

## CROSS-PARTY GROUPS IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

### ANNUAL RETURN FORM

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#### 1. GROUP NAME *Code of Conduct 6.2.4*

Groups that have been accorded recognition will be permitted to use the title *Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament*.

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Dyslexia

#### 2. DATE GROUP APPROVED

21 June 2011

#### 3. DATE ANNUAL REPORT

27<sup>th</sup> February 2013

#### 4. GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

For each group meeting or other activity please provide the date, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and attendance figures (MSP and non-MSP).

**Meeting date** – Brief overview of meeting. Number of MSP attendees and Non-MSP attendees at meeting.

On 21<sup>st</sup> **September 2011** the focus was on behaviours, particularly the work being undertaken in Scottish Prisons. Jacqui Clinton, Acting Deputy Governor of HMP Edinburgh and James King, Acting Learning and Skills Advisor for the Scottish Prison Service provided an insight into the new Learning and Skills contract awarded in August 2011 to Motherwell and Carnegie colleges and in particular the learning and skills programme HMP Edinburgh. The Group noted the joint initiative with Dyslexia Scotland to develop a DVD for new prisoners and the significant work being developed following the involvement of Sir Jackie Stewart. 2 MSP, 16 Non-MSP.

In **October 2011**, a number of members of the Cross Party Group on Dyslexia attended a meeting of the Cross Party Group on Children and Young People as part of the Scottish Government's Consultation on the proposed Mental Health Strategy. The minute of the meeting records the importance of recognising the impact of dyslexia on mental health and the importance of developing peer led support.

On 17<sup>th</sup> **November 2011**, the Cross Party Group hosted an MSP Reception in the Parliament with Sir Jackie Stewart as guest. The reception also heard an emotional presentation from Jane Edwards, Educational Supporter of the Year 2011 who has developed an innovative project on her farm supporting children with additional support needs. The event also included the launch of the book 'Dyslexia and US' and the announcement that a further £40,000 had been awarded by the Scottish Government to Dyslexia Scotland to further enhance the online toolkit for teachers.

On 31<sup>st</sup> **January 2012**, the meeting focused on Education and Learning. Dr Fiona Lyon from East Renfrewshire shared her research involving children in P3-7. This work had gained national recognition and enabled considerable discussion around

how good practice could be shared across Scotland. 2 MSP, 22 Non-MSP.

On 20<sup>th</sup> **March 2012**, The theme for the meeting was on youth employment and workplace. Danny Logue, Operations Director at Skills Development Scotland explained the priorities of the Scottish Government's new Youth Employment Strategy and the importance of recognising the additional support needs of young people with dyslexia. 2 MSP, 15 Non-MSP.

Linda Kerr, Dynamic Dyslexia, gave an insight into the key issues for employees and employers and the importance of amendments to the working environment. It is clear that there is a real need to do more to raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees, particularly with the proposed significant increase in modern apprenticeships for young people.

On 29<sup>th</sup> **May 2012**, the focus of the meeting was on aspects on the impact of dyslexia on health. Fiona Dickinson, Dyslexia Scotland has provided detail of joint work being undertaken between Dyslexia Scotland and NHS Education for Scotland around awareness raising for staff in terms of working with patients and colleagues. 3 MSP, 21 Non-MSP.

### **Summary of Key Issues Raised**

In addition to a focus on themes, the following key issues have been raised:

- The difficulty of addressing dyslexia issues with prisoners who are serving less than six months
- Inconsistencies across Scottish local authorities in adopting the agreed Working Definition of Dyslexia and the need to encourage local authorities to positively promote it.
- The need to further promote the online toolkit
- The availability of qualifications in Scotland in relation to competence to undertake assessments
- The need to ensure appropriate support is in place for young people with dyslexia as an integral part of the Scottish Government's Youth Employment Strategy
- The implications of the current SQA consultation on reasonable adjustments.
- The under-reporting of the incidence of dyslexia in schools through the Pupil Census.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012

The election of Office Bearers was as follows:

Convener: Margaret Mitchell MSP

Vice Conveners: Claudia Beamish MSP

Stuart McMillan MSP

Secretary: David Jones

Treasurer: Martin Davis

**5. GROUP MEMBERS *Code of Conduct 6.4, Rules 2, 3, 5, 6 & 8***

When listing members, who are MSPs, only the MSPs name need be given. For members from outwith the Parliament, the name of the member and any employer they represent must be given.

<b>MSPs</b>	<b>Non-MSPs Individuals</b>
Margaret Mitchell Claudia Beamish Stuart McMillan Jim Hume Richard Simpson	Dr. Margaret Crombie Bill Sadler Fiona Savage Claire Milligan Jay Kirkland Linda Kerr Hamish Hunter Martin Davis Moira Thomson Yowann Byghan Glenda Hannah David Jones Nicola Whitfield Linda McCaig Elspeth Dow
	<b>Organisations</b>

	Dyslexia Scotland Borders Dyslexia Scotland Mindroom Remploy Dyslexia Scotland North East Dyslexia Scotland West Lothian British Army Dyslexia Scotland Lanarkshire	
<b>6. GROUP OFFICERS <i>Code of Conduct 6.4, Rule 4</i></b> Please amend titles as necessary e.g. to indicate joint office holders, or preferred titles.		
<b>Convener</b>	Margaret Mitchell MSP	
<b>Vice-Conveners</b>	Claudia Beamish MSP Stuart McMillan MSP	
<b>Secretary</b>	David Jones	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Martin Davis	
<b>7. FINANCIAL OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED <i>Code of Conduct 6.3.1 &amp; 6.3.6, 6.4 Rule 10</i></b> The group must register any financial or other material benefit received by the group from whatever source, where the value of the financial sum or benefit from any single source exceeds £500 in any one calendar year. This includes donations, sponsorship, subscriptions, hospitality, gifts, visits, provision of services or accommodation or staff assistance. The value of use of Parliamentary facilities need not be registered. The details requiring to be registered include a brief description of the benefit, the approximate monetary value, the date on which it was received and the source from which it came. Where a consultancy organisation provides benefits, the client on whose behalf these are provided should be named.		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
N/A		

**8. GROUP SUBSCRIPTION *Code of Conduct 6.4, Rule 9***

Where a group charges or proposes to charge a subscription, this must be reasonable and the same for all members. The amount of the subscription should be registered and the purposes for which it is intended to use the subscription.

<b>Amount per group member per year</b>	£5.00
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<b>Date subscription applied</b>	Following AGM
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**9. GROUP STAFF AS PARLIAMENTARY PASS HOLDERS**

If a group makes use of staff issued with a Parliamentary pass, any paid activity undertaken by those staff where the employer benefits from the pass holder's access to the Parliament must be registered. There is no need to state the amount of remuneration. The requirement relates both to staff employed directly by the group and to staff employed by an outside organisation to provide assistance to the group.

<b>Staff name</b>	N/A
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<b>Title of post</b>	
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<b>Name and address of employer organisation</b>	
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<b>Type of employer organisation</b>	
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**10. GROUP CONTACT *Code of Conduct 6.3.4, 6.3.5 and 6.5.1 – 6.5.4***

Please give the full details of an elected official of the group who is an MSP who will be the contact for registration matters for the group. Initially this must be the Member who signs the declaration on compliance with the rules on behalf of the group. If a group subsequently changes the designated contact, the office of the Standards Clerk must be informed within 7 days of the change.

<b>Name</b>	Margaret Mitchell MSP
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<b>Parliamentary address</b>	M2.09
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<b>Telephone number</b>	85639
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<b>Constituency Office telephone number</b>	01698 282815
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