

Cross-Party Group on Commercial Sexual Exploitation

7th September 2022 from 18.00-20.00

Minutes

AGM

Present

MSPs

Ruth Maguire	MSP SNP: Co-convener
Rhoda Grant	MSP Scottish Labour: Co-convener
John Mason	MSP SNP

Non-MSP Group Members

Jacci Stoyale	Individual: Secretariat
Janice Wilson	Soroptimist Scotland
Susan McKellar	Scottish Women's Convention
Chris Hall	Not for Sale Scotland
Ann Hall	Not for Sale Scotland
Michael Veitch	CARE for Scotland
Janet Warren	Individual
Anne Martin	Individual
Michael Conroy	Men at Work CIC
Siobhan Jess	Individual
Anna	NMN
Beverley Johnston	Individual
Agnes Tolmie	Scottish Women's Convention
Diane Martin	A Model for Scotland
Aileen Fleming	SOTHIS
Caleb Ng'ombo	People Serving Girls at Risk
Steve Rawbone	Individual

Apologies

Elena Whitman	MSP
Katy Clark	MSP
Jeremy Balfour	MSP
Linda Rodgers	Edinburgh Women's Aid
Chris Ringland	Evangelical Alliance
Bronagh Andrew	TARA

Linda Thompson	Women's Support project
Teresa Little	Individual
Bryan Little	Individual
Agnes Martony	Individual

Agenda item 1

Welcome and apologies for absence (see above)

Agenda item 2

Election of Conveners and Secretariat

Rhoda thanked everyone who had contributed to the running of the CPG and asked Jacci Stoye to chair the re-election of the co-conveners.

Jacci asked the co-conveners Rhoda Grant and Ruth Maguire if they wished to continue in their role and they both agreed to do so. They were jointly proposed by John Mason and seconded by Jacci Stoye and unanimously approved by the group.

Rhoda then resumed Chair and asked Jacci Stoye if she wished to continue in her role as secretariat, and she agreed to do so. She was proposed by Rhoda Grant and seconded by Ann Hall and unanimously approved by the group.

Agenda item 3

Feedback from the MSPs present on any parliamentary progress

Rhoda said that as the MSPs were recently back from recess there wasn't anything to feedback from the parliament.

She told the group that our Festival of Politics event, ***Prostitution -the buyers and the sellers***, had gone well, but unfortunately the video was not yet ready for a more detailed feedback session.

Agenda item 4

Presentation by Michael Conroy, CEO of men at Work C.I.C. on the challenges and insights of his day job.

Michael provides interactive training for those who work with boys and young men in schools, youth groups, social work settings and prisons. The purpose of the training is to talk about safeguarding for young men; how to keep themselves safe and how to keep them safe to be around.

Michael's background was in secondary education, over the years he witnessed an increase in sexist behaviour such as inappropriate comments to teachers and the use of handheld devices in schools. There is very little room in the English school

curriculum for talking about male behaviour, sexual attitudes and societal values of men and women. Michael wanted to change that. Consequently, he wrote a course for young men, with a manual for facilitators, that challenged this behaviour. As his training of facilitators took off, he set up his company Men at Work CIC and now does this full-time.

How can a course do this in a non-threatening way, which encourages young men to engage and not shut down? The course focuses on keeping boys safe from injury, grooming, radicalisation, alcohol /substance misuse, criminality, and county lines. At the same time, it encompasses how a young man can be a safe person to be around, creating a dialogue about accountability. The course explores the values and beliefs that were in the culture before the young men were born and asks them to consider how this might have influenced their behaviours and attitudes towards women and girls.

The course aims to be positive and uses constructive dialogue to develop knowledge, skills, and confidence, and to engender critical thinking. The objective is to foster empathy, respect and safe behaviours towards themselves, their male peers, and women/girls. The components of the course are 'It's happening here', 'But why?' and 'What can we do about it?'

Michael said the course can cause some uncomfortable moments, but what is wrong with that? It's not accusatory, it's about saying we were born into a broken world, so what are we going to do about it?

The CPG members were delighted to comment and ask questions after the presentation.

Agenda item 5

Feedback from Diane Martin CBE, Chair of A Model for Scotland, on the work and progress of its inaugural campaigning year.

Diane was delighted with the progress of A Model for Scotland and said they had done well in their inaugural year. There had been some excellent webinars, which were very well attended. There had been a lot of work behind the scenes with the short-term working group. Kat had been busy researching evidence about prostitution laws in other countries and was compiling a report.

AOB

Rhoda asked Jacci about the date of the next meeting.

Jacci explained that we have an opportunity to hear Chelsea Geddes speaking about the realities of the New Zealand Model, whilst she is here in the UK. Unfortunately, this date is in the parliamentary recess, when the MSPs are on holiday.

Consequently, there will be an informal CPG meeting on the 19th of October from 6.00-8.00 pm, when NMN will interview Chelsea for our group.

Rhoda told the members that she and Ruth would meet and check diaries for the date of the next meeting and this would be circulated at a later date. If members had any ideas for topics, please could they let Jacqui know.