

Cross-Party Group on Sexual Health and Blood-Borne Viruses

Theme of meeting: Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health

Minutes of meeting (21/11/18) and AGM

AGM

- Co-Chairs (Patrick Harvie, Kezia Dugdale) agreed unanimously
- HIV Scotland to continue as Secretariat agreed unanimously
- Co-Chairs to write to Conservative Party and offer representation on the CPG

AGM concludes, 18:18

Meeting minutes – 21/11/18

1. Attendance and apologies
 - Present: Steff Kaye – NHS Lothian, Kevin McGeechan – University of Sydney, Felicity Snowsill – NHS Tayside, Eilidh Dickson – Engender, Nathan Sparling – HIV Scotland, Nicola Boydell – University of Edinburgh, Janine Simpson – NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Carrie Purcell – University of Glasgow, Michelle Cooper – NHS Lothian, Sharon Cameron – NHS Lothian, Eric Chen – FSRH, Alison Scott – NHS Lothian, Audrey Brown – NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Sally Wielding – NHS Borders
 - Apologies:
2. Welcome and introductions
 - Kezia Dugdale welcomed those in attendance and Alison Scott (NHS Lothian and FSRH Scotland) introduced Audrey Brown (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde), Michelle Cooper (NHS Lothian), and Sally Wielding (NHS Borders)
3. Women's Reproductive and Sexual Health
 - Audrey Brown
 - Outlined stats on abortion in Scotland with the majority being under 9 weeks
 - Outlined the EMA (Early Medical Abortion) process
 - NHS Highland and NHS Fife not providing EMA but some beginning in early 2019
 - 100 women a week having EMA
 - Reducing demand for inpatient care thus benefitting all women who may need inpatient care
 - Wales followed Scotland, England followed after Matt Hancock took office
 - Abortion rate double in most deprived communities
 - Equitable access for all women needed
 - Michelle Cooper
 - Post-partum contraception
 - Sally Wielding
 - Access to appointments
 - LGBT+ issues
 - School nurses
 - Issues with capacity and an inability of school nurses to be able to focus on sexual health
 - due to insufficient time

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4. Open Discussions
 - Digital Romance, Brook Report
 - Research project exploring young people's use of technology in their romantic relationships and love lives
 - Link: https://www.brook.org.uk/data/DR_REPORT_FINAL.pdf
 - Conscience objection vs conscience commitment
 - Abortion Act requires two-doctor consent which causes issues in smaller hospitals
 - Increased role for nurse practitioners in abortions
 - Pan-Scotland solution to sign certificate electronically, increasing access in rural areas
 - Clinical and non-clinical services for young people
 - Smaller scale in areas like the Borders leads to low accessibility
 - Digital
 - Negative impact of pornography on women's sexual and reproductive health
 - Condoms by post in Lothian due to a reduced rate of condom usage by young people
 - Cross-health board working to improve service and universal cover for EMA

5. Parliamentary Questions
 - Support for the cross-health board working to improve universal cover for EMA
 - EMA in Fife and the Highlands rollout
 - EMA for Northern Irish citizens and citizens not ordinarily resident in Scotland
 - Criteria for EMA, can it be expanded to other settings
 - Travel bursaries for Northern Irish women seeking EMA
 - Young people's services
 - What is ScotGov doing to address Outcome 4 & 5 of the Sexual Health and Blood-Borne Viruses framework
 - Role of conscience objectors in abortion care
 - Processes in place to ensure equitable access for all women