

Minutes of the CPG on Disability

Wednesday 5 June 2019 at 1pm

CR 1 – TG.40 – The Burns Room

Attendees:-

Jeremy Balfour MSP – Convener
Stuart McMillan MSP – Vice-Convener
Maurice Corry MSP

Kimberley Swan – Fair Limited, Jennifer Smith – PAMIS, Pat Walsh – Pamis, Sally Walsh – PAMIS, Fiona Souter – PAMIS, Cate Vallis – RNIB Scotland, Alun Peate RNIB Scotland, Alan Dudley – RNIB Scotland, Richard Baker – RNIB Scotland, Alan Stewart – RNIB Scotland, Sandra Wilson – RNIB Scotland, Hazel Kelly – RNIB Scotland, Cara McDowall – GDA, Glasgow Disability Alliance, Alison Skillin – OTCC, UK Owner Trained Assistance/Service Dogs Campaign for Change, Mark McKeown – Drake Musin Scotland, Ian Buchanan – Disability Equality Scotland, Maggie Ellis – WSA & EKTG, Stanley Flett – AAD, Aberdeen Action on Disability, Peter Carruthers – SEAG, Denis Robert Suovlin – Scottish Churches Disability Group, John Sutherland MBE – Self-employed consultant, Terry Robinson – Inclusion Scotland, Robin Wickes – Edinburgh Access Panel, Nada Shawa – Equality & Rights Network/Access Panel, Natalie Frankish – Genetic Alliance UK, Patricia Hewitt – Parent Carer, PDA Campaigner, Claire Mooney – Parent Carer, Margaret Anslow – STUC Disabled Workers, Robert Mooney – STUC Disabled Workers, Tony Slaven – STUC Disabled Workers, John Miller – Action Duchenne, Suzanne Wright – Start Scotland, Peter Scott – ILFS – Independent Living Fund Scotland, Denis Robert Souvlin – Scottish Churches Disability Group, Richard Baker – Royal Blind Scotland.

Apologies:-

Deirdre Henderson – Inclusion Scotland, Pauline Nolan – Inclusion Scotland, Thursa Sanderson – Drake Music School, Mike Harrison – Treasurer of CPG on Disability, Carolynne Hunter – Individual, Donna Tomlin – Contact, Lois Drake – NDCS, Robert McGreachy – Camphill Scotland, Salena Begley – Family Fund, Stephanie Millar – Advance, David Nicholson – Individual, Maureen McAllister – Versus Arthritis, Rebecca Scarlett – Lead Scotland, Aurora Constantin – University of Edinburgh Informatics Forum, Paul Cockburn – Individual, Grant Carson – GCIL, Linda Scott – ILF Scotland, Frank Morgan – DG Voice.

1. Welcome from Jeremy Balfour MSP and Introductions. Minutes of the meeting of 5 December 2018 were approved.
2. Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People took Questions from the floor:-

Q1. Ian Buchanan, - Disability Equality Scotland:-

Considering the wide array of disabilities will all Social Security Scotland buildings meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 public sector equality duty and ensure that the buildings do not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics set out in the Act?

Interim measures are in place to ensure accessibility to buildings in Glasgow and Dundee and are compliant with current legislation. Receiving feedback so that any future permanent buildings have appropriate environment, location etc

Q2. Ian Buchanan, - Disability Equality Scotland:-

Does the Scottish Government plan to re-assess existing recipients of enhanced rate PIP who have already passed through the rigorous assessment process or will only new claimants be assessed?

Case by case transfer. Claimant will be notified in advance when their case will be heard. Claimants will be guided through process. There will be no need for a reassessment and no need to reapply. Transfer to the Scottish system will take time as 10% of population involved.

Q3. Natalie Frankish – Genetic Alliance:-

Will case managers be provided with suitable training to enable them to recognise rare, genetic and undiagnosed conditions and better understand the impact of living with such a condition? (At present the understanding is that there is only a requirement for case managers to be trained on the impact of common health problems.)

Tests for skills and qualifications, ensued by induction and professional development. On-going training will be important as not everyone will be an expert. Expert Advisory Group will decide on training requirements.

Q4. Natalie Frankish – Genetic Alliance:-

For many rare, genetic conditions an 'appropriate specialist advisor' may be an expert who practices outside Scotland. Will there be a mechanism for referring to specialists in other parts of the UK and beyond?

Important that the correct information is received at an early stage of the process. Part of the consideration will be who is best placed to provide this information. This may be a GP or the person who knows you best.

Q5. Peter Carruthers – SEAG UK:-

Across Scotland millions of pounds of unclaimed social security benefits and entitlements go unclaimed. Given the challenges that Integration Authorities face in investing in early intervention and prevention for older people's health and social care services, would it be possible to bring together a group to

reassess how this otherwise 'lost money' could be invested in third sector and communities to achieve the outcomes of the National Performance Framework?

Challenge as Scottish Government does not have a pot of money to re-assess how lost money could be delivered in a demand led budget. We need to ensure that any stigma associated with applying is removed so that the take up rate improves. Important S. Gov makes the process as simple as possible and supports people.

Q6. John Miller - Who are the members of the Expert Panel?

The expert panel membership consists of stakeholders from various organisations including Inclusion Scotland, Samh etc. They do not represent their organisation whilst on the panel but come with an appropriate level of expertise.

Cabinet Secretary agreed to provide information on membership of expert advisory group with CPG membership.

Action Cab Sec

Q7 Naming of Benefits? - Concern raised about use of certain names for different benefits e.g. Disability Assistance, which has historic negative connotations.

The Cabinet Secretary confirmed no title is set in stone and the Scottish Government is open to change. Feedback can be given during the consultation process. Funeral support payment changed late in the process as title was not popular.

Q8 Transfer from DLA to PIP

There are still many claimants waiting to be transferred from DLA at the time of transfer. People will be invited to PiP by the DWP until the whole transfer to the Scottish Government is complete. Scottish Government negotiating with DWP on what they are prepared to do in that process – trying to model in individual behaviours to making sure agency has enough staff to meet demand.

Q9. Case of Patricia Hewitt's two sons who had benefits removed even after mandatory consideration. Cab Sec stated that she cannot change a decision on a benefit if it is reserved to DWP. Reference was made to Best Start grant.

Cab Sec asked MS Hewitt to pass on details of her case to her officials to look at.

Action Cab Sec

Q 10. Date for transfer / SDUC disability conference, modern apprentices, 11% allocated for Disabilities – Shirley-Anne Somerville to get that information. Child DLA first movement are moving over – those approaching 16 to stay until they are 18 on child DLA. Transfers anyone approaching PIP transfer gets done first. Universal credit, data not trusted to pass over to universal credit, and will need to be re-assessed. Need to cleanse the data so we can decide what to transfer over and might

then not to have to ask questions in the future as data will be clean. For case transfer is an aspect of 10% of data fit for purpose.

Cab Sec offered to send information to the CPG – **Action Cab Sec**

Q11: Maggie Ellis:- ID card to access their records in Estonia – why is this not possible in Scotland?

Handling of data is taken very seriously and people are concerned about sharing their data and information sharing. Swapping from agency data to client data still some time off.

Q12. Alison Skillin:- Scotland under Equalities Act will your office be able to protect assistance dogs?

Equality Act is still reserved to Westminster with no change to the Act. Cab Sec asked for details to be sent to her office via CPG.

Action JB

Jeremy thanked Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP and Jeremy will feed back to her.

Future Direction of CPG on Disability:-

DAS is re-structuring and no longer has paid employees. After speaking to several organisations, Jeremy Balfour MSP has taken over the secretariat. For the next 3 or 4 meetings, a particular charity will run a meeting of the CPG and set the agenda. Jeremy Balfour MSP recommended the Cabinet Secretary attend the June CPG every year to put questions to her.

Maggie Ellis suggested the Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd MSP could be invited to discuss disabled children.

Volunteer Scotland:-

Jeremy Balfour MSP had a helpful meeting with Volunteer Scotland to discuss the difficulty with getting disabled people to volunteer. Joint meeting with CPG on Volunteers and Disability suggested.

Stuart McMillan MSP – Suggested the CPG include a Hot Spot at each meeting. This would be an opportunity for a CPG member organisation to have 5 minutes at the meeting to raise an issue, network etc

It was confirmed that the next CPG on Disability would be run by Richard Baker from Royal Blind Scotland. This meeting will also include the AGM.

Suggestions for future meetings:

Peter Scott – ILIS

Reform of adult social care is an important issue. Invite Cab Sec for Health Jeanne Freeman.

Mark McKeown – Drake Music School – Disabled children entitled to a cultural life. Suggested CPG engage with Cab Sec for Culture, Fiona Hyslop MSP

Clare Mooney – Children into adulthood in a transition process – really horrific human rights have been breached. It is key that Scottish Parliament looks at Human Rights of anyone disabled – 2 people charged in her daughters case but she couldn't speak for herself when you have to receive help that is not always there.

Jeremy – report from the Treasurer – not everyone has paid for their subscriptions and are requested to forward on £25 to cover the costs to Mike Harrison. Banking details are The Bank of Scotland, CPG on Disability – 80-22-60, 1531 6065.

Maggie Ellis – Follow up from Westminster – push for sports facilities and accessible toilets. Taxi drivers are finding many toilets are closed to them now. Main Line Stations have now stopped charging for use of toilet facilities as the shops are making so much money. – Stage magazine inadequate toilet facilities – article on Disability Equipment. Contact with Government official to get Jeremy Balfour MSP to come and talk. Locked toilets should have access under the equality act. Maggie asked for her slides to be circulated with the minutes.

AOCB

Need for a Volunteers Charter.

Education and ASN trying to get support – no mansland older children need to be helped as well.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 September at 1pm (congregate for 12.30pm) – Committee Room 1.