

# Cross-Party Group on LGBTI+ issues

Note of preliminary meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Venue: Scottish Parliament room TG20/21

This was a preliminary meeting to explore the establishment of the Group, prior to applying for recognition.

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Present: Jamie Greene MSP, Kezia Dugdale MSP, Ross Greer MSP, Ben Macpherson MSP, and a range of potential non-MSP members of the group.

The meeting was chaired by Jamie Greene MSP.

Apologies were received from Mary Fee MSP, Patrick Harvie MSP, Christina McKelvie MSP and Annie Wells MSP, and from Waverley Care, Terrence Higgins Trust, and Pink Saltire.

## **2. Name and purpose of group**

The remit for the proposed group was discussed, and it was agreed that this should be LGBTI+ issues, with the group named the CPG on LGBTI+.

## **3. Office bearers and administration**

It was agreed to follow the co-convenor model, with co-convenors from different parties, namely Jamie Greene, Kezia Dugdale, Patrick Harvie and Ben Macpherson.

It was agreed that the Equality Network would act as secretary for the first year.

It was agreed to collect donations at meetings to cover the cost of refreshments, with the secretary administering.

#### **4. 'Wish-list' of potential issues**

There was then a round-table discussion of issues which it was suggested the group might work on. In no particular order, the following issues were suggested (where an issue was suggested multiple times, the number of times is shown).

Inclusive education (schools, FE and HE), including RSHPE (12)

Gender recognition, including for non-binary people (5)

Trans issues (2)

Intersex issues

LGBTI+ health issues broadly (2)

Blood-borne viruses (2)

HIV issues, especially prevention including PrEP, and stigma

Mental health (6)

Drugs and alcohol

Public services, especially the NHS and local authorities

Sport

Older LGBTI+ people

Rural and regional issues (4)

Quality of life for LGBTI+ people across Scotland

Media and social media

Creative industries

Promotion of LGBTI+ equality by political parties

It was noted that the focus should be on practical changes and tangible outcomes.

## **5. Initial discussion of work programme**

It was noted that some broad themes were coming through.

Meetings should agree actions. Each meeting could have one or more specific focusses so that people can decide whether or not to attend. However, it will be important not to silo issues – e.g., HIV prevention should be part of inclusive education.

It was noted that it would be important to hear other voices, such as young people and teachers.

It was noted that there may be complementary CPGs, e.g. the CPG on Sexual Health - we could have a reporter attend their meetings and/or vice versa.

The group should also consider feeding into the work of Parliamentary Committees.

Members with specific interests could take the lead in that area, e.g., do some background research, present in a meeting, etc.

The group could also raise awareness around key dates, eg LGBT History Month, Bi Visibility Day, etc.

We should also consider short time window issues.

Each meeting could be themed, and include a section for hearing about lived experience, and also a section for sharing between organisations.

It was noted that a single two-hour meeting might not do justice to some issues, e.g., inclusive education.

We will need to prioritise. There is momentum and opportunity now around the Time for Inclusive Education campaign. However, it was noted that it is important for the group to cover a number of issues, as there are a number of key priorities, for example health and care services, including the impact of health and care integration.

The group should seek to add value, and can be a platform to help our mutual support and cooperation, as well as helping unheard voices to be heard.

We should create a diary of external events of relevance, such as relevant legislation. The convener could write to Parliamentary Committees to ask about the work programmes.

The next meeting could look at a work schedule for the next two years.

It was noted that the CPG on Children and Young People works well, and has 80 or so members. It holds six meetings per year. Two of those are tied to the legislative programme. One has another specific focus, and the others are decided by membership discussion – topicality is relevant.

It was agreed to aim for a minimum of four meetings per year, with an expectation that it might be more, especially in the first year. In one of those, we'd look at the Scottish Government programme.

We should make it clear that non-LGBTI MSPs are welcome – the group is for allies as well.

## **6. Initial discussion of communication and working practice**

We will need to consider:

- How best to manage email
- How to share documents
- Use of social media

## **7. AOB**

No other business at this point. The convener thanked everyone for participating.

## **8. Next meeting**

Will aim for the start of November.