

CROSS PARTY GROUP ON DEAFNESS (CPGD) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Meeting Notes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 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 1.00pm.

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:

Mark Griffin MSP, the Convenor welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Deafness. First part of the meeting will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and second part will be the ordinary meeting. Mark noted Graeme Dey MSP had been promoted to Minister and agreed to write to him on behalf of the group. Colin Beattie was introduced as the SNP representative on the group and welcomed to the table.

ACTION: Letter of congratulations from Mark Griffin MSP to Graeme Dey MSP, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans.

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. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Mark Griffin MSP started off by reminding the group we would be electing a Convenor, a Vice Convenor and Secretariat.

Convenor: Colin Beattie MSP nominated Mark Griffin MSP as Convenor. Gillian Mitchell seconded.

Vice-Convenor: Mark Griffin MSP nominated Colin Beattie MSP as Vice-Convenor. Shaurna Dickson seconded.

Secretariat: Mark Griffin MSP proposed Janis McDonald, deafscotland as secretariat.

ELECTED: Mark Griffin MSP Convenor, Colin Beattie MSP Vice-Convenor and Janis McDonald deafscotland Secretariat.

4. MINUTES OF 2017 AGM:

The minutes from 2017 were proposed by Mark Griffin MSP and seconded by Gillian Mitchell.

5. CONVENOR'S REPORT:

Mark Griffin MSP explained this is the second AGM in this parliamentary cycle and that the group has continued to promote the rights of deaf people, scrutinise the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 and is now beginning to focus around issues of prevention too. We will now look for the Scottish Government to take a more proactive stance on prevention rather than emergency care and admissions, across the public sector and we will continue to improve inclusion and participation.

It has been a good year for us, we have had lots of good presentations from a range of speakers in government themselves as they make progress in implementing the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 and getting the BSL National Plan actions up and running, and now we are moving to Local Authorities and NHS Boards who are well under way in consultation. It might be good to hear from some of them in the year ahead about their BSL Authority (Local) Plans.

ACTION: take forward new priorities for the group.

The meeting was closed and the group moved on to hold an ordinary meeting.

DONM: September 2019 – TBC.