

**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 Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 1.00pm**

**PRESENT:** Jenny Marra MSP (Convenor)  
Stewart Maxwell MSP  
Derek Todd (SCoD/Secretariat)  
Alan Dalziel (Action on Hearing Loss Scotland)  
Cathie Finestone (BATOD Scotland)  
Aidan McCorry (Deaf Action)  
Jane Worrall (Deaf Connections)  
Dennis Arnold (Dumfries & Galloway Hard of Hearing Group)  
Liz Kraft (RCSLT)  
Carly Brownlie (SASLI)  
Donald Richards (SCoD)  
Dan Sumners (Signature)  
Denise McClung (SISG)  
Rachel O'Neill (Scottish Sensory Centre / University of Edinburgh)  
Sheila McKenzie (Scottish Sensory Centre)  
Elizabeth Adams (Tayside Deaf Forum)  
Vivien Anderson (Tayside Deaf Forum / Deaf Links)

Also in attendance: Bob Duncan (Observer), Andrew Dewey, Andy Carmichael (BSL / English Interpreters), and Gordon McLennan (Electronic Note-taker).

**CPGD/444** **WELCOME REMARKS:** The Convenor welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**CPGD/445** **APOLOGIES:** Apologies for non-attendance had been received from Mark Griffin MSP (Vice Convenor), Dennis Robertson MSP, Michael McMahon MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP, Clare Adamson MSP, Richard Simpson MSP, Hanzala Malik MSP, Nanette Milne MSP, Janis McDonald (SCoD), Mandy Reid (SCoD), Ruth Dorman (Deafblind Scotland), Carol Thomson (BATOD Scotland), Heather Gray (NDCS Scotland), Alana Trusty (Deaf Links), Keith Hyland (Deaf Action), Avril Hepner (BDA Scotland).

**CPGD/446** **MEETING NOTES FROM 11 MARCH 2015 & 10 JUNE 2015:** The minutes for both 11 March 2015 and 10 June 2015 has been approved.

**CPGD/447** **MATTERS ARISING:**

a) **New member – SISG in Ayrshire.** Denise McClung, Manager represents SISG. CPGD welcomes SISG as a new member.

- CPGD/448 BSL (SCOTLAND) BILL UPDATE:** Neither Mark Griffin MSP or Frank McNally was available to update the CPGD. Jenny Marra MSP briefly updated everyone on Mark's behalf. The Scottish Parliament agreed that the British Sign Language (BSL) (Scotland) Bill will go to stage 3 debate on Thursday 17 September 2015. There will be a celebration in the Hemma Bar after the debate. **ACTION: SCoD to follow up**
- CPGD/449 UNCRPD DELIVERY PLAN:** Neither Cathy Hewit or Ian Glover from the Scottish Government was available to update the CPGD. **ACTION: SCoD to follow up**
- CPGD/450 DEAF CONNECTIONS – DEMENTIA:** Jane Worrall from Deaf Connections spoke about their new three year Dementia Project – working with Deaf people who have dementia. The project will be focusing on educating and supporting their DeafCare staff to understand befriending those with dementia. Hope to appoint someone soon. Jane also gave an update on the changes at Deaf Connections' premises to make it more dementia friendly and accessible. Most importantly Deaf Connections' BSL / English Interpreters are receiving training in dementia.
- CPGD/451 UKCoD COMMON PURPOSE STATEMENT:** Dan Sumners from Signature spoke about UKCoD's Common Purpose Statement. They carried out stakeholder meetings along with a survey, which they received over 200 responses. From the responses, they created this statement. Currently forming a steering group, chaired by Craig Crowley of Action Deafness to oversee the work. They are looking for signatories from individual organisations and the CPGD itself. **ACTION: Dan to forward update statement to SCoD to forward to CPGD**
- CPGD/452 NEW MEMBERS:** Stroke Association wish to join the CPGD. Nobody from Stroke Association attended the meeting – to take forward at next meeting. **ACTION: SCoD to follow up**
- CPGD/453 AOCB:**
- a) Impact of new assessments in schools on Deaf children**  
Agenda item for next CPGD meeting – Impact on Deaf children's Education; Attainment Gap.
  - b) Deaf Educations stories**  
Scottish Sensory Centre would like to gather stories, particularly success stories on Deaf Education as well with Deaf students / pupils. To be given to Sheila McKenzie.
  - c) Deaf Action's Annual Lecture**  
British Sign Language (Scotland) Bill speech will be delivered by Dr Alasdair Allan MSP on Wednesday 4 November 2015 in Edinburgh. It promises to be an interesting evening.
- CPGD/454 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:**  
Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 5.00 pm.