

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Cross Party Group for Learning Disability
Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament
Wednesday 21 March 2013**

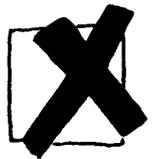
1. People who were there

Jackie Baillie MSP (Convenor)
Annabel Goldie MSP
Joan McAlpine MSP
Alison Johnstone MSP (AGM only)
Liam McArthur MSP (AGM only)
Linda Kerr (ENABLE Scotland)
Faye Keogh (Turning Point)
Colin Menabney (ENABLE Glasgow)
Sally Ann Elfverson (ENABLE Glasgow)
Heather Muldoon (RNIB Scotland)
James Toal (Powerful Partnerships)
Sonya Bewsher (Powerful Partnerships)
Ian Cairns (Mental Welfare Commission)
Michelle Quilter (Mental Welfare Commission)
Colin McConnell (Scottish Prison Service) (part meeting)
Karen McCormack (People First Scotland)
James McNab (People First Scotland)
Ian Hood (Learning Disability Alliance Scotland)
Norma Curran (Values into Action Scotland)
Caroline Gray (Quarriers)
Florence McQuilter (Quarriers)
James Fletcher (ARC Scotland)
Lynnette Linton (ARC Scotland)
Maura Lynch (SCLD)
Iain Cuthbertson (Quarriers)
Isabel Koopman (Quarriers)
Dr Fabian Haut (Royal College of Psychiatrists)
Kenneth MacMahon (Division of Clinical Psychology)
Karen McKenzie (Division of Clinical Psychology)
Linda McCaig
Jamie Rutherford (ENABLE Scotland)
Ahmed Yousaf (Remploy)
Caitlin Gormley (University of Glasgow)



Lisa Ross (Mindroom)
Jane Ansell (Sleep Scotland)
Jim Walsh (Speak Out Advocacy Project)
Stephen Carlin (Speak Out Advocacy Project)
Patricia Kearns (Lanarkshire ACE)
Alison Moir (Speak Out Advocacy Project)
Fiona Sinclair (Autism Rights)
Jan Savage (ENABLE Scotland)
Neil MacLennan (Scottish Government) (part meeting)

2. People who were not there and sent apologies

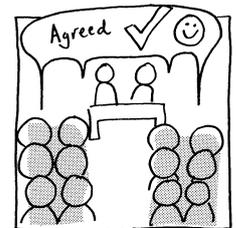


Jackie welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that the following people were not able to come.

Jim Eadie MSP
Alison McInnes MSP
Sofi Taylor (NHS GG&C Mental Health Services)
Pandora Summerfield (Down's Syndrome Scotland)
Professor Nancy Loucks (Families Outside)
Loretto Lambe (PAMIS)
Sam Cairns (Equal Say)
Sarah Randell (Scottish Council of Independent Schools)
Idem Lewis

3. Minutes of last meeting

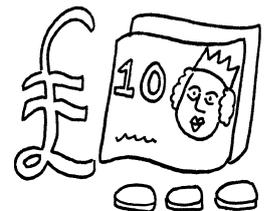
It was agreed the minutes of the last meeting were correct except the date which said 7 March 2012 instead of 7 November 2012. This will be corrected.



4. Matters arising

- **Welfare Reform**

We wrote to Margaret Burgess, Minister for Housing and Welfare, about welfare reform and the need for good advice services. The Minister sent information about the extra £1.5 million funding that the Government has given to advice services.



Jackie said she had asked some questions in parliament about how the government was spending the money.

We will come back to the topic of welfare reform changes at our next meeting.

- **Hate crime and media reporting**

We wrote to the Chairperson of the Society of Editors in Scotland about the report from Glasgow University into the way that the media talks about disability and disabled people. We have not had a reply yet.



- **Autism and mental health**

At the last meeting we heard from Fiona Sinclair from Autism Rights about concerns that people with autism were treated under the Mental Health Act. We wrote to the Minister for Public Health, Michael Matheson, asking about safeguards. His reply was sent out to all members and to Autism Rights.



Fiona has since sent a response to Jackie. Jackie said she wanted to think about the information in Fiona's response and deal with this outwith the Cross Party Group. The Group agreed.

- **Forced marriage**

We have still to invite someone from the Scottish Government's Equality Unit to come and talk to us about forced marriage. This will happen at a future meeting.

5. **People who have learning disabilities in prison**

Jackie reminded everyone that in November 2011 we heard from Gary Docherty, a learning disability nurse, about people who have learning disabilities in prison. There are about 1,000 people who have learning disabilities in Scotland's prisons. Only 3 prisons have a specialist learning disability service.



Jackie welcomed Colin McConnell, the new Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service. He had come to give an update on how prisoners with learning disabilities are supported in prison.

Colin said there were 7866 citizens in prison. He knew about the issues that Gary had raised but the Scottish Prison Service could not tackle this alone. He wanted to learn more about learning disability and how he can work with colleagues in other services on this issue.



Jackie asked for questions. James McNab (People First) said he was the Chairperson of the Criminal Justice Group of the Same as You. He asked Colin:

- How do you identify people with learning disabilities when they come into prison?
- What support is there?

Colin said a Justice Board met at the Scottish Parliament every month to talk about how the system works. It recognises that some things are missing. In 2011, the Scottish Government published guidance to help improve things.

People need to think about the prison service alongside other services. Prison staff cannot be skilled in all areas. It is a custodial service that asks people to think about what they have done. It has a role in caring for people and opening up opportunities but colleagues in other services must look at some of the concerns raised by the Group.



The Prison Service is doing more to prepare staff to work with people with mental health needs. Staff are trained to deal with people with extra needs. But the Prison Service mainly signposts people to specialist agencies.



The NHS assesses everyone who comes into custody. This is the main way people can be identified if they have additional needs.

The Scottish Government has funded a project by Greater

Glasgow and Clyde Health Board. This should lead to better provision in future. The Scottish Prison Service and Health Boards need to work on this together.

Annabel Goldie MSP said that the prison visiting system was under review. She asked: was the review of prison visiting relevant and will the Scottish Prison Service engage with the new system?

Colin said that prisons were closed systems and need to be careful about what happens within them. In Scotland there is a good system of inspection and standards. He welcomed any kind of scrutiny as it was free feedback and it gave the public and the parliament reassurance.

James Fletcher (ARC Scotland) said that ARC ran a network of staff that supported people in the criminal justice system. There were 71 professionals in the network of staff from care agencies who supported people in the criminal justice system. The staff were involved in prevention activities or supporting people after they had been to court or prison.



The network was not able to find out how many people with learning disabilities were in custody. He asked: was there any way to find out the numbers of people with learning disabilities in custody?

Colin said that part of the project in Glasgow was to work out how people can be identified properly and signposted to the right support.

Stephen Carlin (Lanarkshire ACE) asked: what advocacy services are provided in prison?

Patricia Kearns (Lanarkshire ACE) asked: how do prisons comply with the Adult Support and Protection Act?

Ahmed Yousaf (Remploy) asked: will there be an evaluation of the 2011 Guidance?

Colin said that he did not know about an evaluation of the Guidance but his staff used it and found it helpful. The Glasgow project may be looking at this but the Group will need to ask them.

The Prison Service follows Scottish and European law on child and adult protection. But there is a difference between the role of the Prison Service as a caring custodial service and the specialist support that the health service must provide.



Prison staff are trained as personal officers and can act as problem solvers and advocates for prisoners. This is an extra service above what the prison service must provide in law. The challenge is to persuade prisoners to ask for the extra support.

Faye Keogh (Turning Point) said people needed to plan for moving on from prison. Who is responsible for throughcare and aftercare?

Colin said that one thing on its own does not reduce the chance of people re-offending. It needs a joint approach. The Scottish Prison Service wants to be a hub for other services – including the voluntary sector, councils, health boards, other statutory agencies, and central government. It would like organisations to come together to provide support and help people in prison to think about:

- how they feel about being in prison
- what would stop them re-offending and what they can do to stop this happening.

Jackie said that she was interested in what difference the 2011 Guidance will make. James Fletcher said he was interested in the network suggested by Colin and offered to get involved.



Colin said that he will set up a Forum to take this forward.

Jackie thanked Colin for coming along and for answering everyone's questions.

6. Further education

Jackie welcomed Mike Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.

She said that many people have been worried about cuts to budgets for Further Education colleges and the impact on students who have learning disabilities.



The Minister said that he welcomed the chance to talk to the Group. He had also been meeting with SCLD and ENABLE Scotland. Everyone agreed that we did not want people to do endless repeat courses. It was important that courses were relevant, properly funded and available.

One message was the need to do more to help people move from college into work. The Scottish Government is willing to resource this and will fund a pilot project to help 200 students move towards work. The main aim is to help people move to employment but this will not be the only provision.



Jackie asked if anyone had a question for the Minister.

Jane Ansell (Sleep Scotland) said her son had complex needs and college was not an option for him. He has a programme that includes independent living and support as well as a vocational element. It would be good to teach this model to other parents.

The Minister suggested that Jane talked to SCLD about her ideas.

Fiona Sinclair (Autism Rights) said that young people with autistic spectrum disorder need more social skills training in schools. This would help them when they tried to go to college or get a job. It was especially important to train teachers.



Ian Hood (LDAS) asked: How do colleges identify people with learning disabilities and the number of course hours that people

get? He also said that there were some links between education and social work but there needed to be more.

The Minister said there was a need to make sure courses were not paid for twice and there were no gaps. He agreed that there were gaps in the data and numbers from colleges. The outcome agreements for colleges will help to improve things.

Jan Savage (ENABLE Scotland) said that ENABLE Scotland and SCLD were pleased to be working together on good outcomes for people with learning disabilities at college. But we know that some people are losing the chance to go to college. We want to make sure that the numbers of courses and places open to people are being monitored.

Colin Menabney (ENABLE Glasgow) said that his service found it hard to get people into college to do a mainstream course. Could the government add up how many people with learning disabilities achieve a mainstream course or qualification?



The Minister agreed that there had been a cut in the number of part-time courses – but there are still a large number of courses. Colleges had to meet local needs. The main aim was for colleges to help people achieve jobs. There was a shift to courses for people aged 16-25 but this was not to exclude other people. He wanted to hear about examples where people could not get into college.

Jackie Baillie MSP said many people were anxious about college courses. Recent figures given to the Minister suggested that college courses for people with learning disabilities had reduced by half. Some of the cuts to courses may be reasonable but people were experiencing a lot of challenges and frustrations.

The Minister said that he expected a reduction in courses as there should be a change to more vocational courses. But if this change is a disadvantage he wanted to know about this. College courses do need to meet the needs of all of the local community.

Sally Ann Elfverson (ENABLE Glasgow) said that she was a part-time gardener and wanted to do a gardening course but there was nowhere to do this.



The Minister said that Sally should talk to Langside College. There were also 3 regional colleges in Glasgow and Clydebank. He asked Sally to let him know if she was able to find a course or not.

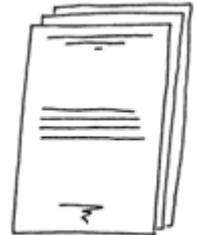
Jackie thanked the Minister for coming to speak to the Group and answer their questions.

7. AGM

Jackie explained that there had been some changes to the rules for Cross Party Groups and the Standards Committee was checking that all Groups were being run properly. The Group needs to hold an AGM once a year and send in an annual return. She called the meeting to order and started the AGM.

1. Check membership list

A membership list was sent out before the meeting. Jackie asked if anyone had any changes to this. There were no changes so the membership list was agreed.



2. Agree our annual report for last year

A draft annual report was sent out before the meeting and copies were handed out at the meeting. Jackie asked if anyone had any changes to this. There were none. Everyone agreed it was an accurate record.

3. Make sure we have enough MSPs on the Group

All of the MSP members wanted to remain on the Group and Joan McAlpine MSP (SNP) had joined the Group recently too. This means the MSP members are:

- Jackie Baillie MSP (Labour)
- Jim Eadie MSP (SNP)
- Annabel Goldie MSP (Conservative)
- Alison Johnstone MSP (Green)
- Joan McAlpine MSP (SNP)
- Liam McArthur MSP (Liberal Democrat)

- Alison McInnes MSP (Liberal Democrat)

4. Re-election of Office Bearers.

Jackie stepped down from the Chair and passed the next item to Linda Kerr (ENABLE Scotland).

Election of Convenor

Annabel Goldie MSP proposed Jackie Baillie MSP
Seconded by Liam McArthur MSP

There were no other nominations so this was agreed. Jackie stepped back into the Chair.

Election of Vice Convenor

Jackie Baillie MSP proposed Jim Eadie MSP
Seconded by Joan McAlpine MSP

There were no other nominations so this was agreed.

Election of Secretary

Jackie Baillie MSP proposed that ENABLE Scotland continue to support her with the secretary duties. Everyone agreed to this.

This was the end of the AGM.

8. Anything Else?

The 21st March is World Down's Syndrome day. This year Down's Syndrome Scotland has a free photographic exhibition at the Summerhall Gallery in Edinburgh until the 22nd May. Everyone is welcome to visit it. Joan McAlpine MSP had been at the launch that morning and showed everyone the book from the exhibition.



Fiona Sinclair said that she had updated her presentation and information sheet about autism and mental health. If anyone wants a copy let her know and she will email one out. Email: Fiona@autismrights.org.uk

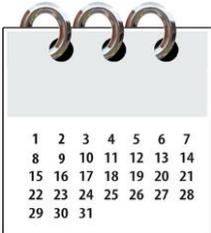
Ian Hood (LDAS) said there was a big local campaign about day centre closures. He thought it would be a good idea if the Group could agree what it thought about day services and how these could be provided in future. Jackie asked him to come back with some ideas. James McNab (People First) said he did not see why people had to go to a day centre. Why should they not have the chance to get a job?

Iain Cuthbertson (Quarriers) said that the Cross Party Group on Disability talked about hate crime recently and all the bad stories in the media. Quarriers has started to gather positive stories about the achievements of people with disabilities. The Group agreed this was a good idea. We will send out an email asking people to send any stories to Linda Kerr.

Ian Cairns (Mental Welfare Commission) said that the Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) was doing a two-year census (count) of people in hospital. It will show a small increase in the number of people with learning disabilities in hospital. For the first time, it will comment on people with autistic spectrum disorders separately. The report will be on the MWC website soon.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on
Wednesday 15 May at 1pm.



We will talk about two main topics –
Integration of Health and Social Care
Welfare Reform