

Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment in the Scottish Parliament

Minutes of the Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment meeting held on at 1pm on 19 February in Committee Room 1 of the Scottish Parliament.

Present: James Adams, RNIB Scotland; Richard Baker, Royal Blind; Paul Bartley, Optelec; Salena Begley, Family Fund; Neil Bibby MSP; Miles Briggs MSP; Emma Brown, Guide Dogs Scotland; Catriona Burness, RNIB Scotland; Maggie Chapman, SCOVl; Anne Marie Fleming, RNIB Scotland; Niall Foley, Guide Dogs Scotland; Claire Forde MSYP/ Haggeye; Emily Hines, Scottish Government; Carl Hodson, seescape; Ian Hughes, Associated Optical; Louise Hunter, Visibility; Laura Jones, RNIB Scotland; Sheila Mackenzie, Scottish Sensory Centre; Maureen Macmillan, Sight Action; Debbie McGill, ABDO; Stuart McMillan MSP; Philippa Mason, International Glaucoma Association; Terry Moody, RNIB Scotland Committee; Rod Murchison; Christina Naismith, Head of Integration Implementation, Directorate for Health and Social Care Integration, Scottish Government [speaker]; Sally Paterson, Royal Blind; Alun Peate, RNIB Scotland Committee; Rosine Pybus, RNIB Scotland; Ken Reid, Scottish Vision Strategy Ambassador/RNIB; Terry Robinson, RNIB Scotland Committee; Hal Rollason, Optometry Scotland; Kirin Saeed; Janelle Scotland, ASTN; Colin Smyth MSP; Gill Sutherland, VisionPK; Steven Sutherland MSYP/ Haggeye; Claire Sweeney, Audit Director, Audit Scotland [speaker]; Julie Thomson; Sandra Wilson, RNIB Scotland Committee; Cate Vallis, RNIB Scotland.

1. Welcome and introductions.

2. Apologies: Ian Brown, RNIB Scotland; Amanda Burt; Marion Butchart, Novartis; Campbell Chalmers, RNIB Scotland; Ian Clement; Jamie Cuthbertson, Macular Society; Laura Gray, Macular Society; Bob Ironside, VisionPK; Maureen McAllister, Working Well with Arthritis; Jacqueline McGuire, SAVIE; Linda Middlemist, Guide Dogs Scotland; Gillian Mitchell, Sight Action; Hussein Patwa, RNIB Scotland Committee; Mary Rasmussen; Susan Robinson; Stephanie Rose, Police Scotland; Angela Russell, Royal Blind School; J Angus Scott, NHS Forth Valley;

Carolyn Scott, SCOVI; Danny Sweeney, North Ayrshire Council; Cirta Tooth; Colette Walker.

3. Integration of Health and Social Care - an update on progress with speakers from Audit Scotland and the Scottish Government.

Claire Sweeney, Audit Scotland's Audit Director, and Christina Naismith, the Scottish Government's Head of Integration Implementation, reported to the meeting on the integration of health and social care in Scotland.

Claire Sweeney started by noting that this was the best attended CPG she had ever been to. Audit Scotland audit all Scottish public bodies. When auditing of the integration of health and social care, they are looking at identifying risks, how risks have been addressed, what integration looks like in practice and what difference integration has made. Their first report on health and social care integration was published in 2015 followed by a further report in 2018. She went on to say that integration needs to be thought about over a longer term with a focus on the areas that are getting it right and how that can impact on other areas to change services in a positive way. Ms Sweeney said she was especially keen to talk to community groups about their experience of health and social care integration.

Christina Naismith commented on the lack of data on community health care and noted the importance of having an inclusive approach so that service users don't feel like it's a top down system. She detailed the members of the leadership group set up after the review was called for by the Cabinet Secretary in May 2018. Ms Naismith also encouraged community engagement.

There then followed a Q&A with the speakers. Topics covered included:

- The difficulty in changing the health and social care culture with Claire Sweeney emphasising the importance of looking at attitudes and Christina Naismith referring to benchmarking used by local authorities with reference to national health and wellbeing outcomes;
- The importance of third sector involvement;

- Changes that may be noted by blind and partially sighted service users should include a person-centred approach with more straightforward referrals and access to support;
- Primary and secondary eye care services, in particular, the electronic referral system;
- The necessary qualities for health and social care leaders and need for joined-up thinking;
- The need for data collection and mapping needs and where services are available, including mental health services for the visually impaired.

Stuart thanked Ms Sweeney and Ms Naismith for giving up their time to talk with the CPGVI.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2018.

The minutes were proposed by Terry Moody, seconded by Ken Reid and approved by the meeting.

5. Matters arising.

Stuart McMillan MSP read out the CPG statement on GDPR.

The names of individual members are listed on the CPG website alongside the list of organisation members. The parliament's guidance states that 'The name of an individual is considered to be personal data so if you are holding the names of those attending CPG meetings and minutes of what was said, then those minutes include personal data.' The names of CPG attendees will be on the public record of the meeting. If anyone does not wish their name to appear on any publicly available CPG documents, please let Catriona know.

6. Any other competent business (AOB).

Ken Reid praised the City of Edinburgh Council for their on-street advertising ban and encouraged other local authority areas to follow suit.

Action Point: It was agreed that the CPGVI write to COSLA to propose this.

7. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 21 May, 18.00 - 19.00, Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament.