

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

**Minute of meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015  
17.30 – 19.00, 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>• Johann Lamont MSP</li> <li>• Rhoda Grant MSP</li> <li>• Eva Kestner- office of Rhoda Grant MSP</li> <li>• Louise Johnson- Scottish Women's Aid</li> <li>• Jenny Kemp- Zero Tolerance</li> <li>• Ghizala Avan- Amina MWRC</li> <li>• Davy Thompson- White Ribbon Scotland</li> <li>• Callum Hendry- White Ribbon Scotland</li> <li>• Lily Greenan- Scottish Women's Aid</li> <li>• Rory MacRae- Safer Families Edinburgh- City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• Stephen Madill- Safer Families Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• Vikki Kerr- Caledonian System, City of Edinburgh Council</li> <li>• Nina Murray- Scottish Refugee Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Non Members Attending</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Nicole Westmarland- University of Durham</li> <li>• Heidi Rankin - Safe and Together</li> <li>• Jessica Lindohf- Stirling and District Women's Aid</li> <li>• Dawn Fyfe- SAY Women</li> <li>• Gillian Baker- Women and Children's Solicitor of the Domestic Abuse Transitions Advice Project,</li> </ul> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marsha Scott- West Lothian Council</li> <li>• Stacey Devine</li> <li>• Cheryl Stewart- Scottish Women's Aid</li> <li>• Anne Hayne- NHS Lanarkshire - EVA Services</li> <li>• Ellie Hutchinson- Scottish Women's Aid</li> <li>• Nancy Lombard- Glasgow Caledonian University</li> <li>• Nadine Jasset- EWRASAC</li> <li>• George Eckton</li> <li>• Graeme Richards- Circle</li> <li>• Alison Johnstone MSP</li> <li>• WILPF- Megan Bastick</li> <li>• Claudia Beamish- MSP</li> <li>• Clare McKeowan- Zero Tolerance</li> <li>• Isobel Hart</li> <li>• Dr Melanie McCarry - University of Central Lancashire</li> <li>• Jan Macleod- Women's Support Project</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2 Approval of minutes of previous meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 were approved- proposed by Louise Johnson and seconded by Malcolm Chisholm</p>	

3	<p><b>Presentation from Professor Nicole Westmarland from the Durham Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA) and Durham University on the findings of the Project Mirabal research into domestic violence perpetrator programmes “<i>Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes- Steps Towards Change</i>”</b> <a href="https://www.dur.ac.uk/criva/projectmirabal/">https://www.dur.ac.uk/criva/projectmirabal/</a></p> <p>Project Mirabal’s main aim was to understand what DVPP contribute to co-ordinated community approaches to DA and to measure change amongst men on non-court mandated/ criminal justice social work DVPPs.</p> <p><b>Findings-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the majority of women whose partner/ex-partner attended a DVPP, the physical and sexual violence showed a dramatic and significant reduction.</li> <li>• Perpetrators’ use of minimising language around their behaviour changed</li> <li>• Numbers of women still in the same relationship at the end of the research period dropped-Approximately half were in the relationship at the beginning of the period; dropped to around 30% at the end- women felt “safe” to get out of the relationship and had been given the confidence to do so, having given the abuser “the chance to change”</li> <li>• In terms of perpetrators minimising behaviour, justification of, and excuses for, the perpetration of abuse, the researchers were surprised by the number of perpetrators who “knew exactly what they were doing.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While harassment and other abusive acts also reduced significantly, some of these behaviours did continue for around half of the women.</li> <li>• Coercive controlling-type behaviour( intimidation, belittling, humiliation, insults) were more likely to persist and desistance of financial abuse showed only a negligible reduction</li> <li>• Using the programmes as a means of getting access their children via contact was a feature for a high percentage of the men coming on the programmes- “<i>they had had a hard time/deal from the courts or CAFCASS.</i>” While some considered that they should “apologise” to their children, this apology did not extend to their women partners.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Statement of Intent update- Callum Hendry, White Ribbon Scotland</b></p> <p>Callum explained the background to this document in relation to Beijing+20 and Equally Safe Strategy. Today’s signing up gathered signatures of another 11 MSPs. A formal thanks and pictures taken of their signing will be sent out to all relevant MSPs.</p> <p>The meeting discussed how we encourage more MSPs to sign up; can we laminate the So I, share amongst CPG partner organisations; storing of the So I and costs of moving around; take it around Scotland at roadshows to encourage local MSPs to sign up, as signing is an opportunity to identify commitment? How do we take the So I work forward - does this sit with the CPG or with member organisations as campaigning work? CPG to invite at least 4 relevant Ministers to the CPG and tie this in with the Equally Safe Strategy.</p>	
5	<p><b>Air Weapons and Licensing Bill- Jenny Kemp, Zero Tolerance</b></p> <p>Stage 1 Report had been published with recommendations in relation to “<i>licensing of sexual entertainment venues</i>” part of the Bill. A couple of positive developments around mandatory schemes and “exemption provisions”, a single body to control advertising, etc.; guidance from the Scottish Government on local authority limits on granting licenses but very contentious issue to the</p>	

	<p>“industry”, as, potentially, local authorities could set a limit of nil.</p> <p>Missing from the recommendations- no “fit and proper test” in relation to granting of licenses; young people under 18 may be employed and enter premises, giving rise to concerns on the impact of exposure to “sexual entertainment” on them. Zero Tolerance are happy to lead on producing a MSP briefing for the Stage 1 Debate that CPG members can use and they will circulate this. There is an issue that “customers” and the industry are very heavily represented in discussions but VAW organisations are not. Further issue as to whether the “licensing scheme” for the “industry” is at all appropriate given the intentions of “Equally Safe” – is this compatible with Scottish Government VAW policy, in that we have “regulation” of a form of VAW at the same time as having a Strategy against VAW?</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Human Trafficking Bill</b></p> <p>Rhoda Grant MSP updated the meeting that she was hoping to introduce an amendment around prostitution in line with her previous work on this issue</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero Tolerance were holding a sold- out event on 27/3/15 around the “banknote” campaign for young women aged 16-22</li> <li>• Rory Macrae of Safer Families, CEC, advised that they were holding a conference on 24/4/15 on the first 18 months of their Polish Project</li> <li>• EDDACS (Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Support Service) – had a substantial funding shortfall which was putting provision of their advocacy services at risk, services crucial to securing women’s participation in the criminal justice process</li> <li>• SAY Women have lost funding from the VAW Fund that supported their service to young people experiencing mental health problems. Lily Greenan of SWA indicated that the eligibility, competitive bid process and notification of funding in terms has been very problematic for Women’s Aid groups which have lost workers and thus incurred additional costs and reduced capacity due to uncertainty around funding</li> <li>• The Scottish Government has committed to funding for a MARAC Development Officer in Scotland to roll-out a national framework for MARAC Assessment conferences and has provided £220,000 for work around FGM in 2015/16</li> <li>• Jessica Lindohf, Manager of Stirling and District Women’s Aid and Gillian Baker, the solicitor from the Domestic Abuse Transitions Advice Project, a partnership between Stirling CAB and Stirling Women’s Aid, introduced the project to the meeting and gave information on the work being done by the 2 partner organisations.</li> </ul>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Approval of request for membership of CPG. The following were proposed and accepted as members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAY Women – represented by Dawn Fyfe</li> <li>• Women Supporting Women-Pilton Community Health Project</li> <li>• Gillian Baker from the Women and Children's Solicitor of the Stirling Domestic Abuse Transitions Advice Project, on a personal basis</li> <li>• Lily Greenan, on a personal basis. Lily was leaving Scottish Women’s Aid at the end of March 2015 and Malcolm thanked her for all the work she had done there and in relation to the work of the CPG.</li> </ul> <p><b>Date of Next meeting in March- MSPs to be canvassed and date then circulated to members</b></p>	

