

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Cross Party Group for Learning Disability
Committee Room, Scottish Parliament
Wednesday 28th May 2014**

1. People who were there

Jackie Baillie MSP
Annabel Goldie MSP
Liam McArthur MSP



Jan Savage (ENABLE Scotland)
Rachel Kennedy (ENABLE Scotland)

Grace Robertson (BEMAS Transitions Project)
Saher Ali (BEMAS Transitions Project)

Elizabeth Thomson (representing Joan McAlpine MSP)

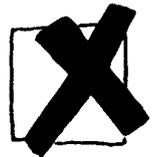
Ahmed Yousaf (Remploy)
Peter Scott (ENABLE Scotland)
Chris Creegan (SCLD)
Karen Martin (Carers Trust)
Rachel Webb (Scottish Autism)
Caroline Gray (Quarriers)
Iain Cuthbertson (Quarriers)
Muriel Mowat (Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance)
Ian Hood (Learning Disability Alliance Scotland)
Linda Eddie (Learning Disability Alliance Scotland)
William Johnstone (Learning Disability Alliance Scotland)
Fiona Bond (Learning Disability Alliance Scotland)
Sadie Main (Learning Disability Alliance Scotland)
Derek Carveli (Learning Disability Alliance Scotland)
Calum MacFarlane (Learning Disability Alliance Scotland)
Ian Stones (Learning Disability Alliance Scotland)
Holly Millar (C-Change, Scotland)
Marie-Claire Clearie (C-Change, Scotland)
Lorraine MacKenzie
Sofi Taylor
Ewan Hamilton (Key)

Colin Menabney (ENABLE Glasgow)
Sally Anne Elverson (ENABLE Glasgow)
Heather Muldoon (RNIB Scotland)
Rachel Le Noan (Downs Syndrome Scotland)
Idem Lewis
Keith Lynch (People First)
Rhona Neill (People First)
Edward Fairweather
(Hillcrest Housing Association, supporting Edward)
James Fletcher (ARC UK)
Lynette Linton (ARC UK)
Margaret Hay (Community Integrated Care) observer

Jackie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. People who were not there and sent apologies

Alison McInnes MSP
Alison Johnstone MSP
Joan McAlpine MSP



Sam Cairns (Equal Say)
Loretto Lambe (PAMIS)
Kate Mure (PAMIS)
Diane Willis
Fiona Thackeray (TRELLIS)
Mig Coupe (Mindroom)
Ken MacMahon (Scottish Division of Clinical Psychology)
Karen McKenzie (NHS Lothian representing Scottish Division of Clinical Psychology)
Jane Ansell (Sleep Scotland)
David Tawse
Gloria Greganti (ARK Housing Association)
Elizabeth Findlay (Central Advocacy Partners)
Andrew Findlay (Interest Link Borders)
Florence McQuilter (Quarriers)

3. Minutes of last meeting on 15th January 2014

Everyone agreed the minutes were correct.

4. Matters arising

Idem offered another update on PIP (Personal Independence Payment). He said that it had been delayed and people were waiting up to nine months. Minister Mike Penning has said that they will be prioritising new PIP claims instead of processing new claims.



Idem said that Iain Duncan Smith is in trouble with some statistics being used to justify the welfare reform agenda.

There are delays in the system and it was requested that if people have concerns that they pass these on to the welfare reform committee. It was also suggested that people keep a copy of their PIP/DLA forms.

Jackie said that Michael McMahon and the welfare reform committee are happy to hear from members of the Cross Party Group about their experiences of the welfare reforms. People can email the Committee direct on WelfareReformCommittee@scottish.parliament.uk

a) Cross Party Group on Disability – Hate Crime

Jan has spoken with the convenor of the Cross Party Group on Disability to arrange to share information on Hate Crime and possibly hold a joint event in the winter.



It was requested that if anyone is aware of research into Hate Crime that they send it on to Jan to share with the CPG on Disability.

Sadie Main spoke about her experience of bullying and how her life is different now that she has moved house. She said it makes her feel sad that she had to have terrible experiences for her to get a new flat.

b) Section 13za of the Social Work Act

Section 13za is about people who have learning disabilities being moved into residential care.

Jackie reported that she has written to the Minister for Public Health about this matter.

Everyone in the group was happy with the action being taken.



When a response is received, this will be shared with the CPG by email, and the Secretariat will contact Ian Hood from LDAS and Sam Cairns from Equal Say to consider next steps, as they brought the issue to the attention of the CPG.

c) Winterbourne Parliamentary Questions

Jackie reported that she had received written answers to my questions which confirm that the Scottish Government has had discussions with the UK Government about the Winterbourne scandal, and is 'committed to ensuring that lessons are learned from Winterbourne View Hospital'.



The answers also established that there were 2,702 adults with learning disabilities in residential care homes in 2013. This is down from 3,943 in 2003.

Jackie suggest that she should write to the Minister for more clarity on the work of the Adult Protection Policy Forum, the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland in relation to implementing the recommendations of the Winterbourne review in Scotland, and how this relates to the work of the Keys to Life Implementation Group.

The group agreed that a letter is to be drafted to the Minister.

d) Integration of Health and Social Care

Jackie encouraged all CPG members to be vigilant and bring any information about the new joint integration boards back to the CPG if members feel that there are challenges in making sure that people with learning disabilities feature in locality plans.



Idem told everyone about recommendations made by Louise Ellman MP on behalf of the Transport Committee at the UK Parliament in Westminster about accessible transport. He wondered if the Scottish Parliament Transport Committee could conduct a similar enquiry.



One members of the CPG advised that he was a bit wary of just following the English example.

Another member talked about a group in Aberdeen, and he said that people are worried about getting out and about. He said that it is really important to help people get out and about to enjoy a better life. It was suggested that the Scottish Government may be looking at this after the referendum.

Jackie sad that regardless of the outcome of the referendum what we need is improvement **now**. She suggested that the group writes to the Transport Infrastructure Committee to ask about the possibility of an inquiry into accessible transport and the Transport Minister. The members of the CPG agreed.

Sadie Main shared her experience of not getting her Bus Pass renewed due to changes in the benefits system.

Sofi suggested also copying the letter to the Equal Opportunity Committee too.

5.0 Learning Disability Awareness Week

Jackie asked reminded everyone that the week beginning 19th May was Learning Disability Awareness Week. She asked everyone what they had done to celebrate.

It was also People First's 25th Anniversary.



**People First
(Scotland)**

ENABLE Scotland had an event at the Parliament on Wednesday to celebrate Learning Disability Week and their 60th Anniversary. Lots of MPS attended this.



Ewan and Ian Hood delivered their 35th Independence Workshop at SCLD.



LDAS produced copies of their DVD about the Independence Referendum which featured interviews with Jackie and Joan.

Everyone was reminded that YES Scotland and Better Together have produced easy read information about the Referendum.



James from ARC Scotland had a very positive meeting about supporting prisoners with Learning Disabilities with the Scottish Prison Service. This was following on from discussions at the CPG.



Sadie agreed that this was important because lots of people in the prison population cannot read or write.

Chris Creegan said that to add to Ian's work, SCLD have created a new forum for people who have learning disabilities, and they have been having discussions about the referendum. He said that against the odds people with learning disabilities are doing a great job at keeping people informed. He said that the Keys to Life has human rights at its heart and there is no more fundamental a right than the right to vote. He asked everyone to make sure that they vote on 18th September.



Peter Scott from ENABLE Scotland said that ENABLE are organising a hustings event in August. He asked for politicians to please engage directly with people.



Jackie said that it was going to be a very busy time for the politicians, but if people invite them to their events, they will turn up!

6.0 BEMAS Transitions Service

Grace Robertson and Saher Ali then introduced the BEMAS transitions service which is part of the Action Group.



BEMAS stands for Black and Ethnic Minority Advice Services. They work across Edinburgh, the Lothians and Falkirk. Since 2011 they have specifically worked with young people at various transition periods in their life.



Grace and Saher showed a DVD which demonstrated the work that they do. They support young people to find a service and ask any questions they might have about it.

They said that interpreter access is a barrier for some people accessing services. They are trying to collect information about what the barriers to accessing services and support are and using them to inform change.



The process for working with young people is that they have a home visit first and the BEMAS staff meet the young person and their family. They then do a benefits check and assess how people spend their days and what they like to do.

Members days, focus groups and individual evaluations allow people the chance to share feedback on what is important to them.

Saher said that 11.05% of the population of Edinburgh are from the BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) community. The eSAY statistics only reflect a small number of these people. This shows that there is an under representation of people from the BME community with learning disabilities accessing services.

Grace spoke about a consultation that the group had coordinated. They found that people were worried about people's perception of disability and ethnicity. She also spoke about some of the barriers that people had identified such as not knowing much about the social work infrastructure, English being a second language and stigma around diagnosis.



She went on to say that there is a perception that people from BME communities are 'hard to reach' or don't want to engage with services. She said that this is not true!

BEMAS have created a self assessment toolkit which is for service providers. It gives information about how to make services more accessible to the BME communities.



The intention is for more projects like BEMAS to exist throughout Scotland.

Sadie Main talked about how she had reached out to her new neighbours who were travellers.

Sofi raised that issue of single outcome agreements. The three priorities in this are youth employment, alcohol and vulnerable groups. In her experience of community planning learning disability does not always feature, and services for BME people who have learning disabilities feature even less.

Grace said that privacy is a big issue for BEMAS. Often, interpreters come from the same community and people know each other. This puts people off. It is also an issue that learning disability does not translate well into other languages.

A CPG member from Aberdeen said that he is involved in a group that has developed an Easy Read booklet which he would be happy to share.



Idem said that there is less money around these days for the voluntary sector. He said that it is harder to get access to services, and to ensure that more services are directed at BME communities. He thinks that there are less BME focused projects around now than there used to be, and he wondered if there was any way to monitor this?

Colin Menabney said that ENABLE Glasgow works with two groups who have members from BME communities. He said that in addition to the language barrier, he finds that people from BME communities find it difficult to access or find out about services that are available to all people, because people want to focus more on what is available to BME communities. He said that he really liked BEMAS's approach to engaging and influencing mainstream services, and that he would like BEMAS to visit his services to offer some advice!

Ian Hood asked if there is a list of people in Edinburgh from BME community accessing services. He also asked if BEMAS have looked at figures from elsewhere in Scotland?



Saher said that there are only figures for Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Jackie asked for the figures to be passed on to Jan. She said that it may be that the CPG is able to carry out a Freedom of Information request.

BEMAS were asked how we can roll this type of work out across the rest of Scotland. Grace said that BEMAS believe that the best way to do this is to share best practice and mentioned that the Local Area Coordinators are working very well.



Jackie thanked Grace and Saher very much for attending the CPG at such short notice and for giving us such an excellent presentation.

7.0 AGM (Annual General Meeting)

Jackie explained that we had to hold our AGM at this point because the Scottish Parliament’s rules are clear that we need to agree our membership, prepare an annual report, and confirm our office bearers at least once per year.



She asked the Group to refer to the draft Annual Report which the Secretariat had prepared.

Firstly, she asked everyone to confirm that they were happy with the membership list. The Group confirmed it was happy. It was noted that Keith Lynch, James McNabb and Ken McKay were the members from People First.

Secondly, she asked the Group to approve the Annual Report content. The Group approved.



Next, she asked the group to confirm the MSP membership, and noted that the MSP members of the Group are:

- Jackie Baillie MSP
- Jim Eadie MSP
- Alison Johnstone MSP
- Alison McInnes MSP
- Annabel Goldie MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- Joan McAlpine MSP

Jackie then stepped down as Chair and invited Jan to Chair the next part of the meeting.

Election of Chair

Jan said that Jackie had put herself forward for the position of Convener again. She asked for an MSP member to propose and second this.

Annabell Goldie MSP proposed this and Liam McArthur MSP seconded it.



Jackie Baillie MSP therefore remains chair of the CPG for Learning Disability. Jan handed the Chair back to Jackie.

Vice Convener

Jackie told that Group that both Jim Eadie MSP and Annabel Goldie MSP had indicated an interest in the position of Vice Convener, currently held by Jim Eadie MSP.



Jackie suggested that the Group could have two Vice Conveners. The Group voted to agree, and so Jim Eadie MSP and Annabel Goldie MSP are Vice Conveners of the CPG.

Finally, the Group agreed that ENABLE Scotland remain as secretariat.



8. Anything else?

a) Request from Trellis to look at learning disability and gardening.

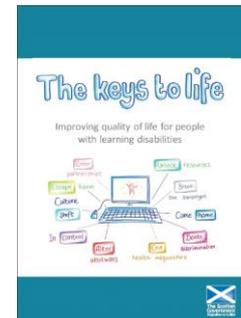
The CPG had received a request from Jenny Simpson at Trellis to update the Group on the benefits of therapeutic gardening projects. This will be discussed outwith this meeting.



b) Looking ahead to a work plan for the CPG in 2014-15

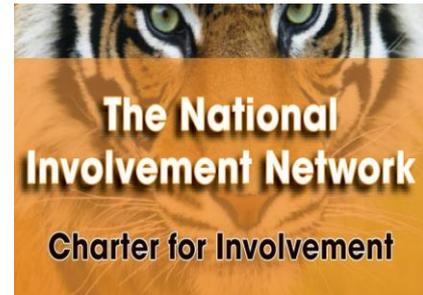
Jackie said that she thought it would be a good idea to map out the issues that the CPG would like to look at over the next year. On the basis of our previous discussions, we have:

- August 2014 – we have a three week window for the CPG to take place. This would focus on the Keys to Life and the Minister's attendance.
- November/December 2014 – Hate Crime (with the CPG Disability)
- March 2015 – the Secretariat have been approached with a suggestion from a member for the CPG to discuss the new Mental Health legislation. It was agreed that this could be a topic for the first meeting of 2015, and that the timing for this would depend on the Parliamentary process.



c) Charter for Involvement

Members of People First asked if Jackie would sign up to the new Charter for Involvement created by ARC Scotland's National Involvement Network. Jackie agreed.



Actions

	Action	Who
1	Send information about the impact of the welfare reforms to Welfare Reform Committee of the Scottish Government	All CPG members
2	Draft response to the Scottish Government regarding the use of Section 13ZA of the Adults with Incapacity Act	Secretariat (Jan Savage)
3	Winterbourne Parliamentary Questions – draft a letter to the Minister regarding Adult Support and Protection.	Secretariat (Jan Savage)
4	Draft a letter to the Minister for Transport and the Transport & Infrastructure Committee about accessible transport strategy for Scotland	Secretariat (Jan Savage)
5	Send BME community statistics to Secretariat to look into a FOI.	BEMAS
6	Organise an event about bullying and hate crime for Nov/Dec in partnership with the CPG Disability	Secretariat