

Cross Party Group on Deafness

Meeting, Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 6pm.

Via Zoom (an online video conferencing platform)

Minutes - Present

MSPs

Convenor – Colin Beattie MSP (Scottish National Party)

Roz McCall MSP (Conservative)

Karen Adam MSP (SNP)

Annabelle Ewing MSP (SNP)

Carol Mochan MSP (Labour)

Invited Guests

Hannah Tweed, Emma Jones (The ALLIANCE)

Scott Steele, Jenny Gray (Colin Beattie MSP staff member)

Tony Rednall, Gerald Ellison, Aileen McIntyre-Scottish Government

Jenni Minto MSP/Minister for Public Health & Women's Health

Paula Spiers – NHS Scotland Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Non-MSP Group Members

Secretariat and Assistant: Janis McDonald, Amy White (The ALLIANCE)

Tori Bishop-Rowe, Lucy Vasiliou (AVUK)

Teresa Quail (BATOD)

Philip Gerard (Deaf Action)

Jacquie Winning (Forth Valley Sensory Centre)

Avril Hepner, Rebecca Mansell (BDA Scotland and BDA)

Brian Shannon Scottish Sensory Centre, Edinburgh University

Christine Johnson – QMU

Mike Henderson (Deafblind Scotland/FLAAG)

Isabella Goldie, John Whitfield (Deafblind Scotland)

Mark Ballard, Lois Drake (NDCS Scotland)

Rachel Mapson (Queen Margaret University)

Ruth McLeod (RNID)

Linda Sharkey (NHS Audiology Scotland, Heads of Service)

Nicholas Orpin (Hearing Link/Hearing Dogs)

Deirdre Aitken (Highland/Blindcraft/Caithness Sensory Services)

Stephen Caulfield (Donaldson Trust)

Adele Goman (Edinburgh Napier University)

Individual Member

Donald Richards

Language Service Professionals

Mark Cross, Jenny Laird (BSL/English Interpreters)

Marlyin Carino, Carol Shedden (Electronic Notetakers)

APOLOGIES

MSPs

Mark Griffen MSP (Scottish Labour)

Jeremy Balfour MSP (Conservative)

Non-MSP Group Members

Ann Ferguson Dumfries and Galloway Hard of Hearing Group

Anita Grover (AV UK)

Alana Harper (Deaf Links, Tayside)

Gary Quinn (Heriot Watt University)

Tessa Slaughter (ASLI Scotland)

Julie Ferguson (Education Institute for Scotland)

Jill Bradshaw (ATLA-Scotland)

Brogan Ferguson (RCSLT)

Deborah Innes (Scottish Deaf Mental Health Service)

Enrique Canton (Deaf Equality and Accessibility Forum South Lanarkshire)

Denise McClung – (SISG, Ayrshire)

Kath Cooper (Donaldson'Trust)

Jane Gallacher (Scottish Cochlear Implant Centre)

Douglas Bryce (Disability Equality Scotland)

Glenn Carter (RCSLT Scotland)

Joanne O'Donnell (Sense Scotland)

Carla Marchbank, (North East Sensory Services)

Jim Harrigan (Scottish Paediatric Audiology)

Prof John Ravenscroft, Sheila MacKenzie (Scottish Sensory Centre)

Danny Sweeney (Individual member)

Amanda McNamara (invited guest)

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and Introductions

The Convenor welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded people to say who they were and what organisation they represented before making contributions.

He asked Amy White to check accessibility and ensured everyone could access the meeting effectively.

He noted the meeting would work around the precise availability of Ms Minto and that may cut across the agenda. Finally the Convenor reminded everyone that the June meeting had been rescheduled to fit with the availability of the Minister.

Agenda item 2 – Attendance, Apologies and Members

Attendance and apologies noted in the minutes.

Agenda item 3 – Approve the minutes from last meeting and discuss matters arising

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 20 March were approved. Matters arising are substantive on the agenda.

Agenda item 4 – Definition of Deafblindness

As Annabelle Ewing MSP was delayed in Parliament, Isabella Goldie talked through the updates circulated prior to the meeting and progress that had been made since March 2024. There has been considerable support for the work.

Whilst we are concerned about delays, we hope to see guidance from the Minister soon and a formal launch of the definition this calendar year.

Action

Isabella and Annabelle Ewing MSP is following up meetings required to agree the guidance and take forward the work.

Agenda item 5

Teachers of the Deaf/Attainment Working Group

Karen Adams MSP noted the work done by the working group and raised connections to the BSL Plan implementation work. She has been convening relevant meetings and writing to other bodies and the Scottish Government. She feels qualified teachers for deaf children is a critical topic for many reasons.

Mark Ballard covered the updates over the summer, the draft report is being finalised and it is planned to have it ready for the December meeting. Discussion raised concerns about delays with BSL and See Hear timetable slippage

Action: The working group will complete the planned report and will develop a further action plan based on the recommendations.

Agenda item 6

Working Group on Sensory Care and Dementia

Roz McCall MSP noted that the working group is collecting various elements of data and has had great support and returns of survey questionnaires.

Action: Working Group to continue meeting and bring back update reports to the CPG on Deafness.

Agenda item 7

National Audiology Review Implementation

See Appendix 1 for detailed information.

Jenni Minto MSP, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health gave an update to the group on the progress of the National Audiology Review and the consequential recommendation, implementation work. She was accompanied by Paula Spiers, NHS Scotland, Deputy Chief Operating Officer.

The Minister acknowledged frustrations and gave assurances that actions were being delivered and improvements were being made.

Agenda item 8 –

BSL Plan implementation group

Philip Gerard, Deaf Action gave a very brief overview of the BSL national and local planning. He felt a lot of rich material was gathered during the engagement process however the National Plan is very limited, in his view. He noted delays, barriers and frustrations with the lack of progress towards implementation of the actions.

Avril Hepner BDA Scotland, noted the other public bodies and local plans were at various states of development and many had not met the legal timetable. Some had not even produced a BSL version of their plan.

Mark Ballard, **NDCS** noted similar overall views and noted that Karen Adams MSP was taking forward several written questions to the Scottish Government on BSL planning and related matters. Answers should be received by the end of September.

Hannah Tweed, The ALLIANCE Scottish Sensory Hub (SSH) noted that its team was working on a review and analysis of plans published and sought this item be substantive on the next general meeting of the Cross Party Group.

Agenda Item 9

AOCB

No items of business due to pressure of time.

Agenda Item 10

Date of next meeting and closing remarks

The next scheduled meetings are:

AGM 7 Oct (CANCELLED)

Wednesday 11 December 2024 at 6pm

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