

## CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

<b>NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP</b>
Cross-Party Group on Dyslexia
<b>DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED</b> (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session 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.)
<b>24<sup>th</sup> June 2011</b>
<b>DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> May 2015</b>
<b>DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 12 months of the previous AGM]</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> May 2014</b>
<b>DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015</b>
<b>GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES</b>  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.
<b><u>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014</u></b>  <u>MSPs Attending:</u> Margaret Mitchell MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP  <u>Non-MSPs attending:</u> Lisa Ross, Mairi MacIntosh, Jenny Guise, Susie Agnew, Janette Cameron, Lynn Dobbie, Joe Moran, Bill Sadler, Liz Tangney, Elspeth Dow,

Rosemary Bowe, Fiona Dickinson, Cathy Magee, Mary Evans, Margaret Crombie, Margaret Glasgow, Fran Ranaldi, Yowann Byghan, Stuart Lucas, Martin Davis, Margaret Crankshaw, Samantha Gray, Julie Ross, Jay Kirkland, Monica Gribben, Mike Gibson, Anne Mortowioz, David Jones

The meeting was the first opportunity for members of the CPG to consider the conclusions and recommendations contained within the review. Although the CPG welcomed the report and agreed with its conclusions, a number of points were raised including:

1. Concerns over the methodologies, particularly the apparent lack of involvement of children and young people in the process and the absence of their perceptions and views in the final report.
2. A recognition of the importance of literacies but the failure to adequately acknowledge the other aspects of dyslexia and the impact on e.g. the health and wellbeing of those with dyslexia.
3. The unacceptable inconsistencies across and within local authorities in their attitude, practices and policies in supporting dyslexic pupils and their families.
4. Concerns that there were still debates within local authorities regarding the agreed definition of dyslexia.
5. Dis-satisfaction that many schools and local authorities were not recognising or promoting the use of the Online Toolkit for teachers.
6. Inconsistencies in the identification and assessment of dyslexia within and across local authorities.
7. The system of gathering data relating to dyslexia and the underestimation of dyslexia in the statistics submitted by schools.
8. The issue of teacher training, the absence of specialist training and qualifications and quality assurance of those who undertake assessments.
9. The statistics relating to achievement and positive destinations of those with dyslexia.

It was agreed that the CPG would prepare a response to the report highlighting its concerns and offering its support, where appropriate, in addressing these concerns.

**MSPs attending: 2**

**Non-MSPs attending: 28**

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

MSPs Attending: Margaret Mitchell MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP (early part of the meeting)

Non- MSPs attending: Clare Slipper, Lucy Sumsion, Martin Davies, Stuart Lucas, Lynn Dobbie, Moira Thomson, Samantha Gray, Mo Brown, Cathy Mcgee, Gill Scott, Claire Mulligan, Mairi Mcintosh, Bill Sadler., Mike Gibson, Scott Johnston, Deborah Walker, Annette Foulcer, Alan Wood, Liz Tangey, Julie Trotter, Fiona Dickinson, Yowann Byghan, Elspeth Dow, Margaret Crankshaw, Jo Aitken, Monica Gribben, Jay Kirkland, Fiona Savage, Margaret Crombie, David Jones.

Continuing its deliberations of the Education Scotland Review, Ken McAra from Education Scotland and lead author of the review made a presentation on the main conclusions and recommendations. He responded to many of the concerns and issues raised in the CPG response and answered questions from CPG members. He described the process by which the conclusions and recommendations would be addressed and the actions to be taken by Education Scotland. He acknowledged the important role of Dyslexia Scotland and welcomed the offer from the CPG to assist in promoting and taking forward actions in the future. He explained Education Scotland would establish a Working Group which would include those from a range of organisations to ensure any future actions were informed by those with experience, expertise and an understanding of dyslexia.

**MSPs attending: 3**

**Non-MSPs attending: 30**

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – Informal Meeting**

The Group had a further informal meeting in February 2015 with a presentation from Dr. Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages who provided details of the Scottish Government's response to the Education Scotland Report Making Sense: Education for Children and Young People with Dyslexia. Mrs Margaret Mitchell MSP was the only Group MSP in attendance at this meeting.

### **Wednesday 20 May 2015 - 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 Stuart McMillan MSP

Secretary: David Jones

Treasurer: Martin Davies

**MSP's Attending: 2**

**Non MSPs: 25**

### **MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Margaret Mitchell MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Member for Central Scotland

Claudia Beamish MSP, Scottish Labour Member for South Scotland

Stuart McMillan MSP, Scottish National Party Member for West Scotland

Elaine Smith MSP, Scottish Labour Member for Coatbridge and Chryston  
Jim Hume MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrats Member for South Scotland

### **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 Mig Coupe Yowann Byghan Ahmed Yousaf Irene Lumsden Elspeth Dow David Jones Julie Ross Jennie Guise Mike Gibson Fran Ranaldi
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Organisations	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
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	Edinburgh Napier University British Army Irlen Scotland
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**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.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

***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
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Parliamentary address	Scottish Parliament Edinburgh
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Telephone number	0131 348 5639
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