

CONFIRMED

Cross Party Group on Basic Income

Initial meeting, 10th May 2018

Present: Ben Macpherson MSP (Chairing), Alex Rowley MSP, Maddie Halliday, Tiffany Kane, Annie Miller, Ben Simmons, Mike Danson, Jamie Cooke, Lisa Clark

In Attendance: Jayne Baxter (AR staff), Jane Denholm (IMcK staff)

Apologies – Ivan McKee MSP, Alison Johnstone MSP, Tom Arthur MSP, Gail Irvine Carnegie Trust, Douglas White Carnegie Trust, Willie Sullivan Citizens Basic Income Network Scotland, Neil Cowan Poverty Alliance.

Opening

Introduction from Ben, welcome and apologies

Explanation of requirements for a CPG, which is a formal process – IMcK will use information from this meeting to populate the Registration Form and take to next appropriate Standards Committee for consideration and hopefully, approval.

Name of the group – suggestion to drop ‘Citizens’ in favour of Basic Income – simpler approach, consistency of use. Need to have space within the preamble/description to cover the variations of names used.

Challenge around technicalities of citizenship and what this means – can raise difficult responses.

Agreed – name to be Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Basic Income

Priorities

Discussion of draft text outlining priority areas: Need more focus on the role of basic income within the social security/economy debate – need to adapt first priority into focus on creating a Fairer Scotland – not just soc security, but also economic (first), fair work, insecurity. Economy should lead as it also is key objection raised about basic income. Chance to unleash creativity.

Disagreements over whether there is focus on mechanisms or aspiration for what the economy/society should look like. Aspirations/outcomes first – redistribution, in work poverty, social justice.

Need to take time for rewriting the priorities?

Risk of focussing on mechanisms too much, takes away from focus on human rights and social justice.

Danger of becoming too bogged down in the specifics of the ideas – keep broad.

Action – Group to send revisions in to Jane D by 18/05/2018. Need for lay, open language to make it accessible.

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Themes/Speakers

Heriot Watt/UofE has received funding for workshops around basic income, aiming for challenging and debate – chance to contribute into work of CPG? 6 sessions with different speakers.

Fairly straight forward to provide speakers etc, CPG members can suggest as appropriate.

Themes critical more than speakers – speakers would make sense to follow on from identifying priorities.

Agreed Initial Themes:

- Health
- Automation/Future of Work/AI
- BI as a human rights policy/Relationship with SDG
- Scottish Pilots

Administration

Election of Office Bearers

Co-Conveners – Ivan McKee MSP and Alex Rowley MSP (Agreed)

Secretariat – RSA and CBINS shared responsibility (Agreed)

Membership fee? Provides small fund for costs etc. **Action - Co-Cos/Sec to decide on answer on costs and report back**

Membership – keep LAs pilot group separate? **Action - Send in list of starting members to Jane Denholm by 18/05/18 for discussion.**

Potential invitees (**Action – Ivan**):

- CPAG
- Children in Scotland
- Engender
- Inclusion Scotland
- Scottish Human Rights Commission
- STUC
- Carers Group?
- Peoples Assembly

Future membership – **to be approved by Co-Cos/Secs and shared with group**

Meetings

June, October, December – **Action - Co-Cos to suggest dates**

AOB

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Ben S – Have created Slack online discussion forum around basic income, safe confidential space for discussions. Chance to promote to CPG members. Action – contact Ben Simmons (ben.simmons@cbins.scot) for details if interested

Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016

Ben pointed out that on 12 March 2018 the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force.

Regular CPG meetings are exempted but the initial meeting (such as the one that had just taken place) of a new CPG is **not**. Further information would be circulated to those affected.