

Minutes of the Multi-Agency Group On Commercial Sexual Exploitation Thursday 13 September 2018

Present:

Trevor Owen (*Co-Chair*), VAW Equalities, Scottish Government
Saira Kapasi (*Co-Chair*), VAW Justice, Scottish Government
Rory Hamilton, Police Scotland
Aaron Slater, SACRO
Kirsti Hay, Violence Against Women Partnership Network
Katie Cosgrove, NHS Health Scotland
Emma Pugh, Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework, Scottish Government
Bronagh Andrew, TARA
Stephanie Blair, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal (COPFS)
Linda Thompson, Women's Support Project
Peter Hope-Jones, Human Trafficking, Scottish Government
Emma Rich, Engender
Alison Scott, NHS Lothian
Ria Phillips, VAW Justice, Scottish Government
Leonie Stone, VAW Equalities, Scottish Government

Apologies: Sandy Brindley, Rape Crisis Scotland

Introductory Remarks

1. Trevor welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Multi-Agency Group on Commercial Sexual Exploitation (the Group) and asked for introductions. The main purpose of the meeting was to agree the Group membership and the draft terms of reference.

Updates from the Scottish Government

2. Peter informed the Group that the Human Trafficking strategy was published in 2015 and a progress report was published earlier this year. The Human Trafficking strategy has two areas relevant to the work of the Group, to identify victims and support them to safety and recovery, and to identify perpetrators and disrupt their activity.

3. The Group asked if an update could be provided at the next meeting on changes to licensing for sexual entertainment venues.

[Action: Saira – to provide an update at the next meeting on the changes to licensing of sexual entertainment venues]

Membership

4. The Group agreed that membership should include recognition of the definition of commercial sexual exploitation in Equally Safe.

5. Bronagh recommended that Moira Mackinnon in Child Protection policy in the Scottish Government be invited to the Group to link in with the National Plan on Child Sexual Exploitation.

6. Kirsti advised that Routes Out, an exit service for women engaged in prostitution in Glasgow, be invited to join the Group.

7. The Group discussed asking women with lived experience of commercial sexual exploitation to join the Group, but determined against it to avoid re-traumatisation. Through the work of the members with established relationships with women with lived experience they can be consulted on the work of the Group.

8. Trevor recommended asking Kirstin McPhee of the VAW, Equality Unit team to join the Group as a link to the Equally Safe Joint Delivery Group and Experienced Expert Panel.

9. An invitation will be extended to Katie Brown to represent the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) on the Group.

[Action: Trevor to invite Moira Mackinnon, Kirstin McPhee, Katie Brown and a representative of Routes Out to join the Group]

[Action: Leonie to follow up Rape Crisis Scotland membership with Sinead Daly]

Draft terms of reference

5. Trevor advised that the set-up of the Group was a commitment in the Equally Safe delivery plan, and that its findings would be reported to the Equally Safe Joint Delivery Group, which focusses on implementation of the delivery plan.

6. Peter asked that all actions in the delivery plan relevant to commercial sexual exploitation be included in the terms of reference.

Subject matter for the Group

9. Bronagh recommended contacting Operation Sanctuary in Newcastle to get an idea of the impact of Brexit, hostile immigration policies and no recourse to public funds on commercial sexual exploitation.

10. Kirsti recommended collating a trauma-informed best practice model for responding to commercial sexual exploitation across Scotland.

11. The Group discussed creating an action plan to tackle commercial sexual exploitation, with specific actions for each member.

12. The Group discussed disruption of perpetrators. Rory discussed Police Scotland's plans to focus on the purchasers of sex, tying into the work of the Human Trafficking strategy. The Group also discussed demographics of purchasers of sex, with research finding a range of different age groups, ethnicities and occupations but with a focus on white, middle class professionals. Linda offered to share EU

research into attitudes towards the purchase of sex in different countries with the Group.

[Action: Linda to forward EU research into attitudes towards the purchase of sex in different countries to Leonie to share with the Group]

13. Kirsti agreed to present to the Group on Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership's recent work with Routes Out on identifying purchasers of sex.

14. Saira clarified that the Group will discuss the criminalisation of the purchase of sex as part of its wider work on commercial sexual exploitation but that that would not be its main focus, nor would it make recommendations to Ministers on this subject.

3. It was agreed:

(a) Actions in the Equally Safe delivery plan relevant to commercial sexual exploitation be included in the draft terms of reference.

[Action: Leonie]

(b) That the focus of the next meeting should be on what we are hoping to develop from the Group and timescales.

[Action: Leonie]

Any Other Business

6. Members asked if locations of future meetings could include St Andrews House and venues in Glasgow, and offered to host future meetings in their premises.

Next meeting [\(Note 10\)](#)

7. The next meeting of the Group will be arranged by the Secretariat via Doodle poll.

Equality Unit
20 September 2018