

## Cross Party Group on Dyslexia

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Dyslexia held in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014.**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Margaret Mitchell MSP welcomed members to the meeting. The Group recorded its thanks to Kate Wane, the Convener's personal assistant who had support the group and had now moved jobs and welcomed Felicity Hollands who would now provide support to the group.

#### **Attendees**

Margaret Mitchell MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP, David Jones, Yowann Byghan, Diane Smith, Hamish Hunter, Stuart Lucas, Fiona Dickinson, Monica Gribben, Joe Moran, Sheena Gordon, Samantha Gray, Cathy Mcgee, Julie Ross, Elspeth Dow, Bill Sadler, Janette Cameron, Jon Collier, Rosemary Bowe, Margaret Crombie, Aileen Orr, Felicity Hollands, Marianne Paton

#### **2. Apologies**

Stuart McMillan MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP, Elaine Smith MSP, Kathleen Clark, Mary Evans, Jay Kirkland, Susan Agnew, Lynne Dobbie, Joey Graham, Lisa Ross, Mig Coupe, Mairi McIntosh

#### **3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**

The minutes were approved. Proposed by Margaret Crombie and seconded by Rosemary Bowe.

#### **4. Business arising from previous minute**

It was agreed that a number of items raised would be considered again after the publication of the Education Scotland Review of Dyslexia. It was agreed that there would not be a guest speaker at the next meeting but rather the opportunity to have an informal discussion.

## **5. Open Discussion**

David Jones provided a context for the discussion reminding the group of the four key themes of Education and Learning; Health, Behaviours and Employment. A number of issues were discussed around:

- The levels of misinformation about dyslexia and the need to look at ways of getting information to MSPs including the possibility of a newsletter.
- The mandatory testing of prisoners and developments with the Education contract manager by Motherwell and Carnegie Colleges
- Continuing inconsistency in approaches and levels of support for pupils and parents across and within local authority areas
- The potential of arranging joint cross party group meetings on areas and issues of common concern and interest.
- Employment issues and the levels of support from within the Careers Service, ability to access legal advice and the challenges for job seekers and modern apprentices.
- The implications of new technology for those with dyslexia particularly within the workplace
- The role of tutors and assessors
- The support for those from ethnic backgrounds, particularly the Polish community
- The need to open discussions with the Association of Directors of Education
- The importance of the Education Scotland Review of Dyslexia

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting should be held after the publication of the review expected in the Spring 2014. Date to be advised.