>  -<b>ZT</b> event on 10<sup>th</sup> December - “Write to end VAW” Awards being held at the Parliament. Nominations to ZT by end of October  -<b>RCS</b> Parliamentary event on 4<sup>th</sup> December  -<b>Glasgow Caledonian University</b> - Healthcare professionals will write accounts of good practice - Nursing Society and students who have experienced VAW. Intended to address old-fashioned views held by</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p><b>CPG members to send ideas for CPG 9th Dec re content,invitations, presentations on VAW work</b></p> <p><b>“Write to end VAW” Awards-Nominations to ZT by end of October</b></p> <p><b>Info on CPG members and local 16 Days events to be sent to SWA for CPG circulation</b></p>

	<p>nursing staff and to encourage Staff Nurses to have “courageous conversations.”</p> <p><b>-LGBT Scotland/Edinburgh WA/Shakti/ Edinburgh Rape Crisis - 3</b> conferences across Edinburgh and East/West and Midlothian for 16-25-year-olds on gender-based violence and what they and professionals can do to address it. Have already run one event in September and are producing a report. Other 2 events are on 25<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December, with a further planned for West Lothian. Participants will be asked to feedback on the events and this will be included in the event reports. Could this report, along with the young people who participated in the events, form part of the “feedback session” to the Cab Sec proposed above?</p>	
6	<p><b>Progress of “Equally Safe” and Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Bill- update from Trevor Owen, Scottish Government</b> Joint Strategic Board set up to oversee Strategy on emerging issues and accountability. Third sector lead stakeholders and statutory partners will meet in November to agree the Board remit and remit of 4 Workstreams: Prevention; Capability and Capacity; Justice Expert Group; Accountability. The SGOV is improving the VAW Bulletin and its circulation to meet demand for information on “Equally Safe” and to promote participation. The meeting commented that it was good to see progress finally on the “Equally Safe” work.</p> <p><b><i>Forthcoming Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Bill and proposed further consultation on “coercive control” offence</i></b></p> <p>Defining the “coercive control” offence was proving challenging, particularly in the light of stakeholder feedback; and the SGOV were to launch a further consultation on this in November. It was noted that the group set up by the Solicitor-General to discuss possible definitions and the principles behind it had looked at “behaviours” that would require to be captured. The First Minister is keen to have this matter progressed and it is important that those drafting the legislation should be speaking to stakeholders.</p>	
7	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><b>FGM- Jan Macleod of the Women’s Support Project</b></p> <p>Jan circulated copies of some of the Scottish Government – funded materials which were produced to resource training and public education work on FGM- can be viewed and downloaded at <a href="http://www.fgmaware.org">www.fgmaware.org</a> WSP has a small stock of leaflets left and currently does not have funding to re-print so Local Authorities and/or Health Boards will need to look to fund these locally. WSP does have further copies of the DVD, Sara’s Story. The WSP is offering regional FGM Trainer  Development days to support use of the training materials and to encourage embedding of FGM information in existing training including child and adult protection For further details email <a href="mailto:jan@womenssupportproject.org.uk">jan@womenssupportproject.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>African Women in Scotland Against FGM - national conference on 6/2/16 which is the International Day of Zero Tolerance on FGM.</b></p> <p>WSP would like to encourage CPG members and other to do something for the 6<sup>th</sup> February. Soroptimist International indicated that they are interested in FGM as a workstream/campaign &amp; also asked to join CPG as members- AOCB for next meeting</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p><b>CPG members to consider what could be done around 6/2/16 FGM Day awareness</b></p>
8	<p><b>Date of Next meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015</b></p>	

