

**Final minute of the meeting of the**  
**Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children**  
**30 May 2018, 18.30 – 20.00, Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 5**

**1. Present/Apologies**

**Present**

**CPG Members**

- Christina McKelvie MSP (chair) (CM)
- Claudia Beamish MSP (co-chair) (CB)
- Ania Kinross - Scottish Women's Aid (AK)
- Amy Johnson – Zero Tolerance (AJ)
- Brenna Jessie – Scottish Women's Aid (BJ)
- Catriona Kirkpatrick – Engender (CK)
- Davy Thompson – White Ribbon Scotland (DT)
- Emily Beever – The Empower Project Scotland (EB)
- Fiona McMullen – ASSIST (FM)
- Hannah Brown – Rape Crisis Scotland (HB)
- Kallia Manoussaki – Individual (KM)
- Marsha Scott - Scottish Women's Aid (MS)
- Morgan Harris – STAMP member (Rape Crisis Scotland) (MH)
- Orlaith McAree – Pilton Community Health Project (OM)
- Rory Macrae – Safer Families & Caledonian (CEC) (RM)
- Sarah Weldon – Forensic Services, Glasgow (SW)
- Susan Murray – Zero Tolerance (SM)
- Vikki Kerr - Community Justice DA Services Edinburgh (VK)

**Invited Guests**

- John Swinney MSP – Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills (JS)

**Non-Member Visitors**

- David Morran (Individual)
- Katherine Gilmour (Church of Scotland)
- Kelsey Smith (Close the Gap)
- Leah McCabe (PhD student)
- Leonie Stone (Scottish Government)
- Paula Mitchell (Individual)
- Phil Alcock (Scottish Government)
- Tammy Connell (Individual)
- Trevor Owen (Scottish Government) (TO)

## Apologies

- Claire Baker MSP
- John Finnie MSP
- Ann Hayne – NHS Lanarkshire (EVA Services)
- George Eckton – Individual
- Jan Macleod – Women’s Support Project
- Katie Scott – The Empower Project Scotland
- Kirsty Pate - Community Justice DA Services Edinburgh
- Lily Greenan – Individual
- Linda Rodgers – Edinburgh Women’s Aid & EDDACS
- Louise Johnson – Scottish Women’s Aid
- Melanie McCarry – Strathclyde University
- Sandie Barton – Rape Crisis Scotland

## 2. Thematic session: VAWG in Education Settings

- A. VAWG in school settings – presentation by Morgan Harris (STAMP/RCS) and Hannah Brown (RCS) – see Appendix 1 attached.

The presentation was followed by few comments: CM praised the RCS and ZT’s Whole School Approach project, having seen it in action in a school in her constituency. JS would like to see more compatibility between the rhetoric and the reality of schools’ commitment. The culture of behaviour shouldn’t only be a slogan on a poster, it should be felt and observed in students’ experiences and behaviour. JS added that he recognises that VAWG in school settings has an impact on students’ attainment. MS asked whether there’s any commitment to embed the WSA in teachers’ training. HB said that the model has been amended through consultations with schools. However, the uncertainties around the project include what “concrete” tools/information can be given to schools; the future project partners and the methods of embedding the WSA. AJ added that the WSA Advisory Group is also looking at the project’s sustainability.

- B. Gender Equality in Early Years - presentation by Amy Johnson (ZT) – see Appendix 2 attached.

- C. VAWG in Pre-qualification training – presentation by Amy Johnson (ZT) – see Appendix 2 attached.

MS concluded the presentation by reading out an email from Professor John Devaney apologising for not attending and offering to work with SWA to develop core curriculum around domestic abuse for social work and other pre-qualification training. MS confirmed SWA’s commitment to work with JD and promised to report back to CPG on progress. – see Appendix 3 attached.

- D. Address by Deputy First Minister

JS commented that he thought it was clear from the presentations that there’s a need for improved prevention work and a wider culture change. He will take away from the session the importance of next steps reflecting the right approach to addressing VAWG and gender inequality in education

settings. There's also a great opportunity to tackle gender stereotypes in recruitment, particularly in the upcoming expansion of the child care work force. With career advice/pathways being another area of concern, JS would like to see more work done to tackle occupational segregation and to ensure the focus of advice to young people remains on the aspirations of young people. Overall, JS is committed to reflecting the values of gender equality in the education system and is optimistic about aligning the findings and recommendations of the sector with the Curriculum for Excellence. JS would be happy to discuss further and invites representatives of the CPG to meet and discuss how to best translate the recommendations into actions.

### **3. Cross-Party Group business**

A. Action points from the thematic session: The group discussed agreeing a set of actions to be forwarded to the Cabinet Secretary and officials.

- Claudia Beamish MSP remarked that the lack of mandatory training on VAWG meant that “discretionary” requirements in educational settings meant that education systems often avoid addressing the issue of VAWG.
- MS pointed out the link between rigid belief systems around gender and domestic abuse in perpetrators of domestic abuse and remarked that all parts of the educational system have responsibilities to address.
- AJ pointed out that where there's excellent work happening in Early Years settings, there's no official recognition process, and also no incentive for other providers to follow suit.
- DT talked about White Ribbon Status Toolkit, and how it was used by the Glasgow Kelvin College to achieve the White Ribbon Status.
- MS summed up the responses, by accentuating that despite some pockets of excellence, the provision is very patchy.
- TO pointed to the [letter of guidance](#) to Scottish Funding Council, written by Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science.
- EB pointed to the UN Convention of Children's Rights as an important marker and the fact that its values should be embedded in Scots Law.
- CK suggested that a better evidence gathering of GBV in schools is needed. CB proposed adding the data to the national performance framework.

MS suggested that SWA work with ZT to draft a set of actions to forward to the Cabinet Secretary. The draft will be shared for the group to comment on, before forwarding it to DFM.

**Action:** MS and AJ to draft list.

- B. Approval of Minutes: Rory Macrae (Caledonian) clarified the focus and title for the December thematic session (pt. 4) to read “*Work with perpetrators and men’s role in challenging other men*”, after which minutes of CPG Nov 29 2017 were approved (proposed by MS and seconded by AJ).
- C. Matters arising from minutes:
- a. September session on on-line abuse to be led by The Empower Project Scotland.
  - b. December session on work with perpetrators and men’s role in challenging other men to be led jointly by Rory Macrae and Davy Thompson.
- D. Confirmation/Approval of new members: new members have been unanimously approved
- a. Paula Mitchell (Individual)
  - b. Close the Gap, represented by Kelsey Smith, Programme Officer
  - c. David Morran (Individual)
- E. Members’ updates
- a. Caledonian: the bidding process for further expansion of the Caledonian programme is still open, consortia bids are welcomed, closing date for the applications is 15<sup>th</sup> June
  - b. Zero Tolerance: the refreshed guidelines for responsible media reporting of VAW, [Handle with care](#), will be launched on 6<sup>th</sup> June

**Action:** group members to send further updates to [ania.kinross@womensaid.scot](mailto:ania.kinross@womensaid.scot) for circulation.

**F. AOCB**

No points raised

**4. Date and time of the next meetings**

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