

Cross Party Group on Dyslexia

Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 6:30pmpm
(via Microsoft Teams)

Minute

Present

MSPs

Oliver Mundell MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Paul McNeill; Margaret Crombie; Gillian Evans; Cathy Magee; Julie Ross; Ross Duncan; Michelle Luciano; Paul Nisbet

1. Introduction

Mr Mundell welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their attendance, he thanked everyone for their support to the group over the last year. Mr Mundell indicated that it would be good to have a face to face meeting in the New Year, which the group agree would be a good idea.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Business arising from the minute

There were no actions from the previous meeting that did not appear on the agenda.

4. Update on the Groups Actions

Mr Mundell thanked Paul McNeill for taking forward some of the actions over the year and passed over to Paul to give an update.

Paul McNeill provide the group with a short update on the agreed objectives that the group had set in 2024 and some of the actions.

Objective One - Seek to gain a policy change to enable adults to gain free assessment at the point of contact regardless of background.

Update:

- Dyslexia Scotland and the University of Glasgow published a report on the experiences of people with dyslexia in Scotland to understand the barriers that this population faces.
- Oliver Mundell raised a question at FMQ about the report and the barrier to accessing free assessments for adults with dyslexia
- Meeting with the First Minister to raised these concerns and pose some possible proposals

Objective Two – Over all Scottish Government Policy or strategy to improved School IT Support/Education – For Dyslexic Students

Update

- Presentation via Paul Nisbet CALL Scotland
- Meeting with the LDAN Bill Team to raise concerns
- A follow up meeting now with the Cab Sev for Education and Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport
- Also raised at meeting with the First Minister

Possible Action – To write via COSLA to all the councils to ask for the current local dyslexic strategy

Possible Action – MSP visit to CALL Scotland Offices

Paul McNeill indicated that when you reflect on the areas above the group have moved a number of areas forward and had positive actions for 2025.

6. Discussion points

The group had a general discussion about some areas:

Oliver Mundell – update the group on the meeting with the First Minister, he indicated that it had been a positive meeting with several asks being requested. These were to have a governmental lead for adult dyslexia, to seek to have a polit study to examine the proposal for greater access for adults to gain free assessment and the possibility to have a 'passport' for children leaving education with dyslexia.

Gillian Evans – Raised a number of point about the Scottish definition of dyslexia and other related aspects about literacy.

Cathy Magee – highlighted that Gillian had raised this point at the Dyslexia Scotland AGM and had been asked to submit a report to the board.

There was a general discussion about the subject, and it was agreed that it was not a topic that could be fully resolved at this meeting. It was agreed that these subjects could be explored at these next meeting. Mr Mundell ask members to contact Paul McNeill with future agenda meetings which could be discussed at the next meetings.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be arranged as a possible face to face meeting in 2025