

First meeting of the Cross Party Group on Heart Disease and Stroke

CR2 Scottish Parliament

8th December 2016 3-4pm

MINUTES

In attendance:

Maree Todd MSP

Emma Harper MSP

Colin Smyth MSP

Bob Doris MSP

Alexander Stewart MSP

Katherine Byrne Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland

Angela MacLeod Stroke Association

David McColgan British Heart Foundation

Apologies:

Mark Griffin MSP

Rachael Hamilton MSP

Alison Johnstone MSP

Jeremy Balfour MSP

Frances Divers – NHS Lothian

Susanne Cameron-Nielson – RC Pharm

Duncan Galbraith – Inverclyde Globetrotters

Chris Macnamee -

David Newby – Edinburgh Univ

Amanda Smith – NHS Highland

Jemima Traill - BHF

Sharon McGrory - CHSS

Gillian Alexander – GG&C

Roger Smith - CHSS

Eric Sinclair

Linda Campbell – NHS Highland

Hazel Fraser - NHS

Graham Nimmo – NHS Lothian

Bob McConnachie – Cardiomyopathy UK

Marion Butchart - Novartis

Linda Campbell – NHS Highlands

Helen Miller – NHS Tayside

Katrina Brennan

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Background to Cross Party Group

2.1 David McColgan outlined the history to the Cross Party Group, which has been in existence for a number of years with a diverse membership drawn from politicians, clinicians, third sector organisations and patients.

2.2 Topics previously discussed have included palliative care, telehealth, and sensory impairment.

2.3 Both heart disease and stroke remain big killers in Scotland, however many more people survive than ever before and are living with the long-term effects and sometimes life changing disabilities.

3. Election of Office Bearers

3.1 Maree Todd MSP was nominated as Convener by Colin Smyth MSP, and seconded by Bob Doris MSP.

3.2 Colin Smyth MSP was nominated as Co-Convener by Maree Todd and seconded by Emma Harper MSP.

3.3 Maree Todd nominated Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, British Heart Foundation and the Stroke Association as co-Secretariat for the group, and was seconded by Emma Harper MSP.

4. Purpose of group and remit

4.1 A wide ranging discussion followed about the purpose of the group, its remit, and the focus of future meetings.

4.2 It was agreed that following registration of the CPG the subject of the first meeting should be on the broad strategic picture, with input from the Health & Sport Committee, and possible speakers including Tom Freeman, Health Correspondent for Holyrood Magazine, and Chairs of the National Advisory Committees on Heart and Stroke. This would inform discussion with the wider membership of the group's future work programme.

4.3 The second meeting could focus on Atrial Fibrillation, an issue which cuts across both heart disease and stroke. There are opportunities to highlight successful screening programmes, and case studies of improvements in prescribing. The secretariat can approach members of their support groups for their insights into living with AF.

4.4 The importance to MSPs of hearing about the operation of services on the ground was noted, in particular any variations in service provision across the country.

4.5 The group discussed the importance of physical rehabilitation and activity after stroke and heart disease, the difficulties in accessing qualified trainers, and the barriers which may prevent take-up and continuation of courses. Constituents have raised issues with their MSPs about the issue of accessing rehabilitation after a stroke or heart disease. It was agreed that rehabilitation should be the focus of a future meeting of the group.

4.6 The increasing importance and development of telehealth and telecare was raised as a further issue for future discussion.

4.7 It was agreed that the group should identify cross-cutting issues which are relevant to other Cross Party Groups, and explore opportunities for joint meetings in the future. Suggestions include the CPGs on Health Inequalities, Diabetes, and Disability.

4.8 The CPG has not in the past considered paediatric heart disease or stroke and could hold a future meeting on the topic, including the challenges in transition from paediatric to adult services.

5. **Next steps**

5.1 The group will now go through the formal Registration process as a Cross Party Group. Assuming that registration is successful, future meetings are proposed to take place in March, June, September and December 2017.