

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Diabetes

Minute of meeting: Wednesday 9th December 2020

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome: David Stewart MSP (DS) opened the meeting and welcomed the group and speakers. Apologised for slight delay caused by the late running of Parliament.

2. Minutes of last meeting: David Stewart MSP (DS) proposed the minutes from 17 December for approval. Minutes approved.

3. Presentation: BW introduced Brian Kennon (BK) Consultant Diabetologist and National Lead for Diabetes. BS undertook a short presentation on redefining care models and recovery from Covid-19, exploring challenges the sector faces. Suggested that a community hub model would help services be more inclusive. Financial inclusion was highlighted as key, as well as a move away from the solely medical model. BS noted that reviews should be a meeting of equals. Covid-19 has changed the landscape significantly, allowing the opportunity to redefine how care is offered. BS asserted that digital is the new normal and must be part of care. Noted that a consistent and clear narrative on what we want to achieve is necessary. Digital exclusion remains a challenge. Brian Whittle MSP (BW) noted that how we utilise data is key. BK agreed, noting that there are barriers for deprived communities in using tech which must be explored. A member of the CPG asked BK to outline the link between Covid-19 and diabetes – does having diabetes make it more likely you will be impacted by Covid? BK noted that age is the key differential. A member of the CPG asked if Diabetes UK should be more proactive in ensuring people living with diabetes had access to the internet. Angela Mitchell (AM), Director of Diabetes Scotland, noted the importance of this but that Scottish Government must be central to leading on digital exclusion. A member of the CPG raised the example of GP practices in Tower Hamlets being placed in community hubs, which allows a whole-person approach. BK agreed this was a very useful model.

4. Re-election of office-bearers. AM took over the meeting from DS, Ian Sloan proposed DS as Convenor, Keith Walker seconded. DS took over. Emma Harper and Brian Whittle proposed and seconded to remain as Deputy Convenors.

5. Meeting closed.