

The Scottish Parliament

CROSS PARTY GROUP ON DEAFNESS (CPGD)

**Meeting Notes (Draft) of the Cross Party Group on Deafness
held in the Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh
on Wednesday 20 January 2016 at 5.30pm**

PRESENT: Dennis Robertson MSP (Vice-Convenor)
Richard Lyle MSP
Derek Todd (SCoD/Secretariat)
Alan Dalziel (Action on Hearing Loss Scotland)
Jill Bradshaw (ATLA)
Avril Hepner (BDA Scotland)
Cathie Finestone (BATOD Scotland)
Jane Worrall (Deaf Connections)
John Whitfield (Deafblind Scotland)
Ruth Dorman (Deafblind Scotland)
Katie Rafferty (NDCS Scotland)
Graham Findlay (NESS)
Carly Brownlie (SASLI)
Janis McDonald (SCoD)
Dan Sumners (Signature)
Denise McClung (SISG)
Hilary Third (Scottish Government)

Also in attendance: Gina Lundie (Guide Communicator), Tanja Jacobs (Heriot-Watt University student / Observer), Bruce Cameron, Mark Cross (BSL / English Interpreters), and Paula McGuire (Electronic Note-taker).

CPGD/455 WELCOME REMARKS: The Vice-Convenor welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

CPGD/456 APOLOGIES: Apologies for non-attendance had been received from Jenny Mara MSP (Convenor), Mark Griffin MSP (Vice Convenor), Rhoda Grant MSP, Mandy Reid (SCoD), Rachel O'Neill (University of Edinburgh / Scottish Sensory Centre), Delia Henry (Action on Hearing Loss Scotland), Dennis Arnold (Dumfries & Galloway Hard of Hearing Group), Julie Turner (Dumfries & Galloway Hard of Hearing Group), Heather Gray

(NDCS Scotland), Elizabeth Adams (Deaf Links), Alana Trusty (Deaf Links), Aidan McCorry (Deaf Action), Chris Milne (Hearing Link Scotland).

CPGD/457 MEETING NOTES FROM 8 SEPTEMBER 2015: The minutes for 8 September 2015 has been approved by Jenny Mara MSP, The Convenor. This meeting is not quorate.

CPGD/458 MATTERS ARISING:

No matters arising, have put relevant matters on the agenda.

CPGD/459 BSL (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015 / DEAF SECTOR

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: Hilary Third from Scottish Government Equality Unit updated everyone that the British Sign Language (BSL) (Scotland) Bill is now an Act by Royal Assent approval since Thursday 22 October 2015. Scottish Government Equality Unit has policy responsibility and have to coordinate its implementation. Hilary went through her PowerPoint Presentation. Copies of her presentation can be requested from SCoD. It was explained what the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 would be doing, having a BSL National Plan within two years, Public Bodies involvement and most importantly have a BSL NAG (British Sign Language National Advisory Group) with Deaf BSL users on board along with some Public Bodies colleagues.

Hilary briefly updated everyone about Deaf Sector Partnership (DSP). It's made up of six partners – BDA Scotland, Deaf Action, Deaf Connections, Deafblind Scotland, NDCS Scotland and SCoD with the support from both Scottish Government Equality Unit and VAF. They're supporting the implementation of the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015. For more information on DSP: www.deafsectorpartnership.net.

CPGD/460 SCOTLAND BILL / ACT: Hilary Third quickly updated everyone on this matter. Still in a flux, it is currently in the House of Lords then will come here in Mid-March 2016 to be considered. The fiscal framework is under negotiation until Mid-February 2016. Hopefully by next meeting we will have an updated.

CPGD/461 UNCRPD DELIVERY PLAN: An update from Hilary Third for the UNCRPD Delivery Plan. UNCRPD – UN Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Draft delivery plan has been published for consultation which is now closed. Final Plan will be published in the summer. We have 50 commitments covering all areas in Government which will make a significant difference for improving things for people.

CPGD/462 IMPACT ON DEAF CHILDREN'S EDUCATION;

ATTAINMENT GAP: Katie Rafferty from NDCS Scotland spoke about the Attainment Gap. The enquiry report was published in October 2015. It was a positive report, the Education Committee looked into great depth at issues facing D/deaf learners and learners with a visual impairment. There's 19 recommendations focusing on limitations of attainment data and around numbers of D/deaf learners. There are discussions on how to increase numbers of Teachers of Deaf, qualifications routes and finances. For more information, please get in touch with Katie Rafferty at NDCS Scotland.

CPGD/463 NRCPD SEEKS STATUTORY REGULATION: Dan Sumners from Signature informed everyone that before Christmas, NRCPD made a statement that it wants to seek statutory regulation of Sign Language Interpreters, Translators, Electronic Note-takers, Speech to Text Reporters, Interpreters for Deafblind people. There's information on the website. Over the next few years, they will go through an improvement programme. They will be working with SASLI for Scotland, have a meeting soon. They're looking to get better at engaging with Deaf and Deafblind people. For more information, please get in touch with Dan Sumners at Signature.

CPGD/464 REVIEW OF THE MARKET IN COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE SUPPORT: From Signature, Dan Sumners discussed the review where they have been supporting UKCoD's group on Access to Work. This review came up after the group worked with Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in 2014. DWP is publishing a call for evidence on the supply, demand and the impact of technology in the present and future of communication and language support. Everyone has been asked to submit evidence they have from members of their organisations, from beneficiaries and individuals themselves. For more information, please get in touch with Dan Sumners at Signature.

CPGD/465 AOCB:

a) NHS Audiology Services Research:

Alan Dalziel from Action on Hearing Loss Scotland plugging for a piece of research they are undertaking on people's views and experiences of NHS Audiology Services. So far over 500 responded but want more by end of February 2016. We have flyers if anyone wishes a copy or two. For more information, please get in touch with Alan Dalziel at Action on Hearing Loss Scotland.

b) Scottish Sensory Awards

Janis McDonald from SCoD and Ruth Dorman from Deafblind Scotland spoke about the Scottish Sensory Awards which is on Monday 15 February 2016 at Stirling Court Hotel. They sit on the planning committee and have received 63 applications. It is about celebrating unsung heroes in the Sensory (Deafness & Blindness) Sector. Please note Barlinnie Prison designed and created the awards for the event.

c) SCoD Conference

From SCoD, Janis McDonald promoted SCoD Conference which is on Thursday 10 March 2016. Tickets are selling well, there is a bigger programme, bigger marketplace with more stalls and a great variety of workshops.

CPGD/466 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 9 March 2016 at 6.00pm – Please note this is a Joint Cross Party Meeting with both Visual Impairment and Heart Disease & Stroke.

Appendix – previous 3 CPGD Meeting notes

- Wednesday 11 March 2015
- Wednesday 10 June 2015
- Tuesday 8 September 2015