

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Dyslexia
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)
24th June 2011
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
18th June 2014
GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures. Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.
2nd October 2013 Cathy Mcgee, Chief Executive, Dyslexia Scotland gave a presentation about the current work priorities and developments within Dyslexia Scotland. She outlined the structure of the organisation and it was noted there had been an increase in the number of local branches across Scotland. She explained that Dyslexia Scotland aims to encourage and enable dyslexic people, regardless of age and abilities, to reach their potential in education, employment and life. MSPs Attending: 2 Non MSPs: 15
5th February 2014 David Jones provided a context for the discussion reminding the group of the four key themes of Education and Learning; Health, Behaviours and Employment. A number of issues were discussed around: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The levels of misinformation about dyslexia and the need to look at ways of getting information to MSPs including the possibility of a newsletter.• The mandatory testing of prisoners and developments with the Education contract manager by Motherwell and Carnegie Colleges

- Continuing inconsistency in approaches and levels of support for pupils and parents across and within local authority areas
- The potential of arranging joint cross party group meetings on areas and issues of common concern and interest.
- Employment issues and the levels of support from within the Careers Service, ability to access legal advice and the challenges for job seekers and modern apprentices.
- The implications of new technology for those with dyslexia particularly within the workplace
- The role of tutors and assessors
- The support for those from ethnic backgrounds, particularly the Polish community
- The need to open discussions with the Association of Directors of Education
- The importance of the Education Scotland Review of Dyslexia

MSPs Attending: 2

Non MSPs: 19

21 May 2014

The Group discussed the Education Scotland Report - Making Sense: Education for Children and Young people with Dyslexia in Scotland launched in May 2014.

The Group welcomed the report and agreed that the conclusions reflected a number of issues which had been raised at previous meetings and that the recommendations, if resourced provided opportunities to improve the outcomes for children and young people with dyslexia and their families.

The Group raised a number of concerns about the report particularly regarding inconsistencies in understanding, attitudes, policies and practices across and within local authorities. It was agreed that a response should be formulated and forwarded to the Cabinet Secretary to inform the Scottish Government's response. It was also agreed that an invitation should be sent to the Cabinet Secretary and Education Scotland to attend a future meeting of the Cross Party Group to discuss the serious issues and opportunities raised in the report.

MSPs Attending: 2

Non MSPs: 30

21 May 2014 - Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting considered and approved the Convener's and Treasurer's Reports.

The following office-bearers were elected:

Convener: Margaret Mitchell MSP

Vice Conveners: Claudia Beamish MSP and Stewart McMillan MSP

Secretary: David Jones

Treasurer: Martin Davies

MSP's Attending: 2

Non MSPs: 30

KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING THE YEAR

- Continued concern about the inconsistent adoption of the Working definition of dyslexia by local authorities
- The differences across local authorities in the promotion and use of the online toolkit
- Support for those trying to gain or stay in employment
- The under-reporting of dyslexia in the Scottish Government School Pupil Census.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names of all MSP members of the Group. Note that only names need to be provided, no party designation or other information is required.

Margaret Mitchell
Claudia Beamish
Stuart McMillan
Elaine Smith
Jim Hume

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals	Dr. Margaret Crombie Bill Sadler Fiona Savage Claire Milligan Jay Kirkland Linda Kerr Hamish Hunter Martin Davies
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	<p>Mig Coupe Yowann Byghan Ahmed Yousaf Irene Lumsden Elspeth Dow David Jones Julie Ross Jennie Guise Mike Gibson Fran Ranaldi</p>
Organisations	<p>Dyslexia Scotland Borders Dyslexia Scotland Dyslexia Scotland Lanarkshire Dyslexia Scotland South East Dyslexia Scotland North East Dyslexia Scotland West Lothian Dyslexia Scotland Lochaber Loretto School Edinburgh Napier University British Army Irlen Scotland</p>

GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener

Margaret Mitchell MSP

Deputy Convener

Claudia Beamish MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP

Secretary

David Jones

Treasurer

Martin Davies

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

Not applicable

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

£5.00 per parliamentary year for refreshments at meetings and travel expenses of speakers.

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name

Margaret Mitchell MSP

Parliamentary
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Edinburgh

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0131 348 5639