

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Disability
Wednesday 20th June 2018
Mary Fairfax Sommerville Room (CR3) The Scottish Parliament
12.30pm-2.30pm

In Attendance:

Jeremy Balfour MSP (Convenor), Stuart McMillan MSP (Vice-Convenor), Julia Shillitto (Jeremy Balfour's Office), Katie Mackie (Jeremy Balfour's Office), Rhona McGrath (Jeremy Balfour's Office), Michael McMahon (Secretary – DAS), Aurora Constatin (University of Edinburgh) Grant Carson (GCIL), John Speirs (GCIL), John Miller (Action Duchenne), Mike Harrison (SATA), John Ballantine (SATA), Faye Keogh (Turning Point Scotland), Emma Pauley (Parent/Carer), Rebecca Scarlett (Lead Scotland), Lynn Murray (Don't Screen Us Out), Susie Fitton (Inclusion Scotland), Pauline Nolan (Inclusion Scotland), Carolyn Scott (SCOVI), Richard Baker (Royal Blind), Maggie Ellis (PhoneAbility) Kenneth Fleming (SCLD), Lucy Roche (Jackie Baillie MSPs Office)

Apologies:

Jackie Baillie MSP, Alexander Stewart MSP, Peter Carruthers (South Edinburgh Amenities Group), Terry Robison (Describe Online), John Sutherland, Charlie McMillan (Capability Scotland), Maggie Chapman (SCOVI), Rory Gaffney (DS Scotland), Carolynne Hunter

1)Introduction

The Convenor welcomed members and invited attendees to identify themselves and the organisations they were representing.

2)Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

John Miller pointed out that the concern he had raised at the previous meeting was in respect of local authorities refusing to increase the speed of wheelchairs rather than decreased as suggested in the draft minute. It was agreed that this would be corrected and the minutes were approved. Moved: Maggie Ellis Sec: Richard Baker

3)EMPLOYABILITY – Grant Carson and John Speirs (Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living)

Grant Carson and John Speirs gave individual presentations. Grant advised that GCIL are a user led disabled persons organisation which was set up in 1995. Its services are based on the social model of disability. He then outlined the picture of housing and the linked barriers to unemployment.

John outlined the type of work GCIL carries out and who they work on behalf of.

Both speakers then answered questions from attendees which covered inclusion and accessibility, budgets for delivering national programmes, the potential impact of BREXIT, building standards, targets for accessible housing, the use of therapeutic beds to keep people at home, what pathways are used to advertise and employ trainees, how new legislation is deployed and how effective it is.

4)SUPPORTING CREATIVITY and COLLABORATIONSKILLS in CHILDREN with AUTISM – Dr Aurora Constantin, University of Edinburgh

Dr Constantin outlined her role and explained the role that she is involved in which is in developing an app which is designed to help develop educational tools which can assist in the classroom on creative activities.

Questions were raised on how the app could help people who support disabled people and how the curriculum could be improved to allow more time for integration.

I discussion followed on potential wider uses for technology.

5) A.O.B.

a)The issue of comments made by John Mason MSP in relation to discrimination against disabled football supporters was raised following correspondence being received on this matter. Jeremy Balfour advised the CPG that he had been in correspondence with John Mason and had been assured that the story had been reported out of context.

b) Lynn Murray outlined the reason for her request to speak to the next CPG meeting in relation to Down's Syndrome.

c) Pauline Nolan highlighted the report on SDS which Inclusion Scotland had been working on. It was agreed to make this an item on the agenda of the next CPG meeting.

d) John Miller gave an update on the issue of wheelchair football which he had raised at the previous meeting.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm

