

**SURVIVORSCOTLAND: NATIONAL REFERENCE GROUP**

**Note of meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009, Glasgow Caledonian University,  
Glasgow**

Present:

Jean MacLellan (Chair)  
Chris Daly

[REDACTED]

Sue Hampson

[REDACTED]

Helen Holland

[REDACTED]

Janine Kellett

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Jean Maclellan welcomed any new members. Apologies were received from

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and Sue Moody.

Ground rules were covered.

**2. Note of previous meeting**

The note of the meeting of 21 May 2009 required one alteration. The reception if the BBC to the SAMH male survivor film has been altered to read 'sent to the BBC'. Otherwise the minutes were accepted as accurate.

**3. SurvivorScotland Updates National Reference Group**

Updates were read by [REDACTED]. The only question raised was clarification on the advisory groups that are being suggested for Fife and Aberdeen. These will be local groups to promote the work, findings and benefits of the data projects, however a larger advisory group should perhaps be convened to ensure that the research from the data is promoted nationally.

On the male survivors headings, [REDACTED] informed us that he and [REDACTED] had a positive meeting with the MOD on retrospective survey and development of ways to identify survivors within their workforce.

**Acknowledgement and Accountability**

Jean MacLellan led discussion on the Acknowledgement and Accountability paper that Sue had produced. She intimated that detailed papers on all the

## Reference Group/November 2009/Paper 2

options will be presented to Ministers shortly and that the decision for proceeding with a pilot lies with them.

Jean opened discussion by the group.

A lengthy discussion on A&A followed and a large number of points were raised. It is hoped that the below provides an accurate summary of the issues discussed.

Queries on access to justice for survivors was discussed at length. Timebar essentially bars survivors from access to justice and infringes their human rights. In Care Survivors Service Scotland has had several contacts from survivors on this issue.

It was highlighted that timebar was an issue for all survivors, not just in care. Also mentioned was that not all survivors wish to go down a legal route, therefore the Forum would be a positive opportunity for them as a restorative justice approach.

The role of SHRC was discussed in light of this issue. SHRC have openly expressed that it is an area they wish to scrutinise.

We discussed evaluation of any pilot and it was agreed that this would inevitably provide us with rich details of survivors feelings and experiences in relation to timebar, as well as other areas where they feel justice has been compromised for them.

It was agreed that we incorporate Articles (5-8) from the Declaration of Human Rights into the paper to Ministers. Details of the articles are in annex A of this paper.

It was clarified that any Advisory Group set up for A&A would not be a sub-group to the reference group.

There was a great deal of discussion on how the journey for survivors giving testimony to the Forum would go. For example, there could be no expectation that they could give their evidence in one go/one day. Therefore, it is important to think about how flexibility can be built in.

Confidentiality/anonymity on alleged abusers was discussed, as was their human rights. There will be need for further discussion on this.

The Group asked if we could invite Alan Miller or someone from SHRC to our next meeting to give a presentation. Action [REDACTED]

The role of LA's was discussed in their placement of children, the fact that parents very often paid financial contributions towards their care, and how we can, if we go forward, get LA's to take some financial responsibility for support for survivors.

## Reference Group/November 2009/Paper 2

It was asked why the confidential model not the investigative model had been chosen as possibly the best route for the Forum. It was explained that in Ireland both models were used. The investigative model was hugely expensive (the vast majority of this expenditure was on legal fees) and it was doubtful whether the process had been in the best interests of the survivors.

The findings of the Forum would definitely form the basis of a public record.

**ACTION:** Sue Moody to present on A&A at the next meeting.

██████████ mentioned a case in England where timebar was revoked. ██████████ will send the information to ██████████ and ██████████ will forward this to the group members. **Action** ██████████

#### 4. Scottish Personality Disorder Forum

It was decided that this item, to be presented by Dr George Winslow, would be taken off the agenda due to time constraints and be discussed at the next meeting. Although paper copies of George's report were distributed it was agreed to scan and email it to everyone prior to the next meeting. **Action** ██████████

#### 5. Communications Strategy

██████████ talked the group through her paper on the next steps of the Communications' Strategy The social marketing arm of Barkers has sadly gone into receivership but fortunately we are not at any financial risk and all content of work conducted is owned by us.

The group agreed that ██████████ and ██████████ can proceed with developing leaflets and copy for loo stickers, cost up design and printing of these, as well as an 'infomercial' for hospital waiting room plasma screens. We can use internal contacts to help us with those developments, sexual health are happy to meet and discuss.

██████████ mentioned the possibility of beer mats and will check with some of his contacts. Sporting outlets were also mentioned as a good route for male survivors in particular. Schools and colleges were also highlighted as important..

The inclusion/ highlighting of male survivors needs should be included in the communication strategy. Agreed that ██████████ will meet up with ██████████ and ██████████ to discuss the male survivors group's ideas to ensure we co-ordinate. **Action** ██████████

It was agreed however, that we will need some external expertise in the future such as that provided by Barkers. Jean outlined government rules on engagement of external agencies, and updated recent news that both Andy McArthur and Lindsay Linton have a new partnership business which could potentially be approached.

## 6. Training Strategy

Sue discussed training and it was agreed that we need to get a consistent approach on this area as so many individual agencies carry out their own training, as well as the various consortia covering domestic abuse. Sue also pointed out that Safe to Say funding ends 2010. The Group agreed that we really need a strategic approach and that we form a sub group to scope out the way forward and bring back to the group. [REDACTED]  
Helen, Sue, [REDACTED] offered to be part of the sub group. [REDACTED] to convene a meeting before the next reference group. Action [REDACTED].

Sue informed the Group of the male survivors film launch to be held on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Filmhouse, Edinburgh. Invitations will be sent to members of the group shortly. .

## 7. Presentation by SCRA with personal insight from a survivor

Following a short presentation by [REDACTED] from SCRA (transcript attached) [REDACTED] gave a most moving and courageous presentation on her journey to try and protect her young half-sister and achieve some measure of justice against her abuser.

Several questions were asked of both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. One major issue that arose for everyone was the role and understanding of social work in such child protection cases and obvious failings in [REDACTED] case. How can improvements on training and awareness raising be highlighted to those with responsibility in this area? Jean to follow up her contacts, and Janine Kellett to discuss with her child protection colleagues at Victoria Quay. Action Jean and [REDACTED]

A vote of thanks was given to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and everyone agreed how important presentations are in informing our work on the strategy.

ACTION: [REDACTED] to contact [REDACTED] about having information on the website about SCRA

**Adult Care and Support Division  
August 2009**

**Annex A**

**Extract from Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**Article 5**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

**Article 6**

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

**Article 7**

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of the Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

**Article 8**

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.