

Cross Party Group on Dyslexia

Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Dyslexia held in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 8th October 2014.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Margaret Mitchell MSP welcomed members to the meeting.

Attendees

Clare Slipper, Lucy Sumsion, Martin Davies, Stuart Lucas, Lynn Dobbie, Moira Thomson, Samantha Gray, Mo Brown, Cathy Mcgee, Gill Scott, Claire Mulligan, Mairi Mcintosh, Bill Sadler,, Mike Gibson, Scott Johnston, Deborah Walker, Annette Foulcer, Alan Wood, Liz Tangey, Julie Trotter, Fiona Dickinson, Yowann Byghan, Elspeth Dow, Margaret Crankshaw, Jo Aitken, Monica Gribben, Jay Kirkland, Fiona Savage, Margaret Crombie, David Jones, Claudia Beamish MSP, Margaret Mitchell MSP

Apologies

Stuart McMillan MSP, Diane Smith

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2014

The minutes were approved. Proposed by Cathy Mcgee and seconded by Margaret Crombie

4. Business arising from previous minute

A date for a meeting with the Minister for Learning, Science and Scotlands' languages to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the Making Sense Report was still being negotiated.

5. National Farmers Union 'Farming with Dyslexia' Initiative.

Clare Slipper gave a presentation on the 'Farming with Dyslexia' initiative which had been developed following discussions at a previous Cross Party Group meeting and supported by Dyslexia Scotland. The campaign would seek to raise awareness and offer practical solutions to make life easier for those in the farming community impacted by dyslexia.

The CPG welcomed the initiative and asked that an update should be included in a future meeting.

6. Education Scotland Report: Making Sense: Education for Children and Young People with Dyslexia.

Ken McAra from Education Scotland gave a presentation on the conclusions and recommendations of the report. He described the process by which the information had been gathered and the key issues identified.

Members of the CPG raised a number of questions about:

- the research methodologies, particularly in relation to the involvement of children and young people;
- Worrying figures in relation to destinations and achievement;
- Independent assessments;
- Lack of information for parents available on local authority websites;
- Differences in identification levels at primary and secondary levels;
- Training for teachers in assessment and quality assurance;
- Inaccurate data gathering.

Ken responded to each issue clarifying what the research had found.

He explained the process being developed by Education Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government and assured the group that there would be opportunities for members to contribute to the actions that would be developed.

6. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting should be held on a date when the Cabinet Secretary for Education or Minister could attend.