

**NATIONAL REFERENCE GROUP – ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD
SEXUAL ABUSE – 23 MARCH 2011 – VICTORIA QUAY, EDINBURGH**

Draft Minutes

Attending

Jean MacLellan – Chair
Thanos Karatzias
Andrew Campbell
Sandra Brown
Helen Provan
Ilene Easton
Sue Hampson
Martin Henry
Anne MacDonald
Nicola Radley
Sue Moody
Marnie Collin
Theo Dijkman
Rosina McCrae
Chris Daly
Helen Holland
Julie Muir
Lorna Patterson
Linda Watters

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Jean welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from James Evans, Sheena Duboust, George Winslow.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 15 September 2010

2.1 Agreed.

3. SurvivorScotland Update

3.1 Linda advised that the website had been reviewed and the team would be happy to receive feedback.

3.2 Lorna advised that focus groups had been held to gather qualitative views on the service from ICSSS. Details were included in the papers already circulated. She advised that the conference on 16 March had been well attended and was very successful.

3.3 Lorna advised that ICSSS had submitted an application for lottery funding. They felt that applications for funding would be stronger if they could show that they also had government funding. They had sent a letter to Jean, inviting her to a

meeting to discuss funding. Jean advised that she had not yet received the letter but the team would follow it up.

Action: SurvivorScotland to respond to letter from ICSSS

3.4 Helen pointed out that the need to identify funding had been built into the original contract and asked why ICSSS had left it until now. Lorna said that the funding had not been required previously. They had applied for funding but only received small amounts which were time limited. They were still applying for funding but could only access funding when and where it was available and if they met the funder's criteria. Helen suggested applying to 'Awards for All' and Lorna advised that they had applied twice. During the meeting a message was received to say that the lottery application had been unsuccessful.

3.5 Rosina said that it was clear that ICSSS had been successful and asked about the focus on employability and moving on. Lorna said this would not affect counselling.

4. Time to be Heard

4.1 Sue Moody provided an update on Time to be Heard. The report had been published on 23 February and four information events had been held between 1 and 3 March. She circulated a summary of the issues raised at the events, the government response to the recommendations in the Time to be Heard report and the process review report, which included feedback from people who had taken part. She also advised that the Minister for Public Health and Sport and the Minister for Children and Early Years had met with Time to be Heard and Scottish Human Rights Commission on 17 March.

4.2 Andrew welcomed the government response and asked if it would be extended to people who were not in care. Sue Moody advised that Time to be Heard had focused on people who were in care but as part of the recommendations there would be a need to consider what the definition of 'in care' should be.

4.3 Martin said that people who had attended the events had raised the question of extending the forum beyond 'in care' and it should be included in the key issues from the events. Sue Moody advised that the response to recommendation 1 included the need to consider wider scoping. Andrew highlighted the cost of not including other survivors.

4.4 Martin asked about the difference between 'supporting' and 'fully endorsing' the recommendations. Sue Moody advised that some recommendation required further work, for example eligibility would be considered by parliament as part of the legislation. Jean added that it was agreed that a rollout would start with general residential care and consideration would be given to widening beyond this.

4.5 Sue Hampson asked if a national confidential forum would be permanent or time limited. Jean advised that this would be determined as part of the legislative process which would consider costs and timeframe. It was likely that the new legislative cycle would begin in the autumn and it would be for the Minister for Parliamentary Business to determine the programme.

4.6 Chris said that, at the Petitions Committee, Des McNulty MSP had highlighted the need to go beyond the Confidential Committee to include accountability and justice as included in the Scottish Human Rights Framework. He said the response showed that only Time to be Heard was being considered as an option. Sue Moody advised that the government response to the SHRC recommendations showed this was not the case. Jean added that at the meeting with Ministers on 17 March the recommendations in both reports had been discussed.

4.7 Sue Moody advised that the team were considering how to gain wider survivor involvement. Around 60 forms indicating further interest had been received from the events. SHRC had also indicated a willingness to do some joint work on survivor involvement. Sue Moody also pointed out that the government had agreed to do a scoping exercise on reparation and that it would respond to the SHRC recommendation on Apology legislation at a later date.

4.8 Helen was concerned at the length of time it was taking to achieve anything. She had tried to give NHS representatives copies of the report but they were not interested. She wanted to know what would happen to address immediate needs on mental health, NHS and access to records.

4.9 Jean said that considerable resource had been invested in the last five years. She also pointed out the help that would be available because of the Public Records Bill. Andrew said that there was a need to consider what had been achieved and consider what was still needed. This would take time.

4.10 Rosina said that a lot of good things had been achieved. There was however a need to be aware of the lack of resources and to make sure that support for survivors was built into the future forum. She asked about the reference to people who were not survivors in recommendation 6. Sue Moody explained that some participants did not believe that they had been abused but it was clear, as they described their experiences, that in some cases there had been abuse. It was therefore felt that any forum should be open to everyone but priority should be given to survivors. Those who did not present as survivors should have the opportunity to put forward their testimony in writing in the first instance and the Chair and Commissioners would consider if a hearing was appropriate.

4.11 Sandra said the experience of people who were onlookers or bystanders was also important. It was important to recognise that things do take time. She referred to

a film 'Oranges and Sunshine' and also the early refusal to investigate complaints in Quarriers in the 1970s as examples of how long it took for things to move on.

4.12 Martin asked about the issue of professionals having a voice as they might be considered to have some accountability for placing people in care. Jean said that some early contact had been made with ADSW, COSLA and residential care organisations.

4.13 Martin welcomed the response to the recommendations which demonstrated a commitment to taking action. He said it was up to the Group to make sure it happened. Lorna agreed but stressed the need for support services for participants including after the hearings had taken place. Marnie asked who would make the decisions on support. Jean said it would be considered as part of the consultation process.

4.14 Nicola suggested a need to liaise with Mental Health division over recommendations 7 and 8 including the criteria for suicide registers in Mentally Flourishing Scotland and work on resilience in Mental Health Improvement.

4.15 Ilene raised the issue of contacting people in prison, many of whom had been children in care. Martin added the need to track people in the system. Sue Moody suggested that colleagues in Care and Justice might have this information.

4.16 Helen raised the issue of spiritual abuse. She indicated that some representatives of religious orders had attended the events. Jean advised that there had been a meeting with religious organisations in advance. Martin said that individuals were committed but the hierarchy was more difficult as there were still issues around insurance and indemnity.

4.17 Andrew asked about the practicalities of funding. Jean advised that while cuts in resources were an issue the government had given a commitment to a national rollout. Anne added that there was cross party support for the rollout and the need to consider other options.

4.18 Sue explained the review of legislation on timebar and the proposed consultation, a draft of which had already been shared with the Cross Party Group and SHRC. Anne also highlighted that the Public Records Bill had been passed. This was an achievement for the importance of maintaining and access to records.

5. Physical Health Review

5.1 Linda outlined the summary paper produced by Sarah Nelson. A more detailed paper with references was available. Anne advised that this was the outcome of a review of research on physical health issues. Further work on care pathways was still required with health and social care colleagues. Martin asked about social care work being led by Health in Inverness. Jean explained that this was a pilot but it would be important to find out more.

5.2 Anne outlined the work on data collection in Fife and Aberdeen. The Foyer model in Aberdeen is being rolled out in Marywell Health Clinic and the Penumbra self harm project. The 6D cards developed in Fife are now being expanded to include learning disability and sexual health and young people.

5.3 Helen stressed the need for the NHS to be involved. She said a homeopathic hospital in Glasgow had been interested. she would provide details. Andrew asked about questionnaires for GPs and professionals. Ilene advised that Open Secret had a physical health group.

5.4 Thanos said that the link between physical health and abuse is well established. Further work on unexplained medical symptoms is required to establish what is being done. There is a need to consider this holistically in both physical and mental services. Sue Hampson referred to work in Bristol.

Action: Full paper to be circulated. Any questions should be sent to SurvivorScotland Team.

6. National Strategy Action Plan

6.1 Linda explained that the action plan template had been circulated twice and a small number of actions added. After discussion it was agreed that a small working group be set up to develop the plan further.

Action – SG to set up a small group to develop the action plan further and agree how the actions would be taken forward. Group members interested in being involved should let Linda know by 30 April.

7. AOB

7.1 Andrew circulated a diagram showing that SurvivorScotland funding was only 8% of the amount of funding allocated to Violence Against Women. Martin suggested that an approach be made to the Violence Reduction Unit about partnership working.

8. Next Meeting

8.1 The next meeting is at 11.00 am on Wednesday 22 June at Glasgow Caledonian University.