

CROSS PARTY GROUP ON DEAFNESS (CPGD)

Meeting Notes of the Cross Party Group on Deafness (CPGD) held in the Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh in Committee Room 3 on Wednesday 12 September 2018 at 1.30pm.

PRESENT: Mark Griffin MSP (elected Convenor)

Colin Beattie MSP (elected Vice Convenor)

Janis McDonald – (Secretariat) deafscotland

Elizabeth Adam – DDSSC Tayside

Alan Dalziel – Action on Hearing Loss Scotland

Jill Bradshaw – ATLA

Helen Morgans-Wenhold – BDA Scotland

Enrique Canton – D.E.A.F. South Lanarkshire

Sheila McKenzie – Scottish Sensory Centre

Alasdair O'Hara – NDCS Scotland

Shaurna Dickson – Deaf Action

John Whitfield – Deafblind Scotland

Michelle Donoghue – Deaf Links

Amanda Wilson – See Hear Highland Education & Learning Services (SHHELS)

Gillian Mitchell – See Hear Highland

Lynda Campbell – Deaf Services Highland

Gillian Baxter – Principal Teacher for the Deaf, Dundee City Council

Lorna Armstrong – Hearing Link Scotland

Sally Shaw – Ideas for Ears

Liz Kraft – RCSLT

Adam Hillhouse – N.E.S.S.

IN ATTENDANCE: Calum Irving (See Me), Derek Todd (BSL Consultant, deafscotland), Ruth O'Neil (Deafblind Scotland Guide Communicator).

LANGUAGE SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS: Andrew Dewey and Gill Wood (BSL / English Interpreters). Gail Richardson and Paula McGuire (Electronic Note-takers).

1. WELCOME:

Immediately after the AGM, Mark Griffin MSP, the Convenor welcomed everyone to the ordinary meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Deafness. There was no need for introductions.

2. APOLOGIES:

Jenny Mara MSP, Annie Wells MSP, Monica Lennon MSP, Graham Findlay (NESS), Cathie Finestone (BATOD Scotland), Carol Thomson (BATOD), Gary Quinn (HWU), Laura Battles (Donaldson's), Denise McClung (SISG), Ruth Dorman (Deafblind Scotland), Linda Duncan (ASLI Scotland), Andy Carmichael (ASLI Scotland), Donald Richards (deafscotland).

3. MINUTES of the LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting on Wednesday 13 June 2018 were proposed as an accurate record by Gillian Mitchell and seconded by Liz Kraft.

Matters arising:

BSL National / Authority (Local) Plans Update: Derek Todd noted that the planning timetable appeared to be on target. Many authorities were well advanced, some at early stages and one or two were being supported to catch up and meet the timetable. A recent "roadshow" review meeting with public body representatives indicated several matters were becoming apparent: consultation fatigue for Deaf people in some areas; need for more BSL Presenter / Translators; need for more BSL Tutors; need for more Electronic Note-takers.

ACTION: Derek Todd agreed to bring a brief report with relevant information to the next CPGD meeting.

Questions were raised about SASLI specifically, in regards to core funding and risks to those on the SASLI Register, that Mark Griffin MSP agreed to take forward. Colin Beattie MSP noted he had raised a question and had not thought to bring the letter in response to his enquiry. Mark noted that questions had already been raised and he had been planning to bring it up under AOCB.

Elizabeth Adams raised a question about access to BSL / English Interpreters in Tayside.

Enrique Canton raised concerns about the complaints process at SASLI.

Shaurna Dickson agreed to provide information to Mark Griffin MSP at the end of the meeting.

ACTION: Mark Griffin MSP to make enquires about SASLI and try to hold an informed debate at the next CPGD meeting.

4. NEW MEMBERS:

D.E.A.F. South Lanarkshire was agreed as a new member. Enrique Canton was welcomed as the nominated representative.

Skills Development Scotland (contact) to be corporate services was agreed as a new member of the group.

ACTION: Janis McDonald will ensure mailing lists are updated and Scottish Parliament is informed.

5. CRIDE REPORT 2017 – Alasdair O’Hara, NDCS Scotland (Including Teachers of the Deaf / West Lothian)

See Handout

Alasdair O’Hara brought a handout briefing covering key points and spoke about a number of key areas: numbers of deaf children are increasing; numbers of specialist teachers decreasing; 87% of deaf children attend mainstream schools and 40% of authorities did not know or hold the relevant information to know the destination of deaf school leavers. Attainment remains poor although there is no reason for it as deaf children are not learning disabled and should match hearing peers with the right support.

A number of questions were raised and discussed:
Why 26% increase in deaf children? – likely to be better identification but some people from other countries as there are language barriers noted.

Why decrease in Teachers of the Deaf (ToD)? Likely to be partly ageing group and more generic Additional Support Needs developed. ToD BSL qualifications questioned, minimum qualification level 3. Limited number and aging profile of BSL tutors also raised.

Why 40% unknown destinations? Mark Griffin MSP raised concern.

Training for BSL Tutors and Presenter / Translators raised again, also access to courses for deaf people. Difficult to get support. Need for lipreading tutors raised too.

ACTION: Mark Griffin MSP working on employability and transitions issues and will ensure these matters are covered in his work.

6. ACCESS PROTOCOLS – Sally Shaw, Ideas for Ears

Sally Shaw reported on the recent launch of the access protocols in Glasgow Green in conjunction with deafscotland, Disability Equality Scotland and Volunteer Scotland.

The work is framed in the mainstream to try and reach those not identifying as having hearing loss.

The document will be reviewed by Friday 26 October 2018 and will have regular updates once online.

The document was still being refined and is available online. Copy circulated with minutes.

7. MENTAL HEALTH – Calum Irving, See Me

A PowerPoint Presentation is available with the minutes of the meeting.

Calum covered the background to See Me, the need to work in areas of prevention and de-stigmatisation and the issues around building resilience, suicide prevention and access to services. It was noted that resources were being increased.

Concern was raised about access to information and support services as most of these were telephone based.

Questions were raised about projects that had been run as pilots (e.g. counselling) that had not been followed through, access to information and support, bereavement support and discrimination in getting help.

It was noted See Me and deafscotland were working to bring together partners and work to see improvements across a spectrum of services. NDCS Scotland and deafscotland were pressing for access to a range of developments for deaf children and deafscotland was working with NHS 24 on access to NHS services.

Further questions were raised about access to services, access to volunteering (funding communication support), clarifying the role of See Me, prevention and service development.

ACTION: deafscotland developing a partnership approach with members promoting mental health resources.

ACTION: consider a joint meeting with CPG on Mental Health.

ACTION: consider a think day / roundtable discussion. Mark Griffin MSP and Janis McDonald to develop.

8. INFORMATION

Will Writing Session – D.E.A.F. South Lanarkshire holding a session on Saturday 15 September 2018.

Scams – bogus callers and internet scams were raised as areas where there was a lack of information. Mark Griffin MSP noted it. Janis McDonald highlighted that deafscotland had some resources to develop some safety information and would include this topic.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 5 December 2018 at 1.00pm in the Scottish Parliament.

Mark Griffin MSP closed the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a safe journey.