

Cross-Party Group on Volunteering and the Voluntary Sector
Tuesday 5 February 2013
Scottish parliament Committee Room 4

Health and Social Care Integration

Attendees: Susan Murray (SCVO), Euan Renton (City of Edinburgh Council), Rosemary Brotchie (Shelter), Liz Watson (Befriending Network Scotland), Norman Craig (VHS), Ben Glencross (Hearts & Minds), Rachel Henry (City of Edinburgh Council), Peter Hastie (McMillan Cancer), Moira Tasker (CA Edinburgh), Emma Whitelock (Lead), Sally Wright (Waverely Care), Nesreen Badiozzaman (McMillan Cancer), Faye Keogh (Turning Point Scotland), Bob Bogle (Scottish Huntington's Association), Alan Kirkwood (Diabetes UK Scotland), Gwenn McCreath (Health in Mind) [SPEAKER], Paul Okroj (Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland) [SPEAKER], Harriet Eadie (Volunteer Centre Edinburgh), Lucy McTernan (SCVO), Emma Burnett (Trellis), Linda Sharkey (Hearing Link Scotland), Marion McLeod (Children in Scotland), Heather Noller (Carers Trust), Kathleen Bessos (Scottish Government), Chris Smilli (Voluntary Action Fund), Nathan Sparling (Office of Dennis Robertson MSP).

Apologies: Morven MacLean (McMillan Cancer), Janice Malone (McMillan Cancer), Kim Atkinson (SSA), Patrick Krause (Crofting Scotland), Lynne Kalman (Stroke Association), Sara Collier (Children in Scotland), Angela Hecht (Jewish Care Scotland), Margaret Lothian (Jewish Care Scotland), Beverley Oakman (CAS)

MSPs: Margaret McDougall (Chair), Annabelle Ewing (Vice Chair), Aileen McLeod, Margaret McCulloch, Alex Neil (Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing) [SPEAKER]

Secretariat: David McColgan (SCVO) and Grace Martin (VDS)

Minutes:

Margaret McDougall MSP (Chair) opened the first meeting of 2013 for the Cross Party Group on Volunteering and the Voluntary Sector and welcomed all attendees and extended a special thanks and welcome to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care Alex Neil MSP.

Margaret McDougall MSP also welcomed colleagues from the third sector Paul Okroj and Gwenn McCreath and invited them to present to the group.

Both Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland and Health in Mind presented to the group on the role of volunteers within their respective health and social care services. Both organisations recognised the challenges faced in volunteer recruitment and retention and new challenges that were emerging.

Time factors and volunteer "goals" were both discussed and highlighted that many volunteers are time pressured but are also approaching volunteering in a different manner as previously suggested. Many volunteers were approaching organisations with specific needs regarding learning and skills and often only stay with the organisation for short periods of time creating challenges regarding retention and investment in training.

Both organisations gave clear presentations on the role of volunteers in the delivery of health and social care services.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing Alex Neil MSP thanked both Gwenn and Paul for their insightful presentation then thanked the group for their invitation to address them.

The Cabinet Secretary began with focussing on dealing with 3 key strategic challenges:

BUDGET: It is self-evident that demand is much greater than can be dealt with. Developments such as welfare reform will place much higher demand of health and social care services.

POPULATION: Scotland hit a record high population since records began in the past year but also Scotland's demographic has seen an increase and an increasing ageing population. Whilst this is positive that people are living longer in Scotland it is important that people live longer and in good health.

Issues relating to Multiple morbidity – people presenting new and multiple conditions, which is more common in later life and more difficult to plan and deal with.

INEQUALITY: You cannot separate health from social / economic inequalities in Scotland. It is evident in Scotland that inequalities have an impact on people life's, live expectancy and health.

So why integrate?

We need a better continuum of health & social care. The current system is wasteful with replication and overlap

Integration will lead to better co-ordination. LA & NHS have been asked to start integration ahead of it being enforced but very varied across different local authorities. Around 8 (not named) not making progress.

West Lothian highlighted as exemplar model for integration and have moved in phases starting with older people, then adult, child and acute and similar approaches in other areas

Evidence provided has shown dramatic improvements, outcomes particularly for patient care / end users i.e. out of 700 delayed discharge incidents across Scotland only 7 in West Lothian.

All evidence from West Lothian points to positive impact.

We have been absolutely clear that it is a requirement that 3rd sector has to be involved at all stages of development such as West Lothian where they were very proactive in involving in design and delivery.

The Scottish Government are producing clear guidance that the third sector be involved at every stage in the process of integration and the future delivery of Health and Social Care integration.

The Cabinet Secretary then took questions from the audience and the following themes and points to note were made;

The Cabinet Secretary recognised the challenges around culture of different organisations involved but reiterated that the Scottish Government was very clear on the requirement to have 3rd sector involved and are required to evidence how this is being done.

The Cabinet Secretary requested that people report on any 'barriers to entry' for voluntary sector

There were questions and acceptance on the difficulty for 3rd sector to engage – guidance is available on how this should be done

The Cabinet Secretary was keen to focus on much better data sharing and organisations not holding information in silos.

There was recognition of the key role 'interfaces' will play in integration and government have recognised through investment of funding

The Cabinet Secretary recognised the impact short term funding has on strategic development of Scotland's third sector.