

Agenda

Cross-Party Group on Visual Impairment

Wednesday 5 October 2022, 13.00-14.00

AGM and meeting to be held via Teams

**Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Visual Impairment
#CPGVI**

Purpose of the group:

The Cross-Party Group on Visual Impairment draws together the blind and partially sighted sector in Scotland to identify issues competent to the Scottish Parliament and seeks, in a reasonable fashion, to influence policy, legislation and decision makers to better reflect the needs of blind and partially sighted people.

Agenda

Agenda item 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

Welcome, introductions and apologies plus GDPR statement.

Agenda item 2 - Employment

- Sarah Marshal, Disability Services Advocacy Manager for Scotland, Department of Work & Pensions, on Access to Work.
- Mel Hanvey from North Ayrshire shares her experience of working with sight loss.

Followed by Q and A.

Agenda item 3 - AGM and Election of Office Bearers

AGM and Election of Office Bearers.

- Convener
- Vice-Convener
- Secretariat

Agenda item 4 - Approval of minutes of meeting of 10 May 2022

Agenda item 5 - Matters arising and Action Points report

5.1. The FOI report, "Traffic lights across Scotland (Spring 2022)" is attached with the meeting papers. It features responses from 29 Scottish Local Authorities.

5.2. As agreed at our last meeting, the Secretary wrote to congratulate Councillors Robert Mooney and Cate Vallis on being elected and to wish them success in their tenure. The Secretary also wrote to Hazel McFarlane offering condolences from the CPGVI as her mother, Nan McFarlane, passed away recently.

5.3. Mike Stewart of the Scottish Government provided notes on eyecare reform for the minutes.

5.4. Any other business - cataract waiting times - the Secretary collaborated with Sandra Wilson to draft a letter to Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport on the concerns expressed about waiting times for cataract treatment. The reply will be circulated in due course.

5.5. Morven Brooks, Chief Executive, Disability Equality Scotland provided copy of her presentation on Braille Labelling on Food Products. The presentation was circulated to CPGVI members and is attached once again for information. The CPGVI Convener, Stuart McMillan MSP indicated that he could table a parliamentary question and, in future, a parliamentary motion which would help with awareness raising, and potentially be considered for debate, parliamentary time permitting. A copy of the PQ and Answer on mandatory braille labelling is attached.

Agenda item 6 - Cost of Living Crisis

James Adams, Director, RNIB Scotland, leads a short discussion about the impact of the Cost of Living crisis on blind and partially sighted people.

Agenda item 7 - Any other competent business

Time permitting.

Agenda item 8 - Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.