

Lung Health CPG
Asthma
29th January 2021
14:00 - 15:30
Minuets

Attendance

Alexander Stewart MSP
Emma Harper MSP
Mark Ruskell MSP
Tom Fardon
Olivia Fulton
Steven Adair
Martin Charters
Phyllis Murphie
Agnes Whyte
Colin Brett
Jim MacLachlan
George Davidson
Tracey Miller
Liam Clutterbuck
Lauraine Macdonald
Sally Hughes
Sara McArthur
Joseph Carter
Heather Gordon
Frank Toner
Damian Crombie
James MacLachlan
Gordon Thomson
Maureen Watt
John Lockhart
Nicola Roberts
Andrew Deans
Garry McDonald
Aaron Gowson
Susi Shanks
Pauline Waugh
Edel clough
Julie MacDougall
Agnes Whyte
Jill MacLeod
Allan Whyte

Agenda

1. Emma Harper MSP (AUK/BLF Asthma champion in parliament) to open meeting

Emma welcomed members and advised that we will have only two more meetings before the Scottish Parliamentary elections.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved: Proposed Joseph Carter and Seconded by: John Lockhart

3. Apologies

Jim Simpson, Linda McLeod, Pamela Kirkpatrick, Alan Gillen

4. Steven Adair - Circassia - National Account Manager - ***FeNO testing and the impact on Diagnosis and Management of Asthma.***
5. Olivia Fulton – Severe Asthma Patient & campaigner - ***The benefits of using smart tech for asthma management.***
6. Damian Crombie - AstraZeneca UKMC - Government Affairs Lead (Devolved Nations) - ***Putting a spotlight on asthma & COPD outcomes in Scotland.***

Debate followed the speaker's presentations.

Maureen Ward asked a question about AstraZeneca treatment for pulmonary fibrosis, Damian agreed to pick this issue up offline.

Emma Harper MSP asked about smart inhalers for younger people with asthma and adherence, could the digital platform help improve this? Damian Crombie highlighted the work that is being done in Glasgow looking at smart inhalers used by patients. Steven Adair spoke about the benefits of patients knowing their inflammation scores for both younger and older patients.

James MacLachlan asked if there is any conflict between asthma medication and IPF medication. Reassurance was given that both medications should be taken as prescribed by clinicians.

Alexander Stewart MSP congratulated the presenters and asked about studies that show people with asthma may have more anxiety and depression because of their condition. Damian Crombie agreed about the importance of this issue. Tom Fardon stressed there is a clear link between anxiety and asthma. Strides being made in COPD with CBT and this should be adopted into asthma care as well. However, pointed out the workforce pressures on psychologists and supporting staff.

Frank Toner asked about air quality and asthma and have the speakers noticed any changes to asthma in Scotland because of cleaner air during the pandemic. Speakers said that it was difficult to tell now as many patients are shielding and there hasn't been a long enough period to get a sense of any trends. Damian Crombie highlighted his interest in the CPG

meeting again to discuss air quality. Emma Harper MSP suggested holding another combined cross-party group meeting again on-air quality ahead of COP26.

Andrew Deans raised the issue of research. Concerned about the level of access to asthma clinical trials across Scotland. He also raised his concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on research and funding available. Damian Crombie stressed the importance to keep this issue high profile. Steven Adair shared similar thoughts.

Emma Harper MSP mentioned the budget and the inclusion of the Respiratory Care Action Plan for Scotland and the mention of long Covid within that plan. Invites Tom Fardon to give a brief update after Mark Ruskell MSP contribution.

Mark Ruskell MSP spoke about the Scottish Governments cleaner air for Scotland strategy and encouraged members and the future CPG to explore this strategy further. He also asked a question about community pharmacy and when a contract review might be renewed and if there was scope to add into this review. Garry McDonald spoke about the role pharmacies play in educating patients about inhaler use and understanding, he is working with community pharmacy Scotland they are the organisation who negotiate the contracts. Stressed that currently community pharmacy is under massive pressure. Stressed the importance of correct inhaler technique.

Tom Fardon updated that he met the previous day to discuss timelines with Scottish Government to publish the Respiratory Care Action Plan for Scotland before the end of march. Important to remember that the plan is a starter document and not the implementation plan. The implementation plan comes after the publication of the Respiratory Care Action Plan for Scotland this will inform budgets, how long it will last and what the role out for it is. The Respiratory Care Action Plan for Scotland recognises the post covid world. Recognised the importance of standardised data. Recognised that there are pilots in place for physiological support.

Olivia Fulton commented about asthma deaths and misinformation on social media about not going to hospital if you have an asthma attack. Emma Harper MSP suggested that the CPG writes to the health minister and Jason Leitch to raise this issue. Mark Ruskell MSP asked for the letter to be copied to him as well.

Joseph Carter asked if either Tom Fardon or Emma Harper MSP was aware of how much from the budget may be going to the Respiratory Care Action Plan for Scotland, Emma Harper MSP highlighted that questions will be asked and further detail will become clearer as the budget progresses through parliament.

7. Emma Harper MSP to close the meeting and share any actions required.

Emma Harper MSP thanked members for attending advising that there will be one final meeting of the CPG before the election on smoking cessation with Alexander Stewart.

Action: write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and the National Clinical Director, Healthcare Quality and Strategy regarding dangerous asthma misinformation on social media.

