

## **Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment in the Scottish Parliament**

**Minutes of the Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment meeting held on Tuesday 20 November in Fleming Room, CR3, Scottish Parliament.**

### **Present:**

James Adams, RNIB Scotland; Tom Arthur MSP; Richard Baker, Royal Blind; Val Bell; Neil Bibby MSP; Ian Brown, RNIB Scotland; Amanda Burt; Catriona Burness, RNIB Scotland; Maggie Chapman, SCOVl; Ian Clement; Anne Marie Fleming, RNIB Scotland; Niall Foley, Guide Dogs Scotland; Claire Forde, Haggeye and Scottish Youth Parliament; Mairi Graham; George Henry, Scottish Government; Carl Hodson, seescape; Maureen Macmillan, Sight Action; Stuart McMillan MSP; Terry Moody, RNIB Scotland Committee; Hussein Patwa, RNIB Scotland Committee; Mary Rasmussen; Ken Reid, Scottish Vision Strategy Ambassador/RNIB; Brenda Rennie, Optometry Scotland; Elizabeth Robertson, Additional Support for Learning Service, The City of Edinburgh Council; Terry Robinson, RNIB Scotland Committee; Carolyn Scott, SCOVl; Kirin Saeed; Davina Shiell, Royal Blind; Steven Sutherland, Haggeye and Scottish Youth Parliament; Layla Theiner, Disability Agenda Scotland; Julie Thomson; Cate Vallis, RNIB Scotland; Colette Walker; Sandra Wilson, RNIB Scotland; Committee; Jacquie Winning, Forth Valley Sensory Centre

### **1. Welcome and introductions.**

Stuart McMillan MSP welcomed attendees and took the opportunity to wish them a Merry Christmas.

### **2. Apologies.**

Paul Bartley, Optelec; Colin Beattie MSP; Salena Begley, Family Fund; Miles Briggs MSP; Matt Broom, Vision UK; Elaine Brackenridge, Royal Blind School ; Campbell Chalmers, RNIB Scotland; Pamela Chater; Helen Court, NHS Education for Scotland ; Jamie Cuthbertson, Macular Society; Dominic Everett, Royal Blind School; Graham Findlay, North East Sensory Services; John Furze, Macular Society; Rhoda Grant MSP; Jane Horsburgh, Guide Dogs Scotland; Ian Hughes, Optelec; Louise Hunter, Visibility; Bob Ironside, PK Vision; Sheila Mackenzie,

Scottish Sensory Centre; Debbie McGill, Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ASDO); Philippa Mason, International Glaucoma Association; Linda Middlemist, Guide Dogs Scotland; Gillian Mitchell, Sight Action; Rod Murchison; Mark O'Donnell, Royal Blind; Rosie Pybus, Haggeye; Ann Robertson, North East Sensory Services; Susan Robinson; Hal Rollason, Optometry Scotland; Fiona Sandford, Visionary; Janelle Scotland, ASTN; Angus Scott, NHS Forth Valley; Colin Smyth MSP; Cirta Tooth; Mary Travers.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2018.**

The minutes were proposed by Ken Reid, seconded by Maggie Chapman, and agreed by the meeting.

### **4. Matters arising.**

There was a discussion on membership of the CPGVI. Anyone who had not replied to the GDPR compliance email stating that they would like to remain a member of the group was asked to email the secretariat confirming that they consented to being contacted by the CPGVI.

### **5. Transport (Scotland) Bill with George Henry, Head of Road Policy, Scottish Government.**

George Henry (GH) spoke on the Transport (Scotland) Bill which was published in June 2018. Guide Dogs Scotland have campaigned for a ban on pavement parking for many years and GH highlighted the inclusion of such a ban in the Bill, campaigned for tirelessly by Guide Dogs Scotland. GH stated that Transport Scotland are committed to running a national campaign on pavement parking and monitoring the impact of the ban year on year if the Bill passes in its current form.

This was followed up by a question and answer session. The following points or questions were raised:

- Prohibiting parking outside fire stations.
- What resources will be put into a campaign to change attitudes towards pavement parking?
- Who should pavement parking infringements be reported to?
- What sanctions will be put in place for offenders?
- What is the prospect of having truly clear walkways with no bins or bushes in the way?

- What consideration has been given to allowing vehicles to park on pavements for 20 minutes at a time?
- What support will local authorities get in implementing the ban?
- The importance of keeping dropped kerbs clear.

GH stated that some of the details regarding the implementation of the ban would be up to local authorities but that Transport Scotland would be raising awareness of the ban through a national campaign and that he hoped that attitudes towards it would change in the same way that attitudes towards wearing a seatbelt changed after seatbelt usage was made compulsory. The 20 minute pavement parking exemption is intended for use by delivery companies. This would only be acceptable if there were no loading bays nearby. If people contravened the ban they could be issued with a ticket and an accompanying fine. The cost to the local authority would be dependent on how many exemptions they had to the ban as that would complicate the enforcement of it. The Convener thanked George Henry for his time and contribution.

**6. Any other competent business (AOB).**

No points were raised under AOB.

**7. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 19 February, 13.00 - 14.00, Committee Room 1, Scottish Parliament.**