

NATIONAL REFERENCE GROUP – ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE – 22 JUNE 2011 – GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

Draft Minutes

Attending

Linda Watters – Chair
Andrew Campbell
Marnie Collin
Isabella De Wit
Theo Dijkman
Ilene Easton
James Evans
Sue Hampson
Martin Henry
Helen Holland
Anne MacDonald
Rosina McCrae
Julie Muir
Lorna Patterson
Helen Provan
Nicola Radley
Gillian Urquhart

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jean Maclellan, Linda Treliving, Sheena Duboust, Thanos Karatzias, Sandra Brown and George Winslow.

1.2 Linda informed the group that Chris Daly had resigned from the group to focus on his Petition.

1.3 Andrew requested that the group should focus on the issues for all survivors, not only those who were in care. He also referred to the exclusion of male services from the funding allocation to Violence Against Women. Rosina indicated that the cross party group had challenged this. James echoed Andrew's request to include the issues for all survivors.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 23 March 2011

2.1 Agreed.

3. SurvivorScotland Update

Revised National Strategy

3.1 Linda explained the action plan had been circulated and she had invited members to form a small working group. There had been no interest but one

member had suggested additions made changes to the plan and one member of the group had met with a member of the SurvivorScotland team to discuss a number of issues. Ilene, Martin and Andrew agreed to form a small working group to develop the plan further.

Action – SG to circulate action plan and to arrange meeting with Ilene, Martin and Andrew to review action plan.

National Training Strategy

3.2 Sue Hampson provided an update on the one day awareness raising module, First Step. She explained this had been developed in partnership with Health in Mind and Victim Support Scotland.

3.3 Six courses had been piloted, three in the community in North East & South Ayrshire and three to crown staff from throughout Scotland.

3.4 Sue explained that the First Steps basic awareness course had now been incorporated as core-training for all SAMH staff and placed on the Learning Development calendar for 2011 – 12.

3.5 Ilene asked about the signposting available to prisoners and prison officers. Annie explained that survivors might not necessarily need a service. Some might just benefit from disclosing.

3.6 Andrew asked if the course could be incorporated into SQA modules. Sue said that training was already included within one course.

3.7 Theo said that the awareness raising course was developed as an entry level into working with survivors for front line staff. The need for this was identified by the training sub group in response to a shorter training accessible to those workers who would find it difficult to attend the full Safe to Say training.

Data Collection

3.8 Annie provided an update on the data collection exercises in Fife and Aberdeen. The development of the 6D cards had been very positive. Marnie spoke about the services for people with learning disability. Work was underway with the Speech and Language Therapy Service (SLTS) and Communication for Health Project of NHS Fife in the development and adaptation of the 6D cards for use with service users with a learning disability. The cards would be re-designed, simplifying language, and supported with visual images. SLTS would test the cards with service user groups who had already been working in other areas of accessibility on written leaflets and documents.

3.9 When this work was completed it would be possible to extend these projects by creating an on-line version of the cards on the SurvivorScotland website for download by other relevant agencies across Scotland.

In Care

3.10 Lorna advised that focus groups had met in February and April. Service users had met officials in Care and Justice to express their views about service delivery. David Blair chaired the meeting and had committed to respond to specific questions within a few weeks. Lorna explained that an independent evaluation of the service would be incorporated into the final report. More details were included in the papers already circulated.

3.11 Rosina questioned whether it would be a good idea to lobby government. Martin suggested that energy should be directed to the institutions instead of government.

3.12 Helen raised the question of the apology law which had been introduced in Ireland. She said that institutions need to come on board instead of apologising but not following up on reparation. She asked if the funding allocated for the Irish Redress Board could also have been used for people abused by the some organisations in Scotland.

Action: SG to check Irish legislation.

4. National Strategy Funding

4.1 Linda said that £850,000 has been allocated for 2011/12. There was a discussion about previous funding, amounts allocated and the application process.

4.2 Linda informed the group that a meeting with Care and Justice colleagues and ICSSS to discuss future funding on the 20 July had been arranged.

4.3 There was a discussion about the funding being limited to 1 year. Theo explained it can be difficult and lengthy process to develop a service, evaluate it and get funding to get it into mainstream services.

4.4 It was agreed that the last 2 years priorities be carried forward. Andrew requested that borderline personality disorder be a priority for 2011/12. It was pointed out that this is part of the mental health priority.

4.5 Theo informed the group that Health in Mind had carried out a scoping paper on counselling and psychotherapy services for male survivors. Part of the scoping was to identify gaps in service provision and inform future development of services. The conclusions from this paper had a relevance in terms of informing the current round of funding. It was agreed that a small working group be set up to consider the findings.

Action – SG to circulate Health in Mind’s paper to members.

4.6 Linda indicated that interim and final reports were due to be evaluated. It was likely that invitations to apply for funding would be issued late July with a deadline of

September for applications. Members of the group asked for details of the amounts of funding to existing organisations. It was agreed that this would be provided.

Action – SG to circulate funding information on the allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

5. Time to be Heard

5.1 Linda said that members of the SurvivorScotland team had spoken to colleagues in other policy areas to explore options for the National Confidential Forum (NCF).

5.2 SIRCC had been contracted to do work to assist with a scoping exercise on reparation. Lorna offered to assist SIRCC as they are developing a database of institutions. The full report of the process review is available on the SurvivorScotland website.

5.4 Linda and Sue met SACRO on the 21 June to discuss the Restorative Justice final report. A decision is still to be made on what will happen next and whether the toolkit will be made available. Helen asked why an independent evaluation had not been carried out. Linda pointed out that this was a pilot and the issues would be reflected in the final report.

5.5 Linda said there was a briefing meeting with the Minister arranged for 23 June. A meeting with SHRC is still to take place.

5.6 There was a discussion about the contact database. Over 60 new people have been added to the database in the last 3 months. Helen said that many survivors did not want government to hold their personal details. Linda explained that many survivors had requested to be kept informed by completing the blue forms. Lorna requested that a supply of forms be sent to ICSSS.

Action – Blue forms to be sent to ICSSS.

6. AOB

6.1 Annie said that she had attended a male survivors conference in Bradford and gave a presentation about the National Strategy. Many delegates had been impressed by the work in Scotland.

7. Next Meeting

7.1 The next meeting is at 11 am on Wednesday 14 September at St Andrews House, Edinburgh.

7.2 The final meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 December in Glasgow.

Julie Muir, SurvivorScotland Team
6 July 2011