

Minutes of the Cross Party Group on Asthma 13 May 2014

Attendees:

MSPs

Ken Macintosh (Chair)

For part of meeting:

Willie Rennie

Denis Robertson

Rhoda Grant

Aileen McLeod

Cara Hilton

Siobhan McMahon

Non-MSP Attendees

Robert	Armour	Susannah	McLean
Kay	Boycott	Ann	McMurray
Gordon	Brown	Henry	McSorley
Susan	Buckingham	Lynn	Morrice
Andrew	Bush	Mome	Mukherjee
Harry	Campbell	Phyllis	Murphie
Ann	Caress	Ulugbek	Nurmatov
Malcolm	Chisholm	Christopher	O'Callaghan
Steve	Cunningham	Stephen	Pavis
	Cunningham-	Ceri	Phillips
Sarah	Burley	Hilary	Pinnock
Tara	Treacy	Ian	Russell
Elisabeth	Ehrlich	Jurgen	Schwarze
Mark	Feeny	Colin	Simpson
Shona	Haslam	Sam	Walker
Ninian	Hewitt	Charles	Weller
Rob	Horne	Allison	Worth
Lesley	MacDonald	Cat	Young
John	Macgill	Chris	Watt
Mike	McGregor		

Ken MacIntosh welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Cross Party Group on Asthma to celebrate the launch of the Asthma UK Centre for Applied Research.

Kay Boycott spoke as CEO of Asthma UK to welcome the work of the centre, emphasise why asthma research is so important. 17 years that it currently takes asthma research to reach patients is too long, the centre aims to half that time and get life saving treatments to patients quicker.

Chris Griffiths, lead researcher for the centre said that it represents a step change in asthma research. With links throughout the UK this centre provides a model for international research in the future.

Elisabeth Ehrlich gave the patient perspective about why research is so important to people with asthma, that without research we wouldn't have many of the life saving treatments that we have today, but we need more.

Denis Robertson asked about young people and whether young people are still growing out of asthma.

Kay Boycott and Chris Griffiths replied that young people and research are very important that we have to get the balance right between asthma being a serious condition and one that is controllable, haven't got that right yet.

How will the centre impact in 10-15 years. Believe that it will impact on the organisation of care, that sharing of information across boundaries will be key and that walls between services will be broken down.

We will learn more about asthma and ensure that new treatments are cost effective.

Ken MacIntosh closed the meeting by thanking those involved and welcoming the centre and all it hopes to achieve.