

IMPROVING SCOTLAND'S HEALTH: 2021 AND BEYOND – CROSS PARTY GROUP MEETING

5.30PM TO 7PM, ON WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2016

COMMITTEE ROOM 4 OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

MINUTES

Apologies received

Alex-Cole Hamilton MSP

Willie Rennie MSP

45 non-MSPs

In attendance

MSPs

Kenneth Gibson MSP (co-Convener)

Jenny Marra MSP (co-Convener)

Alison Johnstone MSP

Maree Todd MSP

Brian Whittle MSP

Others

Kylie Barclay, British Heart Foundation Scotland

Gillian Bell, Alcohol Focus Scotland

Tracey Bowden, Pfizer

Julie Breslin, Addaction

Steve Burt, University of Stirling

Susanne Cameron-Nielson, Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Eric Carlin, SHAAP

Sara Collier, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Jeff Collin, University of Edinburgh

Gerry Crawley, Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership

Emilia Crighton, Faculty of Public Health

Mary Cuthbert, ASH Scotland and Alcohol Focus Scotland

Alison Douglas, Alcohol Focus Scotland

Lynne Douglas, NHS Lothian

Sheila Duffy, ASH Scotland

Christine Duncan, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs

Nadia Fanous, University of Glasgow

Jennifer Fingland, SHAAP

Jacqueline Forde, The Wellbeing Alliance

Andrew Fraser, NHS Health Scotland

Kenny Harrison, Argyll & Bute Licensing Forum
Nicholas Hay, NHS Health Scotland
Dawn Henderson, Families Outside
Mathis Heydtmann, SHAAP
Shona Hilton, University of Glasgow
Colwyn Jones, NHS Health Scotland
Nancy Loucks, Families Outside
Ruth MacLeod, British Medical Association
Angela MacLeod, Stroke Association
Alison McCallum, NHS Lothian
David McColgan, British Heart Foundation Scotland
Geraldene Muir, People Plus
Brian Pringle, West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service
Devin Scobie, Caledonia Public Affairs
Simon Shepherd, Dundee University
Jonathan Sher, independent consultant
John Sleith, REHIS
Garrick Smyth, COSLA
Alison Sweeney, British Lung Foundation
Lorraine Tulloch, Obesity Action Scotland
Mona Vaghefian, Cancer Research UK
Drew Walker, NHS Tayside
Anne Wilson, Action for Sick Children (Scotland)

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

As chair, Jenny Marra MSP introduced herself and co-convenor, Kenneth Gibson MSP, and welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the group. She encouraged the use of #scothealth2021 on Twitter.

2. Background to the establishment of the group

Sheila Duffy, ASH Scotland outlined the background and rationale for the group. ASH Scotland consulted on whether to seek to re-establish the CPG on Tobacco. Recognising the demands on MSPs' time, Willie Rennie MSP had suggested a new CPG with a broader public health/prevention focus. ASH Scotland, Alcohol Focus Scotland, Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) and Obesity Action Scotland formed a coalition to take this forward. The Drug & Alcohol Misuse CPG will continue with a stronger focus on care and services, and this group further proposes to join up thinking across health-harming commodities.

Alison Douglas, Alcohol Focus Scotland gave a short presentation on the scale of harm caused by alcohol, tobacco and poor diet/obesity, policy successes in each area, and the common themes which these issues share, including their major contribution to non-communicable diseases and health inequalities, impact on public services, global industry, and personal choice versus harm to others arguments.

Alison also outlined the proposed principles of the group – public health, rights, prevention, aspirational, inequalities, evidence, impartial, action. These were agreed.

3. Official business

- a) The proposed name of the group, Improving Scotland's health: 2021 and beyond, was agreed.
- b) Jenny Marra MSP and Kenneth Gibson MSP were approved as co-Convenors of the group.
- c) Sheila Duffy confirmed that there is cross-party support for the group, with Miles Briggs MSP, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Alison Johnstone MSP, Willie Rennie MSP, Maree Todd MSP and Brian Whittle MSP all expressing an interest.

Action – *Secretariat to circulate list of MSP members.*

- d) Sheila Duffy outlined the proposed terms of non-MSP membership:

As this CPG takes a focus on public health and on tackling non-communicable disease with a special interest in health-harming commodities, a declaration of interests regarding any relevant commercial links and funding will be required annually from all non-MSP members. This requirement is aimed at increasing transparency and not at precluding membership of the group. This was agreed.

As the tobacco industry is the subject of the only global public health treaty, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to which the UK is a signatory, and in line with the treaty requirements to protect public health policy from tobacco industry influence, those working for or representing tobacco companies and their vested interests are precluded from membership of this group. This was agreed.

There was a proposal to use WHO's commercial declaration of interests, a suggestion to consider whether formula milk manufacturers should be treated in line with WHO practice, and a formal proposal from Dr Drew Walker to treat alcohol companies and their vested interests the same way as tobacco companies.

Sheila Duffy said she had contacted Parliament staff and they confirmed the terms of non-MSP membership can be decided by the group.

Jenny Marra MSP suggested the Secretariat find out WHO practice on alcohol companies and bring back a proposal to the group.

The terms of non-MSP membership were agreed.

Action – *Secretariat to circulate conflict of interest statement for members to sign up to. Secretariat to produce a paper on possible wider membership restrictions for those with commercial interests, in particular for alcohol companies and vested interests.*

e) ASH Scotland and Alcohol Focus Scotland were approved as joint secretariat.

f) The purpose of the group was agreed:

To take a solutions-oriented focus on how to improve the health of the people of Scotland by reducing the health harms caused by alcohol, tobacco, poor diet and obesity.

To join up knowledge and learning, and to identify positive ways forward, with a range of stakeholders committed to improving public health and to preventing and reducing non-communicable diseases for the next generation.

g) Lorraine Tulloch, Obesity Action Scotland proposed that the group hold around three meetings per year, with the next meeting late January/early February 2017. Proposed topics could include economic impacts, marketing and promotions, supply, reducing modifiable risk factors, and societal levers for change.

Brian Whittle MSP said in his experience there can be too much talking at CPGs, it needs to be influential. He suggested having action points from each meeting.

Kenneth Gibson MSP suggested the group hold more meetings than 3 per year and that the Minister for Public Health is invited to an annual meeting.

Suggested topics for future meetings:

- What are the barriers to addressing tobacco, alcohol, poor diet/obesity?
- Balancing economic growth and public health interests.
- What are the influences on behaviour change?
- Why the problems exist in the demographics they do? Why do people make the health decisions they do?
- Effective interventions and deprivation.
- Marketing and lessons to be learned from tobacco.
- Pre-conception, all three issues are important in pregnancy.
- Themes of poverty, trauma, stress and domestic abuse.
- Contribution of social isolation and loneliness.
- Role of licensing and the public health objective. Concentration of health-harming commodities in deprived communities.
- Three best-buys of price, availability and marketing.

Action – *Secretariat to ask members to prioritise proposed topics for future meetings.*

4. Any other business

Eric Carlin suggested that the group needed a media/social media strategy and offered to be involved in developing this.

Action – *Secretariat to coordinate small working group to develop a media strategy.*

Action – *Secretariat to confirm date, venue and topic of next meeting.*

Thanks and close of meeting.