

Cross Party Working Group  
3 October 2018

Attended by

Claudia Beamish MSP	Convenor
Tom Arthur MSP	Co-convenor
Kelly Munro	Enable Scotland
Tammy Kavanagh	Standard Life Carers Network
Megan Johnson	LGBT Health and Wellbeing
Fran Kirkwood	Edinburgh Carers Council
Christine Farquhar	EIJB, Vocal, Upmo
Matthew Hilferty	The Alliance
Andrew Muir	Psychiatric Rights
Mairi O'Keefe	Leuchie House
Morven Mack	Central carers Falkirk
Robert McGeachy	Camphill Scotland
Jean Campbell	Support in Mind/Sorooptimists International
Bob Cochrane	Dementia Scotland
Ashley McQueen	Edinburgh Headway
Lorraine Allen	Edinburgh Headway /Unpaid carer
Lisa Ross	
Kirsten Shields	Mind Room
Elizabeth Morrison	Life Changes Trust
Celia Sweeney	Carer/Parent
Beau Nieuwenhuijs	TIDE
Douglas Hutchinson	Carer
Moira McQueenie	Carer
Lorna Gibson	Carers Trust Scotland
Norma Norris	Carers Trust Scotland (MInutes)
<b>Apologies</b>	
Carolynne Hunter	Carer
Keith Robson	MS Society

Claudia Beamish opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She acknowledged the time commitment that it takes to be able to attend meetings and appreciated that so many people were present. She re-iterated the opportunity such meetings give people to share their experiences to inform MSPs.

### Member Update

Graham Dey, Minister for Business, has resigned as co-convenor and passed on his thanks for the opportunity to have been able to hear about the issues that have been raised.

Heather Noller, who had undertaken the secretariat role, has left Carers Trust for a new post.

Tom Arthur is willing to stand as co-convenor alongside Claudia Beamish. This appointment will be formalised at the next meeting 11 December, where the election

of Office Bearers will be carried out. At this point the new staff member at Carers Trust will be in place.

This meeting was an open discussion and Claudia Beamish asked for contributors identify themselves and reminded them that this was an opportunity to share their experience.

Claudia asked for her thanks to be extended to Mairi O'Keefe, on her retirement, for the excellent work as CEO of Leuchie House, carried out over the last 15 years. Claudia is aware of the fight that was required to keep the service including raising £500,000 in 4 months. Mairi explained that Leuchie House provides specialist respite, with 800 interventions a year. They offer the cared-for person early intervention as well as offering respite care. Claudia highlighted it as an example of good practice and joy

**Andrew Muir** highlighted that although there has been talk about the Health and Social Care Standards these are not enforceable

He feels he has been ill-treated and that the complaints system doesn't work but instead the process takes so long that the time bar comes into effect and stops complaints progressing.

He highlighted that the Ombudsman doesn't deal with individuals and tribunals are held in secret.

He knows that he is not alone in facing this and is campaigning and raising awareness of the issue.

**Action:** *to write to Minister to highlight the issue. CC Jean Freeman*

**Marie O'Keefe** raised the issue of carers statements and would like to know where IJB are with their statements and how they are going to fund them.

In the General Standards for Neurological Care and Support there is only one sentence about the support that carers will need.

**Jean Campbell, Support in Mind**, provides specialist support for mental health carers in Highlands and Glasgow, supporting families involved in forensic mental health services.

They provide carer-led training for carers and professionals and run Mental Health and Money Advice across Scotland. They are involved in the National Rural Mental Health Forum.

Currently reviewing work with young people aged 14 -18

Jean is also a soroptimist and champions women's rights, which is particularly relevant as often unpaid carers are female.

**Lorraine Allen** cares for someone with an Acquired Brain Injury.

She highlighted that Edinburgh Headway, who provide much needed support, is currently housed in Astley Ainslie Hospital. NHS Lothian is closing this hospital meaning that Headway Edinburgh need to find and fund new premises.

Lorraine re-iterated her support for Edinburgh Headway and the work they are doing towards rehabilitation for people with acquired brain injury.

**Action:** *The importance of supporting on-going rehab and not just trauma care to be highlighted in letter to the minister. NN*

**Elizabeth Morrison, Life Changes Trust** highlighted the work that is being carried out around dementia and extended the offer to come and talk to groups involved in dementia care.

Steering groups take a carer led approach and enable carers to plan and run the events for other carers. More information <https://www.lifechangestrust.org.uk/people-affected-by-dementia/events>

They are running events in Highland in November and Grampian in March 2019

Tom Arthur joined the meeting at this point.

**Celia Sweeney** highlighted that there is a crisis in support for young adults in transition

She asked if there had been a response from the minister to her letter sent previously

**Action: to be investigated by Carers Trust**

She felt there is mis-information between social work and schools and would like greater transparency

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Claudia Beamish had to leave the meeting at this point, so thanked everyone for their attendance and handed the chair to Tom Arthur

Tom Arthur introduced himself and thanked the meeting for welcoming him.

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**Christine Farquhar** is a member of Integrated Joint Board Edinburgh.

She highlighted that there are problems with implementation of the Carers Act and this has progressed slowly in the Edinburgh area. There are pilots in one locality. It is difficult to get personalised support. It doesn't always take into account multiple carers or caring for more than one person, over different generations.

Carers are being more involved but not at full co-production yet.

There are different approaches in different localities and can depend on the background of the lead person. There is not yet a joined-up approach across the city. For instance, SDS is available in one locality only. It is felt there is the need for a shared understanding, so that the key principles are the same over Scotland.

Other areas reflect similar issues, so that it isn't just a problem in Edinburgh area only.

The National Carers Organisations are working to address some of these issues and feeding back on progress.

**Tom Arthur** thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. He then gave some background to himself. His office was the first one to be awarded the Carer Positive Employer Award in Scotland.

## **End of Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 1pm on December 11 2018.

New office bearers will be elected to post at this meeting.