

Minutes of CPG meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday 8th September 2021 to reconstitute the CPG for Prevention and Healing of Adverse Childhood Experiences

MSPs attending:

Rona Mackay – SNP
Sue Webber – Conservative
Karen Adams - SNP
Stephanie Callaghan – SNP
Maggie Chapman – Green
Emma Harper - SNP
Collette Stevenson - SNP

Third Sector attendees:

Jay Haston
George Hosking
Anthoulla Koutsoudi
Kevin Miller
Sarah Nelson
Louise Slorance
Alex Williamson
Michelle Wilson
Andrew Wright

AGM for 2021

There was an election of new officers to re-convene the Cross Party Group

Convenor – Rona Mackay was proposed by Maggie Chapman and seconded by Sue Webber

Co-Convenor - Sue Webber proposed herself, seconded by Rona Mackay

Secretariat - WAVE Trust was proposed by Rona Mackay and seconded by Stephanie Callaghan

Treasurer - Children First was proposed by Sue Webber and seconded by Maggie Chapman

All appointments were unanimously agreed.

There being no further AGM business, the AGM was closed.

Topics for future meetings

Those present discussed possible topics for future meetings of the CPG. Ideas put forward were as follows:

Possible topics 1: Criminal Justice related suggestions

1. Trauma-informed prisons: Karen said there was a trauma-informed prison in her local area. Maybe we could ask them to present their work to the CPG. Kevin mentioned St. Mary's Secure unit being trauma-informed
2. Trauma-informed lawyers: Rona knows one and will ask her about young people and the judicial system
3. Alternatives to prison: Another topic suggested was alternatives to prison. There was an offer to forward information on this.
4. Civil justice and family courts: A further suggestion was civil justice and family courts and how they tackle ACEs.
5. Trauma-informed Police: Emma said that Ayrshire Police are doing lots of Trauma-informed Training. Officers know how to deal with people with trauma. This may be a useful topic.

Possible topics 2: Prevention related suggestions

6. Outdoor education for prevention: Collette suggested this topic.
7. West Dunbartonshire and 70/30: West Dunbartonshire Council has just unanimously passed a motion to work together with WAVE Trust and the 70/30 Campaign to reduce child abuse, neglect and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by at least 70 per cent by the year 2030. Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS have arranged a meeting with West Dunbartonshire to follow this up. It would be good to invite them to present at a future meeting when their plans are further advanced.
8. Prevention: Sue suggested we do a session specifically on prevention. Rona agreed with this.
9. How will we achieve 70/30?: Asked about this, George said WAVE has specific ideas on how this might be achieved, primarily through policies focused on prevention, but that currently we do not have the necessary prevention policies in place to achieve this goal.

Possible topics 3: Child support suggestions

10. Barnhaus: Louise Slorance suggested we have another session on Barnhaus.
11. Looked After Children: George suggested this topic.

Possible topics 4: Trauma-informed Practice

12. A Trauma-informed approach to drugs: Alex suggested a discussion about providing drug services in a Trauma-informed way. What can be done with limited devolved powers in this area? Rona said Alex's suggestion about a motion was a good idea.

Possible speakers

A number of suggestions were made about possible speakers, some linked with specific topics, some not.

13. Suzanne Zeedyk was one suggestion. She has spoken to the CPG before

14. People with Lived Experience: Stephanie would like to hear from people with Lived Experience. Jay Haston spoke about WAVE's Council of Lived Experience

15. The Minister for Children and Young People – Rona suggested that she would be a relevant Minister to invite to speak on an appropriate topic

16. The Cabinet Secretary for Education – Rona also suggested this Cabinet Secretary as a speaker. John Swinney spoke at a previous CPG meeting, when Education was part of his brief

17. The Minister for Community Safety – Ash Denham was another name put forward.

The question was posed about how we make a choice from amongst so many different ideas. George said that historically it has been a joint decision of the Convenor and WAVE, taking account of the views of members. Once the topic was decided and date agreed, it was WAVE's role to find speakers.

70/30 campaign

George gave an introduction to the 70/30 Initiative for MSPs that did not take part in the CPG in the last Parliamentary term.

Frequency of meetings

It was agreed that we should hold meetings 4 times a year. The next meeting should be on a Wednesday in December- the first or second week.

Someone asked if meetings would always be virtual? Rona expressed the hope that we would be able to have hybrid meetings - those that can, will attend, while others would attend by Zoom.

Report

Rona suggested that once we have focused on particular topics, it would be good to issue a report so that we have something tangible as an output.

Further discussion

George - Surveys show that levels of ACEs in Scotland are worse than in England.

George explained 70/30 to the MSPs who came late to this meeting

In the previous Parliament, we had 127 of 129 MSPs endorsing 70/30.
Congratulations to Alex and Jay for their help in securing such support

Emma asked if we can have ACE Champions. George will explore with Emma how to set up ACEs Champions and who will manage this. Emma was a nurse for 30 years and had zero training on drugs and alcohol. George will ask Alex and Jay to speak to Emma to explore this idea.

Andrew raised the issue of 'The Promise'. George commented that it was a good document.