

**Final minute of the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Men's Violence  
Against Women and Children**

**6 March 2018, 17.30 – 19.00, Scottish Parliament, Room Q1.03**

**1. Present/Apologies**

**Present**

**CPG Members**

- Claudia Beamish MSP (chair)
- Johann Lamont MSP
- John Finnie MSP
- Marsha Scott - Scottish Women's Aid
- Ania Kinross - Scottish Women's Aid
- Anne Funnemark – The Empower Project Scotland
- Amy Johnson – Zero Tolerance
- Katie Scott – The Empower Project Scotland
- Rory Macrae – Safer Families & Caledonian (CEC)
- Vikki Kerr - Community Justice DA Services Edinburgh

**Non-Member Visitors**

- Rona MacKay MSP
- Leah McCabe (PhD student)

**Apologies**

- Christina McKelvie – MSP
- Claire Baker – MSP
- Gil Paterson – MSP
- Rhoda Grant – MSP
- Ann Hayne – NHS Lanarkshire (EVA Services)
- Brenna Jessie – SWA
- Christine Gray - RASAC P&K member & CP SW
- Davy Thompson – White Ribbon Scotland
- George Eckton – Individual
- Gillian Baker - Domestic Abuse Transitions Advice Project
- Kallia Manoussaki – Individual
- Kirsty Pate - Community Justice DA Services Edinburgh
- Lily Greenan – Individual
- Linda Thompson - Women's Support Project
- Louise Johnson – Scottish Women's Aid
- Melanie McMarry – Strathclyde University
- Mhairi McGowan – ASSIST
- Nancy Lombard – Glasgow Caledonian University
- Sandie Barton – Rape Crisis Scotland
- Sarah Weldon - Forensic Services, Glasgow

- Stephen Madill – Safer Families (CEC)

## 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of CPG Nov 29 2017 approved.

## 3. Matters arising from minutes:

- a. Marsha Scott informed the group that the planned meeting between Gary Gillespie, herself and Emma Ritch (Engender) was postponed due to the weather conditions. MS will update on the outcomes at a future date.
- b. A briefing note on the Building Equality project has been circulated to the group members prior to the meeting (Appendix 1)
- c. Sandie Barton (Rape Crisis Scotland) to present the data on service use at the next CPG – action brought forward due to absence

## 4. Proposed refresh to the CPGMVAWC

Marsha Scott explained the background of the proposed changes: following the last CPGMVAWC session, representatives of 4 women's organisations (SWA, Engender, Zero Tolerance and Rape Crisis Scotland) met up to discuss a potential refresh of the group's agenda and activities. Following on from the sector meeting, MS and ER held a meeting with the group's co-conveners to discuss proposed changes. It was agreed that the meetings will revert to evenings and dates will be set long in advance (see pt. 8 below for meeting dates). All parties also agreed that it would be beneficial to have a better sense of the upcoming agenda items.

An around-the-table discussions followed, and the following points were raised:

- All MSPs present agreed that the CPGMVAWC is an invaluable source of knowledge and information on the issues of and relating to DA and VAWG, in terms of services, but also on "real-life" impact of policies and legislation. MSP's also appreciate the high level of expertise on hand, as well as the opportunity to work together, regardless of the party-political divides.
- Comments on the structure: set out an objective at the beginning of each year (JF); more thematic approach; 1hr for a topic + 30mins for updates (MS); allow for a "what are we going to do about it?" section at the end (MS);
- Suggested topics:
  - a. Online abuse
  - b. Civil remedies cases
  - c. Child contact in the context of DA
  - d. VAWG prevention in schools and Early Years settings
  - e. Focus on perpetrators
  - f. Men non-perpetrators and their role
  - g. Moving away from short sentences
  - h. Different types of VAWG, with focus on the less talked about

- i. Legal advice services (incl. for women with no recourse to public funds (NRPF))
  - j. Funding of services (incl. funding structures, geographical gaps, needs-based approach, statutory services referrals, ratification of the Istanbul Convention, local authorities' understanding of and commitment to services)
- The discussion concluded with the setting of themes for the remaining 2018 meetings, as follows:
- a. 30 May – CYP and VAWG in educational settings: abuse, violence, interventions, prevention. This will tie in with the upcoming educational review report, invitation to Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Action:**

- Amy Johnson (Zero Tolerance) to lead the session
- Christina McKelvie MSP to invite John Swinney MSP to attend

- b. 5 September – on-line abuse

- Katie Scott (The Empower Project Scotland) to lead the session

**Action:** MS to share the European Commission's report on on-line abuse

- c. 5 December – Work with perpetrators and men's role in challenging other men

## 5. Members' updates

- a. Caledonian: programme has been re-accredited for another 5 years and it will cover about two thirds of the country, with further expansion planned. From October a National Caledonian Co-ordinator will be in post, based at Community Justice Scotland.
- b. The Empower Project Scotland: with the AGM coming up the organisation is hoping to build up its membership. Thanks to secured funding, EPS will be running workshop from March onwards.
- c. Zero Tolerance: this year ZT is marking 25 years of existence and an advisory group has been set up for the anniversary campaign. The group will look at supporting campaign design/approach to ensure maximum impact. Current members incl. EIS, Education Scotland, Engender, NHS Scotland, the Scottish Government, the Improvement Network, Close the Gap and the Youth Parliament, but ZT is still looking for interested members to join.  
Another advisory group on the Whole School Approach Pilot Project, run in partnership with RCS, has now closed. The project has been well received and gathered very good feedback.  
The organisation is currently developing a resource on gender equality in the Early Years in partnership with the Care Inspectorate. The

resource will be used by nurseries and other childcare practitioners working with children under 5.

Finally, another round of the Write to End Violence Against Women Bursary is in progress.

- d. Scottish Women's Aid: with the passing of the DA Bill, SWA is gearing up for the implementation process, with a particular focus on training. SWA have received a grant for training WA services across the country and are tendering for the Police Scotland training contract to support implementation of the new Act. With the roll-out of Universal Credit SWA will also be doing some campaigning in Westminster around split payments and tying it in with the IWD to highlight poverty affecting women. The organisation is also looking at piloting "Ask Me" community mobilisation programme in Scotland. SWA is preparing for the review of the Children (Scotland) Act, as protection of children and young people and their non-offending parent is still an issue, despite improvements in the language of the new DA Act.

**Action:** MS to input re review into the May session.

## **6. Approval of new members**

New member have been unanimously approved

- a. Pilton Community Health Project, represented by Orlaith McAree, team leader of Women Supporting Women

## **7. AOCB**

No points raised

## **8. Date and time of the next meetings**

- May 30<sup>th</sup> 5.30-7pm
- September (AGM) 5<sup>th</sup> 5.30-7pm
- December 5<sup>th</sup> 5.30-7pm