

Cross Party Group on Carers

8th December 2020

Zoom meeting

Present: Arvind Salwan – Carer Inspectorate
Celia sweeney – Carer
Jean Campbell – Soroptimist International (Scotland) / Support in Mind Scotland
Louise Morgan – Carers Trust Scotland
Hannah Martin – Carers Trust Scotland
Susan Hughes – SDS
Claire Cairns – Coalition of Carers in Scotland
Elizabeth Morrison – Life Changes Trust
Raveena Sajjan – Alliance Scotland
Fiona Robertson – Edinburgh Headway
Tom Arthur MSP – Co-convenor
Mark Griffin MSP – Co-convenor
Karen Maloney – Carers Trust Scotland
Paul Traynor – Carers Trust Scotland

Apologies: Justina Murray – Scottish Families affected by Alcohol & Drugs
Lisa Ross – Salvesen Mindroom Centre
Paul Eadie – Care Inspectorate
Kate Hogarth – Shared Care Scotland

1. Welcome and Introductions

Tom Arthur MSP welcomed everyone and went through the process for today's meeting he gave apologies that Mark Griffin MSP would join but be a bit late. He suggested we go to the presentation and we could deal with the AGM actions when Mark arrived.

Mark joined the meeting during the presentation and the AGM actions were carried out.

2. Election / Re-election of Office Bearers

The convenors explained the process and asked for someone to propose the re-election of current office bearers.

Convenors – Proposed by Jean Campbell

Seconded by Celia Sweeney

Secretariat – Proposed by Jean Campbell

Seconded by Celia Sweeney

The current session of Parliament will end in the spring next year and at the next meeting in February the meeting will be informed of the process to dissolve the group and how to re-establish the group once Parliament reconvenes.

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

Convenor went through the minutes asking if there were any issues with the minutes. The minutes were proposed by Claire Cairns and seconded by Celia Sweeney.

4. Discussion on dissolution and re applying for new Parliamentary Session

Tom explained the process for the dissolution of Parliament and how that affected the Cross-Party Group, and that the February meeting will be the last meeting. There will be information on how to reapply for the new session of parliament and this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

5. Student Carer Research & Impact of Coronavirus

Hannah Martin from Carers Trust Scotland delivered a presentation on recent student carer research in Scotland.

Hannah explained the process used in forming the research and the research report.

Hannah spoke about how the applications process affected student carers and the things they had to consider before applying to college or university. Many student carers have to think about the distance to the university or college and how easy it would be to get back to the person they care for if something happened. This can also affect the course that they decide to do as not all courses are available at all institutions.

There were also financial considerations and whether they could afford to attend.

A copy of the presentation will be sent with the minutes and a link to the full report is below

<https://carers.org/downloads/scotland-pdfs/the-student-carer-experience-in-scotland.pdf>

The link to the information posters is below

<https://carers.org/downloads/scotland-pdfs/a4-poster-the-student-carer-experience-in-scotland.pdf>

6. Letters to Ministers

Paul Traynor updated the group on the two letters that were to be sent to Ministers following the last meeting. Both letters are near completion and will be sent to the Ministers before Christmas.

The group discussed that although the social renewal advisory board was near completion it was still important to stress that carer involvement on what happens next is very important.

A copy of the letters will be sent out to all members for their information with the minutes

7. AOCB

Andrew Muir raised a request to allow Barry Gale (a previous group member who had been removed from the group) entry back into the Cross-Party Group on Carers. Mark informed him that Barry Gale had to formally contact the Secretariat to apply to re-join the group and that this would be put to the group at the next meeting following that request and that it would be up to the members of the group to state if he could return. Mark stated that he would not approve his reinstatement but that it was up to the group as a whole to decide.

Mark raised the point on carers and when they would get the Coronavirus vaccination. He stated that he was going to raise a question in Parliament as there seemed to be some confusion and that

he had been contacted by a constituent who is a carer. He stated that if anyone had any information and wanted to input to it to let him or the Secretariat know.

8. Date of next meeting

18th February 2021 Committee Room 3, 1- 2:30pm (TBC)

Note: The next Cross Party Group on Carers meeting (18th February 2021) may be another online meeting, this will depend on restrictions at that time. The Secretariat will inform members closer to the meeting date.