

# Scottish Parliament

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Chronic Pain

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*Held on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012, 6.00 p. m. in Committee Room 5*

### **Present**

Jackson Carlaw MSP (Chair); John Wilson MSP; Jackie Baillie MSP

Susan Archibald; Philip Atkinson; Heather Cameron; Ann Cassels; Helen Cadden; Lynsey Cleland; Sonia Cottom; Martin Dunbar; Dorothy Grace Elder; David Falconer; John Finch; Jacqueline Forde; Graeme Fotheringham; Polly Gilfillan; Sally Hughes; Sabu James; Martin Johnson; Thomas Kay; Irene Logan; Frank Mawson; Peter McCarron; Annamarie McGregor; Fiona MacPherson; Simon Packer; Bill Paton; Paulo Quadros; Jean Rafferty; Patrica Roche; Alexander Stewart; Diane Thomson; John Thomson; Andrew Turnbull; Heather Wallace (Secretary); Pauline Walsh; Lucy Watson.

### **Apologies**

Douglas Galbraith; Joanne Harrison; Linda Mawson; Naomi Phillips; Anne Simpson; Claire Neillie; Anne Ruglys; Pat Onions; David Onions; Des Quinn; Colin Rae; Jeannette Barrie; Ian Power; Michael Grieve; Claire Grieve, Steve Gilbert

### **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed the group stating that it was a privilege for MSPs to work with voluntary groups and professional organisations in CPGs of which there are 80 in the Scottish Parliament. He reminded the group that now we should be concentrating on actions. We should refresh our processes so that we agree actions at meetings and at the next meeting review progress on what we said we would do. We have the duration of the parliament, *ie* until 2016, to make progress.

### **Discussion on the aims and objectives of the Cross Party Group on Chronic Pain**

The responses to the questionnaire had been distilled into a document that was circulated before the meeting with updates handed out the meeting. The chair asked the Group to consider 4-5 priorities. After discussion the following topics emerged as the priorities of the group:

- Education of Patients and GPs (supported at the meeting by S James; H Cadden; D G Elder; P Roche)
- Primary Care (supported at the meeting by D Thomson)

- Benefits System (supported at the meeting by H Cadden; M Dunbar; M Johnson; D G Elder; S Archibald). The chair pointed out that the benefits system was a Westminster reserved matter
- Update on the GRIPS report (discussed at the meeting by J Baillie MSP; H Cadden; B Patton; M Johnson; D G Elder, P Roche)

Action: It was agreed that the Chair would invite a health minister to the next meeting to answer questions following the issue of the update on the GRIPS report.

## **Report on the activities of the Cross Party Group in the last year**

The report had been previously distributed. The Secretary reminded the meeting to respond to the request to update membership details.

J Baillie MSP commented that her experience with the Group had not been a great one. She had never witnessed such tensions in a CPG. The Group spends time commenting on minutes.

A discussion ensued on the past activities of the group.

The Chair concluded that we do not want to focus on where we have been and we need to look forward with an action based approach.

## **Election of Office Bearers**

The three Co-convenors, Jackson Carlaw MSP, Jackie Baillie MSP and John Wilson MSP were re-elected

Jacqueline Forde of the Health Inequalities Alliance was nominated as secretary. There were no other nominations and so she was duly elected.

The Chair thanked H Wallace and Pain Concern for their 10 years' service to the CPG.

J Wilson MSP suggested that the group nominate a Treasurer to deal with any donations that the group might receive. There being no volunteers/nominations the meeting supported the Chair's suggestion that the Co-Convenors will find some-one to act in this capacity.

## **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were approved subject to a number of corrections regarding attendance at the last meeting. The Chair asked the meeting to agree a change of style from verbatim minutes to action based minutes. It was agreed that future minutes would be action based.

## **Matters arising**

It was pointed out that Jackie Baillie MSP would chair the next meeting.

## Provision of refreshments

The Co-conveners stated that there would be tea/coffee/soft drinks at future meetings instead of wine/canapés.

## Other business

Petition S Archibald reported on the progress with the e-petition that she had agreed to take forward at the last meeting. Everybody can see the petitions on the website (<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/40136.aspx>). John Wilson MSP praised the petition system of the Scottish Parliament and noted that he was on the petitions committee and would have to declare his position. The Clerk to the committee will assist with the petition. S Archibald confirmed that the Clerk had been most helpful.

S Archibald said the petition would be emailed around the Group before the next meeting.

North Ireland Pain Summit M Johnson reported that this had been a most successful event.

## Date of next meeting

To be announced subject to the availability of a health minister.

The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

## Actions

Co-conveners to invite a health minister to the next meeting

Co-conveners to appoint a treasurer to the group

S Archibald to ensure text of e-petition to be circulated to group before next meeting

All to submit their membership details to the secretary:

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