

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Mental Health  
24 September 2019, 1.00pm  
Conference Room 5, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh**

**1. Introduction**

James Dornan MSP opened the meeting of the Group by thanking everyone for being in attendance. James Dornan MSP noted that this was the first meeting with SAMH as the Secretariat, and that the Conveners want to take the Group in a new direction, with a clear objective.

James Dornan MSP explained that this meeting would constitute the Annual General Meeting, and as such the office bearers were up for re-election. He also advised the Group that the Conveners were proposing a new purpose for the Group, which would be followed by a presentation from SAMH on optional work plans.

**2. Present and apologies**

**Present:**

**MSPs**

James Dornan MSP, Co-Convenor  
Emma Harper MSP, Co-Convenor  
Monica Lennon MSP

**Secretariat**

Suzanne Martin, SAMH  
Carolyn Lochhead, SAMH

**Non-MSP attendees**

Patricia Rodger, Individual Capacity  
Anne Buchanan, Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland  
Claire Muir, Psychiatric Rights Scotland  
Ewan Law, Rowan Alba  
John Crichton, Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland  
Lauraine MacDonald, British Psychological Society

Iona Benage, University of Edinburgh – Division of Psychiatry  
Mig Coupe, Salvesen Mindroom Centre  
Alistair Brown, Scottish Association for Social Work  
Jim Dornan, St Andrew's First Aid  
Christopher Ward, SX – Waverly Care  
Sarah Randell, Teapot Trust  
Gillian Eunson, The National Lottery  
Alice Paul, Your Voice  
Alison Mahon, Your Voice  
Kara Lindsay, Prince's Trust  
Rosie Tyler-Greig, LGBT Health and Wellbeing  
Julie Dunan, Individual Capacity  
Susan Morris, Individual Capacity  
Barry Gale, Mental Health Rights Scotland  
Jessica Smith, NUS Scotland  
Karen Harper, Dumfries and Galloway HSCP  
Gordon Johnston, VOX Scotland  
Christine Puckering, Maternal Mental Health Scotland  
Hannah Kerrigan, Prince's Trust  
Mairi Gordon, Samaritans Scotland  
Kate Hinder, BITC Scotland

**Apologies:**

**MSPs**

Annie Wells MSP, Deputy Convener

**Non-MSPs**

Police Scotland  
Children in Need  
Family Justice Support Scheme  
COSCA  
Salvation Army  
ACUMEN  
Mental Health Foundation  
The ALLIANCE  
GMC

Royal Pharmaceutical Society  
Oluwatoyin Opeleyeru, Individual Capacity  
Jane Robins, Individual Capacity

### **3. Previous Minutes of the Group**

Suzanne Martin noted that the attendees from the previous meeting would be added to the minutes. No other changes were requested and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **4. Election of Office Bearers**

The three previous office bearers all put themselves forward for re-election to the same posts and were uncontested.

Emma Harper MSP was proposed by Claire Muir and seconded by Monica Lennon. James Dornan MSP was proposed by Patricia Rodgers and seconded by Lauraine MacDonald. Annie Wells MSP was proposed by Patricia Rodger and seconded by Monica Lennon MSP.

All three MSPs were re-elected.

### **5. Change of Purpose**

James Dornan MSP explained that the Conveners had a proposed new purpose that they were going to put to the Group. Claire Muir requested an amendment to include reference to human rights in relation to mental health. The new purpose with Claire Muir's amendment was agreed unanimously by the Group and reads as follows:

*The Cross-Party Group on Mental Health provides a forum for MSPs, individuals with lived experience and organisations working within the mental health sector in Scotland, to work together to influence policy and legislation to better support Scotland's mental health, promote people's human rights in relation to mental health and ensure that mental health is always a political priority.*

### **6. CPG Work Plan**

Suzanne Martin from SAMH presented two optional work plans, which the Conveners had agreed to put to the Group. The Group unanimously

agreed to take forward Option 1 – a review of the Mental Health Strategy – over the course of the next two years. The next two meetings will address the Early Intervention and Prevention theme within the Mental Health Strategy.

The Group agreed two actions for the next two meetings:

- Contact other CPGs working on early intervention and prevention to share learning
- Contact the action holders for the early intervention and prevention actions within the Mental Health Strategy to find out how the actions are progressing

The Group also agreed that the members would like to feed into the Review on Mental Health Law where appropriate. Monica Lennon MSP suggested that the Group send a letter to John Scott QC to highlight this, which was agreed.

## **7. AOB**

There was no other business.

## **8. Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would explore Early Intervention and Prevention within the Mental Health Strategy. Suzanne Martin advised that SAMH would be in contact in due course with the details of future meetings, the minutes and the work plan presentation.