

Cross Party for Heart Disease & Stroke
Wednesday 28th November 2012
Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament

Prevention: Towards a smoke-free Scotland

1. Welcome & apologies

Convenor, Helen Eadie [HE] MSP welcomed everyone to the last meeting of 2012 and extended a special welcome to Vice-Convenor Dennis Robertson MSP.

MSP Apologies

Jackie Baillie MSP

Alison McInnes MSP

Fiona McLeod MSP

2. Minutes – Wednesday 19th September 2012

Accepted as an accurate record – proposed by Carol Walford, seconded by Gordon Snedden.

3. Matters arising

Parliamentary Questions on Cardiac Rehabilitation

Questions lodged by HE (12th October 2012) following the September meeting and answers provided by Alex Neil (7th November 2012) were circulated to members, also available on the Scottish Parliament website.

Parliamentary Motion in support of BACPR Standards & Core Components

Again, copies were circulated of the Motion lodged by HE, which received cross party group from 15 MSPs and has been flagged for a possible future Members' Debate.

Letter to Cab Sec for Health & Wellbeing on Cardiac Rehab

Letter sent by HE as per September actions to clarify support for Cardiac Rehab, ongoing audit and to propose the need for a HEAT target to improve performance. Acknowledgement received, reply awaited.

Visual Impairment CPG Event – 13th December 2012

Louise Peardon [LP] read out invitation to an event focusing on visual impairment post-stroke.

4. Sub Group Update – draft Stroke Charter

Update on the progress of this work to create a charter for stroke patient care. Presentations given by Eric Sinclair (Stroke Association) and Mark Smith (AHP Consultant, NHS Lothian).

ES and MS presented the aspirational nature of the document, designed for circulation to MSPs and all stroke units in Scotland to drive improvements in

stroke care. They thanked HE for her support in leading the sub group and this piece of work.

HE suggested that the Cab Sec for Health should be contacted to support the charter and commended its role in defining what a stroke patient should expect from their care. Kim Hartley [KH] pledged the support of the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapist in creating an accessible version of the final document.

Dennis Robertson MSP [DR] commended the work and suggested that the charter could be publicised through a Parliamentary Motion, which he'd be delighted to lodge in due course. Ben McKendrick [BMcK] commended the easy to understand document on behalf of BHF Scotland and highlighted the need to ensure it was signposted to those not receiving adequate care. BMcK also suggested a change in name from 'Life After Stroke' to avoid confusion with existing campaign work. The group supported a new name. David Clark [DC] endorsed the work from Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland and highlighted the need to emphasise the role of specialist support and access to benefits advice.

There was discussion concerning the relationship between the Charter and the existing QIS Standards and the importance of including a nursing perspective on the sub group was highlighted. There were concerns raised as to the risk of raising unrealistic expectations among stroke patients, but the consensus of the group was that there needed to be an element of aspiration in such a document to create a benchmark.

HE agreed to lead the publicity of the document, with the support of MSP colleagues and the potential of a launch event was discussed.

5. Presentations

Evidence base for standardised tobacco packaging

The group listened to a presentation from Prof Linda Bauld [LB], Stirling University on the promotion of tobacco. LB circulated examples of current packaging in contrast to the proposed 'plain packaging' for tobacco. LB outlined the key influences on the purchasing of tobacco products and the marketing strategies employed by the tobacco companies. LB also highlighted the commonly held belief that not all cigarettes are equally harmful and the current UK wide consultation to introduce standardised 'plain' packaging.

The group discussed the incentives for young people to start smoking and the potential for Scotland to build on the smoking in public places ban and lead the way with additional regulations. Discussion also centred on the influence of pricing in relation to purchasing of tobacco and the need to ensure that schools are able to present the evidence to pupils at an early age. HE agreed to write to the Minister for Public Health to clarify the government's policies and work to reduce smoking rates in Scotland. DC and BMcK pledged the support of the voluntary sector, highlighting that the Smoking Ban had experienced less

opposition than had been expected. HE shared some of the discussions that had taken place at the Health Committee in the run up to the Smoking Ban.

Scottish Government Tobacco Control Action Plan

John Watson [JW], Director of Policy and Communications at ASH Scotland presented on the draft action plan, which is currently a work in progress. The group were shown the key actions and given the opportunity to provide feedback on the process. The draft seeks to set a date for a 'smoke-free Scotland' (smoking prevalence < 5%) and contains ambitious aims to achieve this. The consultation ends in December 2012 and the group were encouraged to send responses.

Discussion concentrated on the need to engage retailers in the aims to cut smoking rates and the moves by some retailers to stop selling tobacco. JW talked through some of the other strategies used to reduce smoking rates through retail. Discussion also around the concept of an aspiration for the nation to become smoke-free, the need for clarity that this did not represent prohibition of tobacco sales and that clear and consensual communications around this were needed. The group also raised concerns about the potential of 'black market' sales and cigarette smuggling and JW clarified that these fears were mainly a result of scaremongering without much evidence. There was discussion about initiatives aimed to discourage smoking among children especially via educational initiatives and HE encouraged members to submit ideas for action from the CPG in support of this agenda. KH asked about the reasons for inequalities in smoking rates between different groups, and JW agreed to send KH a briefing note on this complex issue.

7. AOCB

Chronic Pain Petition

Jacquie Forde presented a petition and encouraged members to support it.

8. Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting is 1730 for a 1800 start on **Wednesday 6th March 2013**, Committee Room 5.

Additional 2013 dates:

- Wednesday 5th June
- Wednesday 18th September
- Wednesday 4th December

Non-MSP Attendance

Title	Forename	Surname	Organisation
Ms	Gill	Alexander	SAHPP
Prof	Linda	Bauld	Stirling University
Mr	Matt	Barclay	Community Pharmacy Scotland
Mrs	Suzanne	Bell	Scottish Heart Failure Nurse Forum
Mr	Andy	Carver	BHF Scotland
Mr	David	Clark	Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland
Dr	Carolyn	Deighan	Scottish Division of Health Psychology
Ms	Eve	Flavell	Stroke Association
Ms	Jacquie	Forde	Wellbeing Alliance
Ms	Hazel	Fraser	SSNF
Ms	Sandi	Haines	SSNF
Ms	Kim	Hartley	Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists
Ms	Joanne	McGrath	Roche Diagnostics Limited
Mr	Ben	McKendrick	BHF Scotland
Prof	Dave	Newby	NHS Lothian
Miss	Louise	Peardon	Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland
Mr	Richard	Pitt	ABPI CV Industry Group
Mrs	Christine	Quigg	Inverclyde Stroke Matters
Ms	Di	Rennie	SSNF
Mr	George	Sime	Kirkcaldy Heart Support Group
Mr	Eric	Sinclair	Stroke Association
Mr	Mark	Smith	NHS Lothian
Mr	Gordon	Snedden	Angus Cardiac Group
Prof	Allan	Struthers	Dundee University
Ms	Louise	Taylor	Heart Manual
Mr	Paul	Thomas	Researcher
Prof	Iain	Todd	NHS Lothian
Mr	Robert	Wilson	Inverclyde Stroke Matters