

MINUTES OF MEETING
CROSS PARTY GROUP ON ADULT LEARNING

19 June 2013,

Committee Room 1, The Scottish Parliament

Attendees - attached

Agenda items

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 Jean Urquhart MSP welcomed attendees to the initial meeting of the proposed Cross Party Group on Adult Learning. She noted the great interest in adult learning and a strong desire from MSPs and adult learners to come together to form a new Cross Party Group.

1.2 There followed a general discussion on whether a Cross Party Group on Adult learning would be positive and useful. It was agreed that it would be.

2. Election of Office Bearers

2.1 Members voted and elected the following:

Convener: Jean Urquhart MSP

Deputy Convener: George Adam MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Neil Findlay MSP, Margaret Allan (adult learner), Chris Fairgrieve (adult learner)

Secretariat: Scotland's Learning Partnership

3. Purpose of the Group

3.1 There followed a general discussion around the purpose of the group. The sense from that discussion was that there were two clear purposes: -

1) To create a much-needed space for MSPs to debate and discuss with adult learners, directly, on how best to protect and promote adult learning provision in the future and to provide an opportunity where the hopes and expectations of learners can be a driver in influencing adult learning policy.

2) To showcase how lives are being transformed through adult learning and celebrate innovation within the sector, from around Scotland and internationally.

4. Remit and registration of the Group

4.1 There followed a general discussion, in smaller groups, on the themes the Group might usefully look at over the course on the coming twelve months. Those themes included:

- Consistency across Scotland in the level and quality of provision.
- Research into the wider benefits of adult learning.
- Impact of educational policy on adult learning.
- Effects of learning on learners' wellbeing.
- Celebrating success stories - identifying good practice (esp. during Adult Learners' Week).
- Participation rates and investment.
- Raising awareness of adult learning opportunities.
- How best to join up provision in ways which benefit learners.

ACTION: Jean Urquhart MSP agreed to submit a formal application to establish the Group to Standards and Procedures Committee before the summer recess.

June 2013

Attendees:

Allan	Margaret	National Learners Forum
Berney	Tom	University of the Third Age
Boucher	Fiona	Scotland's Learning Partnership
Buchanan	Colin	College Development Network
Capaldi	Margaret	Nifty Fifties
Cassidy	Greg	Kilmarnock College
Colquhoun	Margaret	Nifty Fifties
Conaghan	Gerry	Nifty Fifties
Conlon	Kirsty	Universities Scotland
Cunningham	Rose	Nifty Fifties
Currie	Betty	Nifty Fifties
Currie	John	Nifty Fifties
Dailly	Marie	Dundee City Council
Dale	Hilda	Nifty Fifties
Davidson	Ruth	c/o Maureen Petrie, Falkirk Council
Downie	Alex	Scotland's Learning Partnership
Elliott	Irene	Nifty Fifties
Fairgrieve	Chris	Scotland's Learning Partnership
Gallagher	Anne	Nifty Fifties
Gallagher	John	Stow College
Hughes	Mary	Nifty Fifties
Irvine	Rosemary	Nifty Fifties
Jaap	Stephen	School of Communities & Learner Development
Kennedy	Eleanor	Nifty Fifties
Leith	Ian	
Logan	Fay	
Mordi	Loretta	Museums Galleries Scotland
O'Grady	Sylvia	STUC
Petrie	Maureen	Falkirk Council
Petrie	Vicky	City of Edinburgh Council
Phee	Dana	
Phee	Gail	
Rae	Robert	
Reid	David	Fife Mining Heritage
Sim	Alastair	Universities Scotland
Strathdee	Moir	The Moray Council
Stuart	Jayne	WEA Scotland
Ure	Mary	Nifty Fifties
Waddell	Lorna	
Whitelock	Emma	LEAD Scotland
Whyte	Clark	Clackmannanshire Council
Fowell	Jane	Forth Valley College
Brechin	Pat	City of Edinburgh Council