

Cross- Party Group on Dyslexia in the Scottish Parliament.

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 29th. May 2012 12 noon- 2.00pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Stuart Mc Millan MSP, Vice-Convenor of the Group welcomed guest speakers and members to the meeting and invited those in attendance to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received; see attached list.

3. Minutes from last meeting 20th. March 2012.

The minutes were accepted and there were no matters arising.

4. Presentation on Health & Dyslexia:

Fiona Dickinson, Dyslexia Scotland reported on the work carried out in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland to raise awareness of Dyslexia within NHS Scotland, including how to support service users & staff affected by Dyslexia, training and the development of resources.

The project included the development of resources which could be delivered in a variety of contexts eg. 20 minute presentation, 1 day Dyslexia Awareness Training, Learning Intranet & CPD opportunities.

Learning Outcomes of the training packages included:

Defining the characteristics of Dyslexia, how Dyslexia may present itself in the workplace; Support available and how to access it; Approaches

that would assist individuals in the learning or workplace context and the relevant statutory responsibilities in relation to Dyslexia.

A Pilot of the resources was carried out amongst 2 different audiences- the corporate membership of Dyslexia Scotland & Practitioners, Human Resource and Teaching Staff from an NHS Scotland Health Board. Feedback received will assist with further development of the resources and training for 20 Trainers across different Health Boards will be delivered initially. The final Resource/ Training package will be completed soon.

There was opportunity for questions and discussion; the Vice-convenor then thanked Fiona Dickinson for her presentation.

5. Scottish Government Pupil Census 2011.

Mike Gibson, Retired HMle in Scottish Government gave a short presentation to the Group highlighting the figures in relation to Dyslexia in the 2011 Pupil Census. Conclusions highlighted the underreporting of the numbers of pupils with Dyslexia but it should not be taken as an indicator that support is not being given.

The 2012 Pupil Census will take place on 20th. September.

Points raised in discussion:

The personnel who complete the census is critical,

It is dependent on the school's Electronic Data System being kept updated,

SQA Arrangements numbers may provide additional information,

COSLA could possibly help with better recording of statistics.

7. Consultation on Reasonable Adjustments for Disabled Candidates in National Qualifications in Scotland

Patricia Mc Donald from SQA gave a short presentation drawing the Group's attention to the consultation currently in progress via SQA

web-site. The review of Arrangements is linked to new Curriculum for Excellence Qualifications and new responsibilities given to SQA in the Equality Act to specify and publicise circumstances in which adjustments cannot be made. Ms. McDonald explained this was because it undermines the integrity of the qualification, and she stressed that this is what the consultation is about. She gave an example of the new Literacy qualification; the SQA would not consider the provision of a human reader as a reasonable adjustment – ICT should be the arrangement in place.

The consultation ends on 8th. June. Individuals or groups can participate. Following discussion it was agreed that the Cross Party Group would endorse Dyslexia Scotland's submission.

8. Response to the Review of the Cross Party Groups.

David Jones Cross Party Group Secretary had written a response to the Review of the Cross Party Groups in the Scottish Parliament. This was circulated to the members in attendance at the meeting.

9. Date of next meeting.

To be confirmed.

Glenda Hanna

Minute Secretary.

Cross Party Group on Dyslexia Tuesday 29th. May 2012.

ATTENDEES:

Margaret Mitchell MSP

Jay Kirkland

Mig Coupe

Fiona Savage

Linda McCaig

Linda Kerr

Moira Thomson

Patricia McDonald

Dr. Margaret Crombie

Cathy Mcgee

Mary Evans

Martin Davis

Anne Davidson

Paul Wheelhouse MSP

Pamela DePonio

Kathleen Clark

Yowann Byghan

Mike Gibson

Susie Agnew

David Jones

Stuart McMillan MSP

Fiona Dickinson

Glenda Hannah

APOLOGIES:

Claudia Beamish MSP

Margaret Crankshaw

Jim Connelly

Lynn Dobbie

Elsbeth Dow

Donald Ewing

Sheena Gordon

Jan Halfpenny

Hamish Hunter

Marie Lockhart

Mairi McIntosh

Claire Milligan

Liz Rodger

Elaine Smith MSP