

Cross Party Group on Dyslexia

Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Dyslexia held in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 24th April 2013.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Elaine Smith MSP welcomed members and Margaret Mitchell MSP chaired the meeting. Jennifer King, Association of Scottish Principal Educational Psychologists King was introduced as the guest speaker.

Attendees

Stuart Lucas, CathyMcgee, Margaret Crombie, Lisa Ross, Margaret Crankshaw, Linda McCaig, Elspeth Dow, Gerry Jamieson, Marion McGinley, Denise Parry, Gerry Parry, Anne Warden, Cath Currie, Liz Tangey, David Jones, Jennifer King, Claire Milligan, Aileen Orr, Martin Davies, Rosemary Bowe, Jonathon Park, Jay Kirkland, Hamish Hunter, Lynne Dobbie, Gillian Hudson, Tricia Scott, Irene Lumsden, Kathleen Clark, Julie Ross, Juila Trotter

2. Apologies

Mairi McIntosh, Susan Agnew, Liz Rogers, Glenda Hannah, Claudia Beamish MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP, Mike Gibson

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2012

The minutes were approved. Proposed by Cathy Mcgee and seconded by Rosemary Bowe

4. Business arising from previous minute

It was noted that David Jones and Cathy Mcgee had had a very positive meeting with Rory Mair, Chief Executive of Cosla and a number of actions had been agreed relating to enhancing links between Dyslexia Scotland and local authorities.

5. Presentation

Jennifer King gave a presentation on the role of the educational psychologist. She provided an overview of the key priorities of the role including what the desired outcomes for pupils were, how research, guidance and legislation guided their work, national developments in educational psychology, and how educational psychologists contributed specifically to achieving the best outcomes for pupils with dyslexia. She explained that they considered a wide range of factors when working with pupils and this had had a bearing on the place of assessment for dyslexia moving towards generic rather than dyslexia specific assessment reports.

Jennifer was very positive about the online toolkit and had been involved in its development although she recognised the differences in how it was being used across local authorities.

6. General Discussion

There followed an interesting discussion around member's experiences with educational psychologists and particularly concerns about the changes relating to a specific assessment report. This was particularly important in terms of how that report was perceived by others e.g. further/ higher education institutions, employers and that a generic report would not be helpful. Discussion also focused on what a parent could do when support was not being provided and the lengthy delays in accessing an educational psychologist.

Jennifer acknowledged there were differences in responses to the use of the agreed definition of dyslexia and reflected that this was a matter for individual local authorities.

7. Education Scotland Review of the HMIe Report on Dyslexia 2008

David Jones informed the group that the First Minister had commissioned Education Scotland to undertake a review of the above report. This would take place between April and December 2013.

Ken McAra from Education Scotland would make a presentation on the remit and parameters of the review at the next meeting of the Cross Party Group on Wednesday 5th June 2013 and that he was keen to hear the views and experiences of members.

8. Annual General Meeting

Notice was given that the Annual General meeting would take place on Wednesday 5th June immediately after the next cross party group meeting

9. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th June 2013 at 1pm