

## The Scottish Parliament

### CROSS PARTY GROUP ON DEAFNESS

*Meeting Notes of the Annual General Meeting  
of the Cross Party Group on Deafness  
held in the Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh  
on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 5.45pm*

**PRESENT:** Jenny Marra MSP (Convenor)  
Graham Findlay (NESS)  
Sheila MacKenzie (University of Edinburgh)  
Alison Brownlie (Deafblind Scotland)  
Heather Gray (NDCS Scotland)  
Donald Richards (Donaldson's School)  
Jackie Slater (Deaf Action)  
Bert Smale (ATLA)  
Delia Henry (Action on Hearing Loss)  
Alan Dalziel (Action on Hearing Loss)  
Lilian Lawson (SCoD & CPGD Secretariat)

Also in attendance: Janis McDonald (SCoD), Ross McKenzie (Jenny Marra's Assistant), Andrew Dewey and Yvonne Waddell (BSL/English Interpreters) and Deloris Cowan (Notetaker)

**CPGD/386** **WELCOME REMARKS:** The Convenor welcomed everyone to this day's Meeting. She apologised for the late start but could not understand why the CPGD members had not been brought up to the meeting room in time for the 5.30pm start. She asked Ross McKenzie to speak to the reception staff. She asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**CPGD/387** **APOLOGIES:** Apologies for non-attendance had been received from Dennis Robertson MSP, Mark Griffin MSP, Dennis Arnold (Dumfries & Galloway Hard of Hearing Group), Elizabeth Adam (Tayside Deaf Forum), Carly Brownlie (SASLI), Majella McAteer (BDA), Carole Lyons (Deaf Connections), Doug Bradley (Signature), Rebecca Norton (Hearing Link) and Mandy Reid (SCoD).

**CPGD/388** **MEETING NOTES:** The Meeting Notes of the CPGD Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were accepted as a true and correct record.

**CPGD/389** **MATTERS ARISING:**  
**389a** **Ref: CPGD/379a: DCAMHS:** LL gave an update on the DCAMHS Campaign. The Convenor told the CPGD that she had a phone call with Katie Rafferty (NDCS) about re-lodging the motion. They agreed to wait for a hook for the timing of lodging a motion in Parliament.

- 389b** Ref: CPGD/379b: Welfare Reform: LL said that she had written to DWP and would report to the next CPGD meeting if she had a response.
- 389c** Ref: CPGD/379c: Expenses for CPGD Members: The Convenor reported that she had spoken to the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body (SPCB), raising the issue with Dave Stewart. Dave had taken that idea to SPCB and would get back to her.
- 389d** Ref: CPGD/379d: Sensory Impairment Strategy: The Convenor said she would check with Ross McKenzie and Mandy Reid whether a letter had been sent to the Scottish Government or not.
- DH told the CPGD that she and HG had attended a meeting earlier on this day and had seen a latest draft of the Sensory Impairment Strategy. A final draft would go to the Minister. There had been 119 responses to the consultation and 8 to 10 consultation events had been arranged across Scotland. DH suggested that the CPGD should look at the implementation. GF suggested that a joint meeting of CPGD and CPG Visual Impairment should be arranged. This was agreed.
- Action – the Convenor to email Stewart McMillan MSP**
- 389e** Ref: CPGD/379e: Agenda Items: The Convenor gave the Vice-Convenor's apologies as he had to attend a funeral. She asked Ross McKenzie to look up PQs and see if the Vice-Convenor had tabled the PQ about health needs assessments. **Action – RMcK**
- 389f** Ref: CPGD/381: Deaf Education: The Convenor reported that a PQ about a register of teachers of the deaf had been lodged on this day. RMcK apologised for not lodging the PQ earlier.
- 389g** Ref: CPGD/382: Funding Cuts: LL informed the CPGD that COSLA had been invited to attend this day's Meeting but could not come. So they had agreed to come to the next CPGD meeting in December 2013.
- CPGD/390** BSL BILL UPDATE: The Convenor gave Mark Griffin MSP's apologies for his non-attendance and read out his update to the CPGD. He thanked the CPGD for their support. The Bill had achieved support from all parties in the Scottish Parliament. Following which he had secured permission to introduce the BSL (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament. He had met with the Non-Government Bills Unit to clarify points from the consultation and allow them to draft a policy document which will be completed within the next couple of months. The policy document will then be sent to an independent legal draftsman who will draft the bill to be introduced in parliament.

After the bill is introduced there will be a stage 1 debate and vote in parliament; then stage 2, committee scrutiny at the Health and Sport

committee, and finally a stage 3 debate and vote in parliament for or against the finalised bill.

After meeting with the BSL and Linguistic Access Working Group it was agreed that he would draft a campaign plan for interested members of the CPGD with key dates in the progress of the bill to lobby MSPs to Support the BSL Bill.

**CPGD/391 SCOTTISH LIPREADING STRATEGY GROUP:** The Convenor invited DH to give a presentation about the Scottish Lipreading Strategy Group which had been set up in January 2011 and funded by the Scottish Government (£200k for two years). She explained that the Scottish Government had agreed that lipreading should be part of the rehabilitation pathway and is a health responsibility. She described how lipreading had been viewed and funded in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The funding of £200k from the Scottish Government had been used to train 26 new lipreading tutors (£50K), fund AoHL's research evaluating the referral pathways (£54k), pay SCTTL to train the second cohort of lipreading tutor students (£45k) and commit £10k for SQA external accreditation of the course.

DH gave information about the lipreading tutor training course and the lipreading referral pathway research. A Research Officer was being recruited to undertake this research to find the quickest model which would enable access to lipreading classes. The research will be conducted in four health board areas across Scotland – both urban and rural.

The Convenor thanked DH for the presentation and invited the CPGD to ask questions. GF spoke about the difficulty of getting funds from local NHS health boards for lipreading classes. DH explained that the main purpose for the Scottish Government funding was to develop a long term strategy for lipreading class provision in Scotland. The Scottish Lipreading Strategy Group's objective is to see that there is a statutory provision of lipreading classes in Scotland.

BS raised a question why not all of the 26 lipreading tutor students had joined ATLA. DH explained that ATLA and Alison Pendlowski are working together to promote ATLA in Scotland.

JS spoke about students coming back to their lipreading class year after year and asked how this could be resolved. DH agreed that was the common observation which would be looked at in the research project.

Everyone agreed with BS's comment from one of his students who said the lipreading class was her "survival kit".

BS asked the Convenor if she could write to the Minister, giving the

latest update. This was agreed. **Action – the Convenor to write to the Minister and copy to CPGD members**

**CPGD/392** **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT CPGD MEETINGS**: It was confirmed that the agenda items for the CPGD meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December would be:  
a) Funding Cuts (COSLA);  
b) Heriot Watt University; and  
c) Health Needs Assessment of Deaf and Deafblind People (Deafblind Scotland)

and for the CPGD meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – Welfare Reform

**CPGD/393** **AOCB**:  
**393a** **Audiology Standards**: GF spoke about the recent conference on audiology standards and asked if the CPGD would discuss the transition from paediatric to adult audiology services. This was agreed.  
**Action – to be put on a future meeting agenda**

**393b** **Assistive Devices**: BS spoke about the confusion of knowing where to go and ask for a flashing door bell in the Highlands. JMcD said she was interested in the integration between the health board and social work department. The Convenor asked if BS and JS could get together. This was agreed.

**CPGD/394** **DATES OF NEXT CPGD MEETINGS**: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014.