

Draft minute of the meeting of the
Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children
26 February 2020, 17.30 – 19.00, Scottish Parliament, Room TG20/21

1. Present/Apologies

Present

CPG Members

- Claire Baker MSP (CBa)
- Claudia Beamish MSP (CBe)
- John Finnie MSP (JF)
- Ania Kinross – Scottish Women's Aid (AK)
- Brenna Jessie – Rape Crisis Scotland (BJ)
- Caitlin Meehan – Rape Crisis Scotland (CM)
- Davy Thompson – White Ribbon Scotland (DT)
- Emma Ritch – Engender (ER)
- Erin Mwembo – Young Women Lead (EM)
- Gabrielle Blackburn – Scottish Women's Aid (GBI)
- Ghizala Avan – Amina Muslim Women Resource Centre (GA)
- Gillian Baker – Individual (GBa)
- Kallia Manoussaki – Individual (KM)
- Kelly Johnson – Individual (KJ)
- Marsha Scott – Scottish Women's Aid (MS)
- Nicoletta Primo – Girlguiding Scotland (NP)
- Rebekah Cheung – White Ribbon Scotland (RC)
- Sarah McMillan - Scottish Association of Social Workers (SMM)
- Vikki Kerr – Community Justice DA Services, CEC (VK)

Non-Member Visitors

- Liz Gilchrist – Individual
- Lorna Fergusson – Individual
- Richard Whitecross – Individual (RW)

Apologies

- Rhoda Grant MSP
- Rona Mackay MSP
- COSLA
- NUS Scotland
- Ann Hayne – NHS Lanarkshire, EVA Services
- Katherine Gilmour – Church of Scotland
- Linda Rodgers – Edinburgh Women's Aid
- Lisa Dorstek – Girlguiding Scotland
- Melanie McCarry – Individual
- Nancy Lombard – Individual

- Paula Mitchell – Individual
- Rachel Adamson – Zero Tolerance
- Sarah Weldon – Forensic Services Glasgow
- Stephen Madill – Individual
- Tammy Connell – Individual

2. Thematic session in 2020

A. Setting the scene: Sex and Power in Scotland 2020 and update from NACWG – Emma Ritch, CEO, Engender

ER highlighted key findings of the Sex & Power 2020 report, and outlined work of NACWG, incl. recommendation for the Equality Unit to become a standalone directorate. Now in its third year, the council is focusing on gender architecture, i.e. laws and structures which would help to entrench the recommendations in public life.

Both reports, [Sex & Power 2020](#) and [NACWG 2019 report](#), are available online.

B. Dates and thematic sessions for 2020

The group discussed various topics for considerations. The following broader themes were identified:

- data gathering, incl. data collection and analysis in criminal justice; recording sex assaults in school settings; gender index mapping experiences; data in support of ES strategy in further and higher education; statutory duty for data collection
- community justice and short sentences
- financial abuse in various aspects of VAW
- access to justice, incl. not-proven verdict; legal aid and advice within and outwith court settings (e.g. in housing)
- Lady Dorian's review – with the planned publication of the review in spring, the session would best be held in the autumn

Improving data was the group's first priority, the conveners called for group members' input on their specific needs and experiences.

Action: ALL to submit their data needs for collation via email to Scottish Women's Aid (marsha.scott@womensaid.scot)

3. Cross- Party Group business

A. Approval of previous minutes: minutes of CPG September 18th 2019 were approved as an accurate record (proposed by MS, seconded by BJ).

B. Implementation of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018:

As we're nearing a full year since the implementation of the DA Act, there were no updates for the CPG. The item will no longer be a standing item on

the agenda, and instead will form part of members' updates as and when policy needs arise from the gathered data.

C. Members' updates:

- a. Members' resignations: two individual members, PM and TC, are resigning from CPG due to personal circumstances. As unable to attend, both members submitted their thanks to the CPG via email prior to the meeting.
- b. SASW: accredited Safe & Together training coming soon, sign ups to open in due course
- c. WRS: awareness raising event at Stirling University on 2nd Apr, in cooperation with Luke and Ryan Hart
- d. RCS: the forensic medicine bill will be going through the Parliament soon, with the Survivors Reference Group giving evidence to the Committee. The ongoing prevention work included working with Cabinet Secretary for Justice doing school visits, and preparations for the upcoming Reclaim the Night march in Forth Valley
- e. Amina MWRC: film screenings around IWD at Summerhall
- f. Girlguiding Scotland: current focus on period poverty. GS is setting up a working group on sexual violence, and is currently looking for girls to join/feed in.
- g. Engender: also focusing on period poverty.
- h. Caledonian System: evaluation of the trauma-informed service
- i. GBa: PhD research focused on how DA survivors are heard by the courts
- j. KM: is leading Standing Safe campaign at the University of West of Scotland. Disappointingly the ES data collection project was stopped.
- k. SWA: data gathering on access to legal aid services will begin in March. The European funded project on Improving Justice in Child Contact will be hosting an international webinar in June.

D. Confirmation/Approval of new members: new members have been unanimously approved.

a. Katy Proctor – individual, Lecturer in Criminology and Policing at Glasgow Caledonian University

b. Richard Whitecross – individual, academic researcher at Edinburgh Napier University

E. AOCB

RW will be conducting research on child contact in DA cases and is looking for research participants. Details will be circulated to the CPG.

Action: RW to forward details to AK for circulation.

4. Date and time of the next meetings

- April 29th 5.30-7pm [meeting cancelled due to lockdown]

DRAFT