

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Diabetes

Minute of meeting: Tuesday 11 June 2013 (Room Q1.04)

Present

Nanette Milne	(NM)
David Stewart	(DS)
Bruce Knight	(BK)
Derek Beatty	(DB)
James Rice	(JR)
Delia Rogers	(DR)
Rupert Pigot	(RP)
Jane-Claire Judson	(JCJ)

Apologies

Jackie Ballie
Richard Simpson
Dr Kenneth J Robertson
Sir Michael Hirst
Lucille Whitehead

1. Welcome

Nanette Milne welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

As this was the AGM, minutes were presented for information

3. Presentation

Jane-Claire Judson, National Director Diabetes UK
Diabetes Week – Research (presentation attached).

NM raised the work being carried out at Aberdeen University, researching very low calorie diets. BK explained that diabetes was originally the instigator for the very low calorie diet. St John's in West Lothian is currently running a pilot trialling this for people with diabetes. JC added that 11 members of the public were on a 600 calories per day diet as part of the trial.

DS enquired about the difficulty on getting funding for research. JCJ explained that Diabetes UK had taken on a new head of research. At a UK level there is tough competition and the charity is looking to bring in more money. In Scotland there is the Scottish Diabetes Research Network, which carries out critical research. JCJ

emphasised the fact that there must be academic freedom to pursue avenues but this should be dictated by overall aims.

DB asked should there be scope for Tesco's, Sainsbury's or any of the multiples to say that there should be food appropriate for people with diabetes. JCJ replied that people with diabetes should be able to have a balanced diet; however there are examples of the supermarket chains improving the service they offer for instance Scot Mid has committed to an increased fruit and vegetables area. It is about working with a local community about how we should eat.

BK asked how the Scottish Government encouraged good food consumption. NM and DS were keen to point out that they do not represent the Scottish Government. The "Hungry for Success" and "Healthy Eating in Schools" regulations are examples of the process which governments can influence the public. DS commented that best practice from around the world is used to formulate policy.

DS raised the 49,000 potentially undiagnosed cases of diabetes in Scotland. The answer for addressing the condition is prevention but is there a way to reach and identify these people. JCJ replied that Scottish Diabetes Group examined this and that screening and assessment are different. Risk assessment is more helpful in raising awareness and identifying the high risk.

DS explained that diabetes is not a national clinical priority. JCJ highlighted that there will not be a new Diabetes Action Plan and that Scottish Government was going to "refresh" the current plan. DS said that we should ask more on this to the Minister for Public Health when he attends the next Cross Party Group meeting.

4. Minister for Public Health at the next meeting of the Cross Party Group

NM suggested that we ask all the members of the Cross Party Group to submit questions to give the minister time to prepare. MM mentioned that the Adam Bell foundation has been set up to target colleges and schools in North London and Liverpool; they have the experience in contacting institutions and would be a good example. JCJ said Diabetes UK Scotland could tailor its 4Ts campaign to appeal to university students.

BK mentioned that My Diabetes My Way has now passed 1000 people signed up from when the pilot started four years ago and that you can now add your own details to the site. JCJ interjected that it was closer to 6000. DS asked if Diabetes UK Scotland could look into pushing this further with the health care professionals and that perhaps this would be something for the minister?

NM closed the meeting.