

# **Cross-Party Group on Women's Health**

Date and Time: 18:00-18:30, 8 October 2024

Minute

Present

MSP

Rachael Hamilton, MSP

Rona Mackay, MSP

Elena Whitham, MSP

Invited guests

N/A

Non-MSP Group Members

Jill Wood, Engender

Dorothy-Grace Elder, Chronic Pain CPG

Jonathan Sher, HPBL Scotland

Hazel Gardiner

Rosie Illett

Rebecca Mason

Reuben Duffy

Pat Menzies, Endometriosis UK

Emily Manning (Secretariat)

Apologies

Monica Lennon MSP

Carol Mochan MSP

Agenda Item 1- Welcome and Apologies

Rachael Hamilton MSP thanked everyone for attending and passed on Monica Lennon's MSP apologies.

Agenda item 2- Approval of the previous meeting minutes

Minutes of previous meeting (12 March 2024) were proposed by Hazel Gardiner and seconded by Pat Menzies.

## Agenda item 3- Election of MSP Office Bearers

3.1. Reuben Duffy confirmed Monica Lennon's MSP interest in continuing on as Convener of the Group and passed on her apologies for not being there in person. Dorothy-Grace Elder proposed Monica Lennon MSP and Jill Wood seconded.

3.2. Rachael Hamilton MSP proposed Carol Mochan MSP to be Deputy/Co-Convener. Rachael Hamilton MSP also proposed Elena Whitham MSP as Deputy/Co-Convener and Hazel Gardiner seconded.

## Agenda item 4- Election of Secretariat

Rachael Hamilton MSP proposed Endometriosis UK to stay on as Secretariat and Rona Mackay MSP seconded.

## Agenda item 5- Discussion on topics for the next CPG to discuss in 2025

Rachael Hamilton MSP described the topics that have previously been covered by the Group. These were: accessing healthcare for young women, inequalities in women's healthcare, endometriosis care, cervical cancer screening and treatment- at home smear test trials, menstrual health education, waiting times, sexual healthcare, long-acting reversible contraception, National Women's Health Champion.

The Group then shared ideas on future topics for the CPG to discuss:

- Hazel Gardiner said she would like to see the CPG move forward with holding a Women's Health Conference in Scotland within the next year.
- Rachael Hamilton MSP suggested holding the conference online due to budget constraints.
- Elena Whitham MSP suggested including the topics of women's heart health, metabolic health and the links with dementia, as part of the conference focus.
- Pat Menzies described how the conference could be a place for people to come and hear about the latest research in the four main areas of the current Women's Health Plan- endometriosis, PCOS, heart health and menopause.
- The idea was well received by the Group.
- Rona Mackay MSP suggested exploring pain relief and pain management as topic of discussion.
- Jill Wood suggested exploring women's mental health and maternal health through the lens of marginalised groups, and the future of the Women's Health Plan.
- Dorothy Grace Edler emphasised that fear of pain and endometriosis are important topics to explore.
- Elena Whitham MSP suggested highlighting the cost of not investing in women's health.

- Rona Mackay MSP suggested focusing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) and highlighting research into the menopause.
- Dr Jonathan Sher suggested focusing on the prevention of women's health conditions.

## Agenda item 6- AOB

Members asked to send names for speakers on the topics discussed to the Secretariat and any resources they would like shared around the Group.

List of potential topics for the CPG to explore:

- Pain
- Endometriosis
- Heart health
- Metabolic health
- Women's mental health
- Maternal mental health
- Women's health in workplace
- Inequalities in healthcare
- Future of Women's Health Plan
- Menopause