

Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Dyslexia held in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 19th September 2018.

1. Present:

Margaret Mitchell MSP, Tom Mason MSP
Gillian Evans, Stuart Lucas, Hamish Hunter, Emma Drewey, Mairi Hunter, David Jones, Robert Malcolm, Marion Malcolm, Aileen Orr, Margaret Crombie, Cathy Mcgee, Julie Ross, Emma Mallin, Mary Evans, Diane Alexander

2. Apologies: Stuart McMillan MSP, Oliver Mundell MSP , Margaret Crankshaw, Lynn Dobbie, Susan Agnew, Diane Smith, Donald Cameron MSP

3. Minutes of last meeting:

Approved by Cathy Magee, Seconded by Aileen Orr

4. Business arising from last meeting

There was no business arising.

5. Presentations: Dyslexia and Visual Issues

Following the publication of a guide for Assessors and Specific Learning Difficulties Practitioners by the Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs) Standards Committee in June 2018, a number of issues were raised in relation to visual stress with specific reference to Meares Irlen or Meares Irlen Syndrome.

Emma Drewey, Behavioural Optometrist provided an insight into the relationship between vision and visual issues and early childhood development and behavioural learning.

Mairi Harper from Spectrum, Dyslexia and Vision gave a presentation on the wide range of causes and responses to visual issues and explained the previous understanding of the relationship between visual stress and dyslexia and the research findings in the published report. The report findings highlighted that the estimation of numbers of dyslexics who also experienced visual stress (Meares Irlen) was significantly lower than previously stated.

6. Open Discussion

A wide ranging discussion followed with a number of questions in relation the role of eye tests and the importance of early testing to ensure there are no other eye conditions before seeking more in depth investigations.

7. GDPR

The Group noted that as a result of the introduction of new regulations regarding the use and protection of data, a new Cross Party email address was to be adopted and details would be forwarded in due course.

Any other business

The Chair suggested that a future meeting may focus on employment and training and that the Wise Group had offered to come and provide an insight into their work.

8. Date of next meeting: Date to be confirmed