

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Dyslexia
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)
28th September 2016
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
2nd October 2019
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
25th October 2019
DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]
19th September 2018
GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures. Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.
<u>Wednesday 19th September 2018</u> Presentation Dyslexia and Visual Stress

Following the publication of a guide for Assessors and Specific Learning Difficulties Practitioners by the Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs) Standards Committee in June 2018, a number of issues were raised in relation to visual stress with specific reference to Meares Irlen or Meares Irlen Syndrome.

Emma Drewey, Behavioural Optometrist provided an insight into the relationship between vision and visual issues and early childhood development and behavioural learning.

Mairi Harper from Spectrum, Dyslexia and Vision gave a presentation on the wide range of causes and responses to visual issues and explained the previous understanding of the relationship between visual stress and dyslexia and the research findings in the published report. The report findings highlighted that the estimation of numbers of dyslexics who also experienced visual stress (Meares Irlen) was significantly lower than previously stated.

MSP attendance: 5

Non- MSP Attendance: 15

Wednesday 16th January 2019

Presentation: Professional Recognition - Actions from the Making Sense Review on Dyslexia

Vivien Moorhouse and Susan Miller, Additional Support Needs teachers, Aberdeenshire Council

Vivien Moorhouse and Susan Miller had been actively involved in developing innovative practices in dyslexia within Aberdeenshire Council. They had also been participants in the National Pilot of Professional Recognition Modules developed in response to the Making Sense of Dyslexia Report.

They described how Aberdeenshire Council had engaged in a cycle of self-evaluation and improvements around dyslexia and inclusive practice and had established the Aberdeenshire Council Dyslexia Working Group. This Group developed a range of initiatives including a training pack on dyslexia and a subsequent training programme for pupil support assistants.

They described the significant progress and improvements that had been made to the confidence and knowledge of teachers.

MSP attendance: 4

Non-MSP attendance: 18

Wednesday 1st May 2019

Presentation: Charles Martin, Partnership Manager of Justice Programmes with the Wise Group

Charles Martin, currently on secondment to the Justice Department of the Scottish Government provided a personal testimony of his early life as a child and young person with dyslexia and the impact on his early years, leading him into behaviours which resulted in being part of the criminal justice system. His experiences were humbling and inspirational and he highlighted the importance of peer support which had led him into his professional career in helping people within the criminal justice system.

Charles answered a range of questions around both his own experiences and the work that he is undertaking for the Scottish Government.

MSP attendance: 6

Non-MSP attendance: 15

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Margaret Mitchell MSP, Conservative Party
Stuart McMillan MSP, Scottish National Party
Tom Arthur MSP, Scottish National Party
Tom Mason MSP, Conservative Party
Donald Cameron MSP, Conservative Party
Emma Harper MSP, Scottish National Party
Maurice Corry MSP, Conservative Party
Elaine Smith MSP, Scottish Labour Party

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals	Lady Susan Agnew
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	<p>Emma Malins</p> <p>Martin Davies</p> <p>David Jones</p> <p>Jo Moran</p> <p>Diane Smith</p> <p>Monica Gribben</p> <p>Dr. Jenny Guise</p>
Organisations	<p>Dyslexia Scotland</p> <p>Dyslexia Scotland Borders</p> <p>Dyslexia Scotland West Lothian</p> <p>Dyslexia Scotland Lochaber</p> <p>Dyslexia Scotland Lanarkshire</p> <p>Dyslexia Ayrshire</p> <p>Loretta School</p> <p>Lomond School</p> <p>University of Aberdeen</p> <p>Open University</p> <p>Hamilton College</p> <p>National Farmer's Union</p> <p>Mindroom Scotland</p>
<p>GROUP OFFICE BEARERS</p> <p>Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.</p>	
Convener	Margaret Mitchell MSP
Deputy Convener	Stuart McMillan MSP

Secretary	David Jones
Treasurer	David Jones

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

£5.00 per parliamentary session to cover refreshments and printing materials

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

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