

Scottish Parliament

Minutes of the Cross Party Group on Chronic Pain

Held on January 23rd at 5.30pm in Committee Room 4

Welcome

The Chair, Jackson Carlaw , MSP, welcomed the group members

(Previous minutes of the September meeting were agreed as an accurate record by DG Elder and Diane Thomson Pfizer.)

Action :- Minutes to be sent for upload to CPG Parliament page. Jacquie Forde

Summary of Meeting

The meeting wished to record thanks to Alex Neil, the new health secretary, for announcing that the first Scottish inpatient service for chronic pain patients would be created. This would save patients from making journeys to Bath in Somerset for NHS inpatient treatment. The meeting was informed that the location of the service is not chosen, as yet, but will use existing NHS space and will not be a new build.

The meeting also thanked Mr. Neil for his intervention over the Update Report and his public call for full transparency over all health matters. The Cross Party Group will continue to campaign for understaffed day services in Scotland, a major cause of patients being sent to Somerset.

Action- MSP's to write to Alex Neil to gain clarification on whether there will be a Ministerial announcement of the above.

Action- MSP's to write to Minister for Public Health for answers to questions not answered in person during Ministerial visit on 31st October 2012.

Members also greeted with applause Susan Archibald over her petition to the Scottish Parliament, which received widespread coverage on TV, radio and newspapers.

There was lively discussion by the group of the Update Report on Scottish chronic pain management services, which has been criticised by the media CPG members alike. One of the main concerns is why some facts have been excluded from the report. These included patient numbers, clinic staff time/staffing numbers and information that ten out of 14 Boards provided no budget for CP treatment. Such facts were sent by Health Boards for the report.

As the Chronic Pain Steering Group had oversight of the report by Dr Steve Gilbert and Healthcare Improvement Scotland, CPG members asked why there was no sign of the Steering Group challenging missing facts and problems with the report.

We were grateful that Helen Cadden responded as she is a member of the Steering Group for Healthcare improvement Scotland, as a patient/public representative.

Helen stated that the report was not sent round the Steering Group until the night before it was published . Helen also added that a draft report had not been sent round earlier. The CPG members agreed to investigate how much "oversight" took place.

STEERING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

The above item was linked to the Group examining membership of the Steering Group, the body assigned to improve pain services.

Dorothy-Grace Elder produced an analysis showing Healthcare Improvement Scotland now has nine people involved with the Steering Group (Six members and three support staff)

There are also six Scottish Government officials and representatives of organisations involved with Government as well as NHS staff.

Concern was expressed that there were too few independent patient or public representatives. DGE suggested this helped lead to little or no challenge to the Update Report's problems. The meeting then discussed their past move to have the CPG represented, as our group had campaigned on pain for many years. It was mentioned that the CPG approved (September 2012) we be represented by the new CPG secretariat, Jacquie Forde .

Following our meeting in September 2012 Helen Cadden had voiced an objection on the claim that "MSPs cannot be represented by a group secretary". MSPs present said they had never heard of such a barrier; that someone represented the whole group, not MSPs in particular.

Action- Helen agreed to supply the source of this claim and a name and said she would get back to the CPG.

Helen also proposed that the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) should be represented on the Steering Group. There was not time to discuss this, as the meeting was concerned with lack of involvement of the CPG.

The group wanted to understand how the CPG had been represented, if at all before on the Chronic Pain steering group . Helen was also asked why the previous CPG secretary Heather Wallace had issued reports on the CPG to the Steering Group. Helen replied that Heather , despite issuing reports on the CPG on chronic pain to the steering group had only represented Pain Concern, not the CPG.

Steering Group minutes show Heather Wallace reporting under "Cross Party Group on Chronic Pain" as well as under "Pain Concern". As far as we are aware the CPG has never been invited to attend or be represented on the Steering Group, nor did the CPG authorise anyone to report on the CPG until the approval of the new secretary in September 2012, which has not resulted in uptake)

Date of next meeting : 13th March at 5.30 pm

AOB

NO AOB noted

Secretariat Contact Details : Jacqueline Forde, Chief Executive , The Wellbeing Alliance

Jacquie@thewellbeingalliance.com

07717 582980

www.thewellbeingalliance.com

Attendees

MSP's

Jackie Baillie MSP
John Wilson MSP
Jackson Carlaw MSP

Secretariat

Jacqueline Forde

Attendees

Paulo Quadros
Bill Paton
Dorothy Grace Elder
John Thomson
Ann Cassells
Christine Martin
Anna Marie McGregor
Jean Rafferty
Susan Archibald
Marie O'Keefe
Helen Cadden
Diane Thomson
Phil Atkinson
Peter McCarron
Jacquie Kelly

Irene Logan

Apologies Chronic Pain CPG

Linda Mawson
Frank Mawson
Prof Martijn Steultjens
Heather Cameron
Steve Gilbert
Iain Brotchie
Judy Brannigan
Janette Barrie
Martin Charles
Ann Ruglys

Ross McDonald
Lord Foulkes of Cumnock
Martin Johnson
Peggy Deane
Sabu James
Janet McFarlane
Anne Simpson
Martin Dunbar
Martin Johnson
Rachel Atherton
Gabrielle Stewart
Prof Jim Mcewen
Ros Meek
Ian Little
Colin Rae
Malcolm Clubb

Approved Minutes