

Minutes of the meeting of the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Dyslexia held in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 9th December 2015.

- 1. Present:** Martin Davies, Lynn Dobbie, Hamish Hunter, Margaret Crombie, Fiona Dickinson, Mary Evans, Annette Foulcer, Julie Ross, Charlie Mcgrigor, Steve Daley, Helen Fleming, Rosemary Burke, Christine Carlin, Andy Laverty, Lesley Cantell, Jay Kirkland, Monica Gribben, Hazel McPake, Alan Waugh, Margaret Crankshaw, Aileen Orr, Rosemary Bowe, Colin Spivey, Fran Ranaldi, Claudia Beamish MSP, Jean Campbell, Liz Tangney, Chris Hughes, Jamie McGrigor MSP, Clare Slipper, Margaret Mitchell MSP, David Jones, Felicity Hollands, Marianne Paton

- 2. Apologies:** Pamela Deponio, Julie Trotter, Stuart Lucas, Yewann, Byghan, Susan Agnew, Elaine Smith MSP, Alison Lloyd, Mary Coyle, Helen Hunter, Rose Reed, Nicola Whitfield, Jenny Guise, Joe Moran

- 3. Minute of last meeting held on 20th May 2015**
Approved by :Monica Gribben
Seconded by: Mary Evans

- 4. Presentation on the Education Scotland Making Sense Review**
Colin Spivey, Scottish Government and Fran Ranaldi, Education Scotland
The meeting focused on progress by the Scottish Government and Education Scotland on their response to the Education Scotland Making Sense report on dyslexia published in May 2014. Colin Spivey, Head of the Wellbeing Unit at the Scottish Government and Fran Ranaldi from Education Scotland gave a presentation providing the background to the report, the key findings, conclusions and recommendations and details of the approaches and action that are being taken in response to the issues and opportunities raised.

Fran Ranaldi had only taken up her post as Development Officer a few days before the meeting and therefore she provided the progress made prior to her appointment including the establishment of a working group involving a wide range of people with extensive knowledge, experience and expertise on dyslexia. David Jones, Secretary of the Cross Party Group had been invited to be a member of the working group. Fran highlighted the various strands of work being undertaken aligned to the recommendations of the report.

Colin Spivey welcomed the interest and support of the Cross Party Group and agreed that the Scottish Government and Education Scotland would attend at future meetings, as appropriate to provide updates on progress.

A summary of the presentation and slides would be forwarded to CPG members.

5. Open Discussion

There followed an open discussion on the presentation and CPG members asked a number of questions. Comment was made that the outcomes of the work being undertaken should reflect the issues beyond literacy and numeracy for dyslexic children, young people and their parents such as health and wellbeing, behaviours and post school destinations had to be seen to have been addressed.

The Group were also reminded that in the CPG response to the initial report, concerns had been raised about the lack of recognition of the views of children and young people in the report. The CPG emphasised the need to ensure that in the development of policies and actions, the

views and experiences of young people should be reflected and able to influence future actions.

The Group also asked that the work being undertaken should be consistent with other Scottish Government priorities such as Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), Closing the Attainment Gap, Corporate Parenting and Youth employment initiatives.

Concern was expressed that some of the positive outcomes from the work being undertaken could be undermined as a result the budget cuts being implemented by local authorities. The Group noted in particular the devastating impact on Additional Support resources.

6. Any Other Business

Concerns were raised about pupil support for examinations in particular the assessment process to ensure pupils had appropriate additional support. It was stated that assessments had to be made on a subject by subject basis and this led to considerable anxiety of potential inconsistencies. This matter was deferred as a topic for a future meeting. Issues of accessibility and cost of adult assessments were raised and were deferred as a topic for a future meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 2nd March 2016