

# Cross-Party Group on LGBTI+ issues

Draft minute of Wednesday 19 April 2017 meeting

Venue: Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 5

## 1. Welcome and apologies

### Present:

Jamie Greene MSP (Co-Convener, chairing)  
Patrick Harvie MSP (Co-Convener)  
Rona Mackay MSP

Liam Stevenson	TIE Campaign
Jordan Daly	TIE Campaign
Dean Coyle	TIE Campaign
Cara Spence	LGBT Youth Scotland
Colin Macfarlane	Stonewall Scotland
Maruska Greenwood	LGBT Health and Wellbeing
Stuart Duffy	Pink Saltire
Kelsey Smith	HIV Scotland
Izzy Proctor	HIV Scotland
Alistair Rose	SX and Waverley Care
Tim Hopkins	Equality Network
Hannah Pearson	Equality Network
James Morton	Scottish Trans Alliance
Andrew Marshall	LEAP Sports Scotland
Christina Grant	Dumfries and Galloway LGBT Plus
Susan Hart	Scottish Borders LGBT Equality

Paul F Cockburn	Individual
Sarah Masson	Individual
Paul Aitken	Individual

### Apologies:

Kezia Dugdale MSP  
Ben Macpherson MSP  
Annie Wells MSP  
Ross Thomson MSP

The meeting was chaired by Jamie Greene MSP.

## **2. Introductions and new members**

It was agreed to accept the requests of (i) Susan Ross, Police Scotland LGBTI Liaison Officer, and (ii) Scottish LGBTQI Voices, to join the group. The group secretary will add them to the mailing list and notify the Standards Committee team.

## **3. Minute of the last meeting (1<sup>st</sup> February 2017)**

The group approved the minute.

## **4. Matters arising from the last minute**

MSPs noted that there has been no further development with the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. RM commented that the Justice Committee does not yet have a date to review the Act.

Equality Network commented that Scottish hate crime legislation is currently being reviewed by Lord Bracadale, one of the most senior members of the Scottish judiciary. This review covers all hate crime legislation, including the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. Equality Network will be contributing to the review.

SX said that the group's letter on blood donation had slipped as a priority because of the recent developments with PrEP.

The group secretary confirmed that they had circulated the latest draft of the letter to the group, but had received no feedback from group members.

It was agreed for the letter to be re-circulated for final comment.

RM provided the group with an update from the Westminster APPG group on blood donation.

JG's agreed actions will be rolled forward.

LGBT Youth confirmed that BM had visited their offices during LGBT History Month, as well as visiting Leith Academy to meet some LGBT students there.

JG commented on the success of LGBT History Month.

## **5. Education: Time for Inclusive Education (TIE) presentation, and contributions from organisations working in education**

JG highlighted the positive Members' Business debate on LGBTI-inclusive education, led by Monica Lennon MSP, which took place immediately before the CPG meeting. He welcomed the Scottish Government's decision to establish a working group on the issue, to examine how the education experience of LGBTI young people in Scotland can be improved. He also commented that the cross-party support for TIE was good to see.

TIE then provided the group with a brief summary of the campaign and their thoughts on the newly established working group. TIE are a Scottish campaign group working to combat homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and prejudice in schools through LGBTI inclusive education. They offer various services to schools around the country, including school assemblies, teacher training and workplace seminars.

TIE said that their two years of campaigning paid off today, with the Scottish Government's announcement to establish a working group on LGBTI inclusive education, which was one of the proposals in their 'Achieving Inclusive Education' national strategy paper.

The current working group members are: TIE, Stonewall Scotland, LGBT Youth Scotland, Scottish Youth Parliament, Association of Directors of Education (ADES), Education Scotland, Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), National Parent Forum Scotland, Respect Me, School Leaders Scotland, and the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

TIE said that they have also requested that the Scottish Trans Alliance (STA) be invited to join the working group. They said it was an oversight that the STA were not invited to join initially, but that they expect this will be rectified before or at the group's first meeting.

TIE welcomed the establishment of the working group and said it was a big step forward. They acknowledged that both Stonewall Scotland and LGBT Youth already provide LGBTI training and resources in schools, and commented that they want the working group to draw from this experience and expertise. They said they also want teachers and young people themselves to play a role in the group. TIE also want the group to have a significant focus on trans inclusion, which is why it is important for the STA to be involved. TIE said that the working group should not take long to report back, and that action should be immediate and tangible.

PH congratulated TIE, and commented on the importance of putting pressure on local authorities to implement inclusive education after the local elections in May.

TIE agreed and said that their campaigning and lobbying will not stop.

Equality Network also congratulated TIE, and thanked JG and all the other MSPs who spoke in the Members' Business debate. They said that the debate had been very positive, although highlighted that in the Minister's response, she made reference to RSHP lessons being the main area of importance, which as we know, is not the only means of implementing LGBTI inclusion in schools.

JG suggested that the group write a letter to the government, welcoming the establishment of the working group, but reinforcing that action must be swift.

TIE agreed to draft the letter.

PH suggested that the CPG should invite members of the LGBTI inclusive education working group to attend a meeting.

LGBT Youth commented that we need to see clear leadership from both the Scottish Government and local authorities in regards to inclusive education. They said that although there are some schools already doing fantastic work, there are others that are not, and there is a real challenge in some constituencies to engage with schools. Third sector organisations can try, but cannot make schools engage if they are not willing to.

RM suggested that MSPs contact their local authority after the elections in May to enquire how they are implementing LGBTI inclusive education in schools. This would highlight any potentially problematic or resistant authorities.

RM also commented that it was encouraging to see that the Scottish Catholic Education Service will be a member of the working group.

Stonewall Scotland raised two points. Firstly, that the onus of implementing inclusive education lies with the Scottish Government and local authorities, not the people round the table at the working group. They agreed with LGBT Youth that we need to see clear leadership. Secondly, they supported RM's suggestion of MSPs writing to local authorities. Stonewall Scotland said they work with nine (of 32) local authorities in Scotland, and have tried to engage with more but never receive a response.

Stonewall Scotland's second 'School Report' will be published in July, which they will send to local authorities. They did this in 2012 when their first 'School Report' was published, but received little response, except from the local authorities that they already work with.

TIE agreed to produce a template letter for MSPs to send to local authorities. They will finalise this as soon as possible after the first meeting of the working group.

LGBT Youth said that they did not want trans issues to fall off the inclusive education agenda. They commented that the narrative in the media was largely around homophobia, when in fact, a lot of the teachers they work with are more lacking in confidence in relation to gender identity issues, than sexual orientation.

LGBT Youth has worked in partnership with the Scottish Trans Alliance to create guidance on supporting transgender young people in school. This is due to be published in May.

JG asked how collaborative is the work of the LGBTI organisations in relation to education.

Stonewall Scotland said that the organisations meet regularly to discuss key messaging and work strands so there is no duplication, and that each organisation has a different role. Stonewall Scotland provide an entry level train the trainer

programme for teachers, and LGBT Youth have their LGBT Charter Mark for schools to work towards.

LGBT Youth said that they have trained 1,500 teachers across Scotland this year, and demand is increasing.

JG asked if the group thought anyone was missing from the working group.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing and TIE asked why the Equality Network was not on the group.

Equality Network explained that they don't do a huge amount of work on education, and that their biggest concern was that the STA, which sits within the Equality Network, is on the group to provide trans representation.

TIE commented that they will also propose that the working group be an open group which invites relevant people to meetings, such as trans young people.

LEAP Sports said that they are also continuing to do work around education, including working with Shawlands Academy in Glasgow to create a new 'Manifesto for Inclusive Physical Education', which will be launched on their website at the beginning of May. They are also at the early stages of holding focus groups in higher and further education settings, which have a particular focus on trans, non-binary and intersex inclusion.

HIV Scotland said that their report on education is due to be published in the summer, and they will be conducting a survey on young people's views regarding education in the autumn.

## **6. Local government elections**

Stonewall Scotland have produced two resources for the local government elections. The first is called 'Your Voice Matters', which is a guide for voters to encourage and enable them to ask their councillors and candidates to stand up for LGBT equality. And the second resource, called 'Standing up for LGBT people in your community', is for candidates themselves, to ensure that they're standing up for LGBT people in their community. Both resources are available on the Stonewall Scotland website, as well as tools for finding out who your local candidates are, and information on how to register to vote.

## **7. LGBTI older people – follow up from February meeting**

LGBT Health and Wellbeing thanked the group for adding this item to the agenda. They said they were disappointed to have no staff present at February's meeting, given the amount of work they do around LGBT age issues, but they were very grateful to Bill McKee and Liz Haggart from their LGBT Age Reference Group who attended and shared their thoughts and experiences.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing have had a specific project working with older LGBT people, LGBT Age, since 2010. LGBT ageing is a very under-researched area, but what the little research does tell us is that older LGBT people are more likely to be single, live alone, not have children and be estranged from their family. They have a much higher need for support services, but it is coupled with a low level of confidence in accessing such services. LGBT Health and Wellbeing have spoken with services working with older people, who were receptive and interested, but invariably said that they do not work with any LGBT people. This points to the immense invisibility of the older LGBT population, and that much more awareness raising is needed. LGBT Health and Wellbeing said that after two years they did start to receive a small number of referrals from mainstream service providers, but disappointingly these are largely from LGBT workers, who are identifying older people as LGBT and recognising the need for LGBT-specific support. They said that the same issues relating to implementing inclusivity in schools, are also applicable to other services, and although they warmly welcomed the Members' Business debate, and agree that it is vital to get education right, there have been no political advancements in terms of older LGBT people.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing said that it is a misfortune that the generation of people who fought for LGBT equality are now having to go 'back in the closet'. They gave the example of one of their Reference Group members, who advertised a LGBT group in his sheltered housing newsletter, received homophobia from other residents. He is aware of other LGBT residents, but none who feel able to be openly gay.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing said that when it was first established, their LGBT Age Project was ground-breaking on an international level, but as an organisation they have just touched the tip of the iceberg of a huge issue not being talked about. They also said that after June this year, the funding of the LGBT Age Project is uncertain.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing also commented that it is not just services which need to be inclusive of older LGBTI people, but LGBTI community spaces themselves, such as Pride events.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing made a plea to the CPG to not lose sight of the older LGBTI people agenda, as older LGBTI people are such a vital part of the LGBTI community.

Stonewall Scotland asked LGBT Health and Wellbeing about LGBT Age's funding situation.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing explained that they have never received any statutory funding for their 50+ support work, and that the Big Lottery Fund have funded LGBT Age 50+ befriending and social programme for the last three years, but that funding is coming to an end in June. They have applied for other funding, but there is no certainty post-June.

PH asked if Scotland can learn anything from good practice in other countries.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing spoke about a pioneering project in New York, which they have taken a lot of learning from, as well as work in London, and more recently Manchester and Brighton.

PH commented that New York, Manchester and Brighton are magnet cities, and that LGBTI people living in rural parts of Scotland for example, will face very different issues. He also asked how much age discrimination is a factor in the invisibilizing of older LGBTI people.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing said that it is difficult to distinguish between the different levels of prejudice older LGBTI people face, and that we must acknowledge that there is ageism within the LGBTI community itself. And that in older people's services, equality issues in general and particularly LGBTI issues are not high on the agenda.

JG asked the group for ideas on actions MSPs could take on this issue.

Dumfries and Galloway LGBT Plus commented that they too witness first-hand the particular issues facing older LGBTI people, and that it would be a positive step forward if parliament acknowledged these issues.

SX agreed that the issue does need to be raised in parliament. They said that they work with a lot of older gay and bisexual men living with HIV, who are fearful of disclosing both their HIV status and their sexual orientation to service providers.

## **8. Update on other matters**

LGBT Youth were disappointed about the lack of LGBTI inclusion in the Scottish Government's recently published Mental Health Strategy. Together with Stonewall Scotland, LGBT Health and Wellbeing, Equality Network and the Scottish Trans Alliance, they have written a joint letter to Shona Robison, Angela Constance and Maureen Watt expressing concern and asking to meet urgently.

Equality Network also commented that the accompanying EQIA (Equality Impact Assessment) process had not been used effectively.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing and the Mental Welfare Commission have recently published a good practice guide for medical professionals on providing LGBT-inclusive mental health services, which has been widely distributed to GPs and mental health services around Scotland. The guide is available [online](#), and hard copies are also available from the Commission.

Stonewall Scotland have recently published their 'Vision for Change' document on their trans inclusion work, following consultation with trans people across the country. It is available on their website, and they encourage group members to read it.

Scottish Trans Alliance said that they very much welcomed the publication of 'Vision for Change'.

JG asked for an update on PrEP.

HIV Scotland said that since PrEP was approved earlier this month, the NHS are now working to finalise the roll out of PrEP and determine the eligibility criteria for individuals seeking it. Each health board will have their own policy on PrEP implementation. PrEP should be available in sexual health clinics by mid-July.

SX commented that the approval of PrEP is a major step forward, and is groundbreaking for Scotland.

Scottish Trans Alliance advised the group to also consider PrEP from a trans perspective. A number of factors may make trans people more susceptible to HIV infection, such as taking testosterone. They highlighted that some trans bisexual and gay men have vaginal intercourse.

HIV Scotland confirmed that the Scottish HIV PrEP Short Life Working Group did look at trans issues.

SX said that pressure on health boards to implement PrEP must be maintained, especially in remoter areas that are not as well served.

JG commented on the amount of people already taking PrEP without prescription, and the general lack of understanding of what happens next amongst all people wanting to access PrEP.

RM asked if any progress has been made on John Nicolson's Turing Bill.

Equality Network said that they understood that officials were making progress which should allow a bill to be introduced later this year. The announced policy appeared to be pretty good – one improvement on the legislation in the rest of the UK was that the pardon would be given automatically to men who are still living as well as those who are deceased.

RM said she would ask a parliamentary question about the forthcoming legislation.

TIE raised their concerns around LGBTI age issues, following the input from LGBT Health and Wellbeing. They asked how we can collectively advance on this issue, and suggested at the next meeting putting together strategic points on how to take the issue forward.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing said this was a great suggestion. D&G LGBT Plus agreed and said they had done research which they would circulate.

## **9. Any other business**

Equality Network thanked JG for asking a parliamentary question regarding the Scottish Government's position on sending an official or minister to future meetings of the LGBTI+ CPG.

Equality Network asked the group if they would like to invite Maureen Watt, the Minister for Mental Health, to June's meeting, given that the theme of that meeting

will be mental health. The group agreed to invite her at 6.30, so that the group can prepare first. The group secretary will send an invitation.

### **10. Date of the next meeting and agreement of main discussion items for the September and November meetings**

Next meeting: Wednesday 28 June 2017, Committee Room 4, 6-8pm.

It was agreed that the September meeting will focus on trans equality. This is a good time to discuss trans issues as the Scottish Government are due to publish their consultation on the Gender Recognition Act after the summer recess. The September meeting will also serve as the CPG's AGM.

Equality Network suggested having intersex equality as the main discussion item for the November meeting, as the Scottish Government might also consult on intersex issues. Equality Network explained that intersex engagement in Scotland is at an early stage, and that we could invite intersex activists and experts to the meeting. The theme of November's meeting will be finalised in June.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

- JG to write a letter to the care home in Greenock he recently visited, to enquire if the staff there have received any LGBT and/or HIV awareness training. JG to share the response with the group – rolled forward from last meeting.
- JG to ask a PQ regarding the breakdown of public vs private care homes, as well as the provision of LGBTI+ training for care home staff – rolled forward from last meeting.
- The group secretary to recirculate the group's letter on blood donation for final comment.
- TIE to draft a letter on behalf of the LGBTI+ CPG to the Scottish Government welcoming the establishment of the working group on inclusive education.
- MSPs to contact their local authorities after the elections in May regarding LGBTI inclusion in schools. TIE to produce letter template.
- D&G LGBT Plus will circulate their research on older LGBT people and work with LGBT Health and Wellbeing to pull together recommendations around older LGBTI peoples' agenda.
- The group secretary to invite Maureen Watt, Minister for Mental Health, to the June meeting.