

MEETING NOTES
Cross-Party Group: Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions
Virtual Meeting

Wednesday 23 September 2020 6.15pm-8pm

Convenor: Brian Whittle MSP

1. Welcome , Virtual Housekeeping and Introductory Remarks
 Late apologies from Deputy Convenor, Rhoda Grant MSP

2. 13 August Meeting Minutes- Approved

3. Matters Arising

- **Good media coverage again- both television and newspapers- highlighting the lengthy and increasing waiting times for knee and hip surgery and the impact on each individual coping with pain**

4. Frontline response through the pandemic : Bringing colour to the lives of children with chronic conditions - An opportunity to hear from one of our new member organisations .

The Teapot Trust's CEO, Sarah Randell, talked about the agility and re-imagining required to meet heightened needs of children at this difficult time .

The Teapot Trust is a Scottish charity working throughout the UK, dedicated to providing professional art therapy in a medical environment to children coping with chronic illness, and in particular, with focus on supporting children suffering from complex rheumatological disease. The art therapists work in medical settings, including clinics, hospital wards, and hospices and now expanding to work in the community and on- line. Therapists now working remotely are proving to be effective/well received. www.teapot-trust.org

5. Rheumatoid Arthritis and Wellbeing post Lockdown

Samuel Lawes, Policy and Communications Manager, National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society

Presented the findings of the recent NRAS survey asking about the impact of Covid-19 lockdown on the working lives of people living with rheumatoid arthritis /inflammatory arthritis
 Overall the survey results were concerning-with career opportunities, in-work support and understanding from employers and colleagues dropping slightly – good to still be in work but not confident about the future.

Employers and colleagues need to understand the need to support people living with long term conditions.

[2020-09 CPG presentation - work survey NRAS.pdf](#)

6. Access to Rheumatology Services: Challenges and Solutions for the North.

Dr Alan MacDonald, Consultant Rheumatologist, NHS Grampian

Described the challenges of geography- services serving a scattered rural population – from Aberdeen-Moray-Skye-Argyll-Orkney-Shetland and Western Isles- 44000 square miles-with a population of approximately 1 million covered by 7 rheumatologists=half the recommended number. Investment in rheumatology services necessary to support the workforce providing rheumatology care.

The situation in Highland is worse than Grampian

Retention of staff is a problem

Delay in diagnosis and treatment result in poorer outcome for people with rheumatoid arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions

Living in more rural areas- a more elderly population also more socially isolated- and unsupported due to lack of carers.

Dr Rosemary Hollick , University of Aberdeen/NHs Grampian emphasised the need for equitable access to care- no matter where they live

Solutions -not revolutionary -but aspirational

“Let’s look at what we have in the north”

Community Hospitals –for example- Ross Memorial

Skilled multidisciplinary teams but potential to develop further

Use of digital technology accepted - but needs more discussion – it needs to be the servant not the master

How do we move ideas to action? Better communication across all health board areas

7. Any other business-none

8. Annual General Meeting- now to be rescheduled -Member Finlay Carson MSP, had to leave the meeting after item 7 due to another engagement –therefore AGM non quorate

9. Summary and Close

Convenor thanked everyone for joining the meeting-and their contributions to discussion- but commented on the limitations and frustrations of virtual meetings.

-Next VIRTUAL meeting is on Wednesday 4 November-6-8pm

Agenda to be confirmed but noted that Near Me/video consulting generally is giving cause for comment- and attention-and the extraordinary lengthy waiting times for knee and joint surgery also remain a priority

Attendance

Brian Whittle MSP	
Finlay Carson MSP	
Lauren Bennie	British Society of Rheumatology
Patricia Bisset	Occupational Therapy
Richard Cuthbert	Polymyalgia--Giant Cell Arteritis Scotland
Dervil Dockerell	Occupational Therapy
Andrew Fell	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Louise Fisher	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Mayrine Fraser	Royal Osteoporosis Society
Danielle Frewin	ABBVIE
Dr Margaret Mary Gordon	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Sam Hammati	SOBI
Professor Colin Howie	University of Edinburgh/NHS Lothian
Dr Rosemary Hollick	University of Aberdeen/NHS Grampian
Sam Lawes	National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society SPEAKER
Katrina Lowndes	Novartis
Dr Alan Macdonald	Rheumatology, NHS Grampian SPEAKER
Alan McGinlay	Versus Arthritis
Lorna Neil	Polymyalgia--Giant Cell Arteritis Scotland
John Paton	National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society
Matt Pickup	UCB
Sarah Randell	Teapot Trust SPEAKER
Dr Ruth Richmond	NHS Borders
Anne Simpson	CPG secretariat
Jenny Snell	National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society
Jill Stewart	SOBI

David Weir

Gilead

Carol Williams

NHS Research Scotland Champion Support Manager

Dr Uwe Wolfram

Herriot- Watt University

Apologies

Rhoda Grant MSP

Ali Doyle

UCB Pharma Ltd

Dr Anne McEntegart

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Maureen McAllister

Versus Arthritis

Dr Margaret Smith

Queen Margaret University

Professor Stefan Siebert

University of Glasgow/ NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Mr Al Murray

Scottish Committee Orthopaedic and Trauma/NHS Lanarkshire