

Minutes Cross Party Group for Carers

Tuesday 18th February 2020

Scottish Parliament

Present:	Barry Gale	Carer
	Ann Bisset	Carer
	Rhona Wilder	Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
	Arvind Salwan	Care Inspectorate
	Andrew Muir	Psychiatric Rights Scotland
	Jean Campbell	Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland / Support in Mind
	Tommy Whitelaw	Carers Voices, Alliance
	Celia Sweeney	Carer
	Robert McGeachy	Camphill Scotland
	Susan Docherty	Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers
	Toni Valbonesi	One Parent Families Scotland
	Karen Pirie	South Lanarkshire College
	Christine Farquhar	Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board
	Kate Hogarth	Shared Care Scotland
	Elizabeth Morrison	Life Changes Trust
	Tom Arthur	MSP (Co-convenor)
	Mark Griffin	MSP (Co-convenor)
	Paul Traynor	Carers Trust Scotland (Secretariat)
	Karen Maloney	Carers Trust Scotland (Secretariat)
Apologies:	Joan McAlpine	MSP
	Paul Edie	Care Inspectorate
	Alison Wright	Carers of West Lothian
	Lisa Ross	Salvesen Mindroom Centre
	Colette Vassie	Carer
	Cath Purdie	Pasda
	Justina Murray	Scottish Families affected by Alcohol and Drugs
	Margaret Chiwanza	MECOPP
	Tom Wightman	Pasda
	Claire Cairns	Coalition of Carers in Scotland

1. Welcome and introductions

Mark Griffin MSP (Co-convenor) welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies for the meeting. He stated that Tom Arthur MSP (Co-convenor) was at another meeting but would join the meeting shortly.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Tom Arthur MSP proposed the minutes for the last meeting, they were seconded by Karen Maloney. They were agreed and adopted.

3. Shaping the way ahead

Mark explained the rationale for focussing the discussion on future meeting topics. He explained that we should be aiming to select topic areas that we are able to influence or create a visible outcome from as a CPG.

It was requested if the topic on CCTV could be changed to include all places where there are vulnerable adults and young people not just care homes.

There was also a request for a discussion on the mental health of carers and the support that is needed. It was suggested that we could approach the Cross-Party Group on Mental Health to see if we could have a joint meeting.

Tommy Whitelaw stated that the Alliance have a paper on the topic, and he will send it in to be sent round the members.

There was some discussion on the impact that the CPG has made over the last few years and it was generally expressed that a lot of what is discussed isn't progressed much. There is limited tangible outcomes to see from the meetings and discussions. It was reinforced that this is why it is important to look at topics that will allow for a definitive decision or progress with the issue.

Part of the discussion was about linking up with the issues that had been raised from the last Carers Parliament and in particular the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 implementation. A discussion then followed about that there has been a Freedom of Information request on the funding submitted by Coalition for Carers in Scotland, but members were wondering if something similar could be done around the number and timescales for Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statements. Members also were interested to know if support was being provided and received following Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statement reviews.

It was also suggested that we contact Joe FitzPatrick MSP Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing to attend a future meeting to discuss the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 directly.

Mark suggested we get four topics for the meetings left in this parliamentary session that we can get a legacy from and we can also explore additional joint CPG meetings with other CPGs such as Mental Health and MS.

The main topics for future meetings were decided as:

- **The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016**
- **Mental health carers and mental health of carers**
- **CCTV for areas where there are vulnerable adults and young people**
- **Identification of carers and financial support for carers**

There was also a suggestion to have a working group of four or five people to work on the topics. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting.

4. MSP attendance at CPG meetings

Tom and Mark spoke about how we get more MSPs to attend the CPG. There are over 100 CPGs and there can be multiple CPGs taking place at the same time. Most MSPs are members of multiple CPGs and with the demands on their time with Scottish Parliamentary business, it is not easy to attend CPG meetings.

There were several suggestions including members writing to their local MSPs and asking them to come along to the meetings. The Secretariats said they could supply a template for members to write to their MSP asking them to attend the group. There was also discussion about tweeting or Facebook posting your MSP to attend the group.

5. AOCB

There was also discussion around using live streaming and also skype for rural carers to participate in the meeting. This will be explored further by the Secretariats to see if this is possible in Scottish Parliament and any issues around confidentiality.

There were also suggestions to look at a blog or Facebook page for the group to showcase the work being done. Invitations could also be sent to delegates from the Carers Parliament.

The Secretariats highlighted that they propose that the group start using Eventbrite for registering for the meetings and sending apologies, as this is more efficient to administer.

Secretariats also noted that a contact form would be sent to all members to update our membership list.

6. Date of next meeting

**26th May 2020,
Committee Room 3,
1pm – 2.30pm**