

## Cross Party Group on Dyslexia

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Dyslexia held in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015.**

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

Margaret Mitchell MSP welcomed members to the meeting.

#### **Attendees**

Aileen Orr, Sandy McCreath, Margaret Crankshaw, Ronan Tangey, Elaine Smith MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP, Marianne Paton, Jenny Reekie, Martin Davies, Janette Cameron, Lucy Sumsion, Clare Slipper, Jay Kirkwood, Monica Gribben, Mary Evans, Helen Fleming, Cathy Mcgee, Felicity Holland, Joe Moran, David Jones, Margaret Mitchell MSP

#### **Apologies**

Diane Smith, Hamish Hunter, Bill Sadler, Fiona Savage, Elspeth Dow, Mike Gibson, Margaret Crombie, Moira Thomson, Stuart Lucas, Lynne Dobbie

#### **3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

The minutes were approved. Proposed by Cathy Mcgee and seconded by Martin Davies

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

Cathy Mcgee, CEO, Dyslexia Scotland provided an update of the work of the working group established by the Scottish Government to support progressing the recommendations in the Making Sense Report. It was agreed that a future meeting should focus on the work being undertaken by Education Scotland on the report.

It was also agreed that a representative from the Association of Directors of Education (ADES) should be invited to a future meeting once more details from Education Scotland had been finalised

## **5. Presentation by Susie Agnew, Director of Dyslexia Scotland**

Susie gave a presentation about the Dyslexia Scotland pilot careers service initiative supporting adults with dyslexia as they seek employment or training. A number of examples were given of the challenges faced by adults and the level of support that is needed. A number of issues were raised by members in response including the inconsistency of front line support offered by job centres and the need to address this.

A discussion followed around whether to declare dyslexia on applying for a job or at interview was raised with a range of differing views and opinions expressed.

Janette Cameron, Chair of Dyslexia Scot West Lothian Branch gave an insight of her work with Job Centre Plus demonstrating a positive approach and the benefits of good personal support.

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

A tentative date was set for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September with a focus on the Making Sense Report and how Education Scotland were progressing its response. This would be subject to the appointment by Education Scotland of the Development Officer. Date would be confirmed.