

## **Cross-Party Group on Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions**

*Musculoskeletal conditions are the leading cause of long-standing illness in Scotland. Over 1.5 million people in Scotland or 29% of the Scottish population are living with Aarthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions.*

### **Date Group Established**

Wednesday 22 September 2021

### **Annual General Meeting**

Friday 28 October 2022 2-2.30pm VIRTUAL

Attendance 2 MSP 9 non-MSP

### **Date Annual Return Submitted**

Monday 31 October 2022

### **Group Meetings and Activities**

Wednesday 22 September 2021 5.30pm-6pm

***To re-register the Group and elect office bearers***

Attendance MSP-2 non-MSP 20

Priorities for ~~current~~ parliamentary session- discussed and agreed:

- ~~Rehabilitation~~ of NHS services for people with musculoskeletal conditions following the Covid19 pandemic
- Rheumatology workforce in Scotland

- Waiting times for knee and hip surgery and with interventions on chronic pain
- Inequalities in access to services - emphasis on remote and rural areas and areas of social deprivation

Wednesday 21 February 2022 6-8pm

### ***The State of the Nation***

Attendance: 3 MSP 20 Non-MSP

- Rheumatology services in crisis: "the fierce urgency of now"

Dr Rosemary Hollick, Senior Clinical Lecturer, University of Aberdeen and Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist, NHS Grampian

Dr Alan Macdonald, Scottish Society of Rheumatology and Consultant Rheumatologist NHS Grampian

Acknowledgement that the COVID-19 pandemic has driven innovation and rapid advances and adaptations in healthcare...but it has also exacerbated existing weaknesses in health systems and brought some to the point of collapse. As services remobilise and reconfigure there is a unique opportunity to take a fresh approach.

- Impact of the pandemic on orthopaedic services in Scotland

Mr Alastair Murray, Chair, Scottish Committee for Orthopaedics and Trauma

NHS Scotland has mounted an effective and commendable response to provide treatment for patients with Covid-19. Since March 2020 staff and beds in orthopaedic units have been, and continue to be, repurposed for non-orthopaedic services, mainly covid support. However, the cost of doing so has been considerable but more importantly in terms of the suffering of patients awaiting life changing treatment for non-Covid related illnesses

An urgent return of resource (beds, clinics, staff and theatres) is required to slow escalating waiting times.

- Osteoporosis Policy Landscape in Scotland

Craig Jones, Chief Executive and Lucinda Roberts, Head of Policy and Public Affairs Royal Osteoporosis Society

Call for support from policymakers:

300,000 people in Scotland have osteoporosis

44,000 fragility fractures per year in Scotland

One in two women and one in five men aged >50 are expected to break a bone.

Huge variation in the quality of service provision and unacceptable waiting times for DXA bone density across Scotland FLS quality essential- not just coverage - currently no FLS database / audit for Scotland

- Summary

Services were "not perfect" pre-pandemic - a common theme from all presentations.

Musculoskeletal Conditions were not - but should be - a priority for the Scottish Government.

### **Other activities.**

- Letter to Cabinet Secretary -for Health and Social Care sent April 2022 from Convenor regarding waiting times for osteoporosis, rheumatology, orthopaedic and pain services.

*For most people with these conditions, diagnosis and management of an ongoing and often painful condition is critical. The longer they wait, the more pain they are in and the more damage is done. The CPG is therefore greatly concerned about the waiting times and lack of support in place for people who need th*

*ese services.*

- Cross Party Group: Chronic Pain

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and Paul O Kane MSP -also members of CPG Chronic Pain - membership and participation at meetings to reflect close association with the aims -of CPG Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions

*Motions:*

Motion ref. S6M-06346

**Bone and Joint Week 2022**

That the Parliament acknowledges Bone and Joint Week, which runs from 12 to 20 October 2022; believes that for some people in Scotland there are still inequalities in their musculoskeletal health and in their access to, and experience of, health services; recognises what it sees as the importance of reducing health inequalities in musculoskeletal health; further recognises the importance of Bone and Joint Week in raising awareness of musculoskeletal health, and gives thanks to the work of the National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (NASS) and its Act on Axial SpA Campaign, which aims to reduce the time to diagnose axial spondyloarthritis from eight and a half years to one year, and raise awareness of the condition.

Motion ref. S6M-06350

**World Arthritis Day and Bone and Joint Week 2022**

That the Scottish Parliament recognises what it sees as the impact of arthritis on the 1.7 million people living with the condition and other musculoskeletal conditions in Scotland, most of whom, it understands, live with pain every day; welcomes World Arthritis Day, and Bone and Joint Week, which are taking place during October 2022 and help to raise awareness of the circumstances and needs of people living with arthritis; notes that the theme of bone and joint week is highlighting musculoskeletal (MSK) inequalities; acknowledges the findings from a recent Versus Arthritis survey on the cost of living with arthritis, published on World Arthritis Day, where 94% of respondents said that the cold has a negative impact on their condition, over 50% said that they had additional financial costs because of arthritis, and understands that nearly a third are skipping meals or eating less; understands that in addition to the cost of living crisis, some people living with arthritis in rural areas face difficulty in accessing services; believes that the need to reduce health inequalities across the country is now more urgent than ever, and commends what it sees as the tireless efforts of third sector organisations such as Versus Arthritis and their crucial role in supporting people living with the condition.

Motion ref. S6M-04925

**Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) Awareness Week 2022**

That the Parliament acknowledges that the week commencing 13 June 2022 is the first Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) Awareness Week, run by the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS); recognises that the theme of the week is #SameJIADifferentDay, which emphasises the fluctuating nature of JIA that can vary from day to day; notes that JIA is an auto-immune condition where the body's immune system mistakenly attacks healthy joint tissue, leading to inflammation, stiffness, swelling, and chronic pain; further notes that JIA can also affect other organs, including the eyes; understands that approximately one child in every thousand under the age of 16 has JIA, which is approximately 925 children in Scotland; further understands that, due to the fluctuating nature of the condition, not all children are fully believed when describing their symptoms; recognises what it sees as the importance of the first JIA Awareness Week in raising awareness of JIA and eliminating misconceptions about it; pays tribute to the numerous organisations who work tirelessly to raise awareness of all arthritis conditions, such as the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS), Versus Arthritis, Scottish Network for Arthritis in Children (SNAC), and Scottish Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology Network (SPARN), and thanks them all for their excellent work and contributions in this field.

Motion ref. S6M-04134

### **British Society for Rheumatology Annual Conference 2022**

That the Parliament welcomes delegates attending the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) annual conference taking place in Glasgow from 25 to 27 April 2022; notes that the conference brings together over 1,800 consultants, specialist nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, and other allied health professionals across the UK to support learning and celebrate best practice; understands that what it considers the impending crisis in the rheumatology workforce will be discussed, and commends the contribution of rheumatology multidisciplinary teams in the NHS, which, it considers, are working hard to bring down backlogs and deliver high-quality person-centred care.

Motion ref. S6M-01557

### **World Osteoporosis Day 2021**

That the Parliament acknowledges that 20 October 2021 is World Osteoporosis Day, a global initiative that helps to raise awareness of osteoporosis; understands that around 300,000 people in Scotland are currently living with osteoporosis; further understands that there are around 44,000 fragility fractures every year; notes that a fragility

fracture is a red flag that can predict further fractures; highlights that this is particularly the case with vertebral fractures, which are a powerful predictor of future vertebral and hip fractures; notes the reports that estimate around 180,000 people are living with undiagnosed vertebral fractures in Scotland; understands that, without identification and treatment, a person is nearly three times more likely to have a hip fracture, and five times more likely to have another vertebral fracture; welcomes that Scotland is said to provide world-class secondary fracture prevention services, providing 100% population coverage of Fracture Liaison Services; further welcomes the publication of the Women's Health Plan, which commits to ensuring that women are properly supported around the time of the menopause to assess their future risk of osteoporosis and fractures, and offered appropriate lifestyle advice, and recognises the vital work of the Royal Osteoporosis Society in supporting people in Scotland who are living with osteoporosis.

*Written Questions:*

**S6W-10318**

To ask the Scottish Government when it expects the new Musculoskeletal (MSK) pathway that it is currently developing to be in operation.

**S6W-09576**

To ask the Scottish Government what analysis has been undertaken regarding the re-establishment of the NHS 24 Musculoskeletal (MSK) Helpline.

**S6W-09575**

To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to re-establish the NHS 24 Musculoskeletal (MSK) Helpline, which was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Contributions in the Chamber from Convenor:*

**S60-00926** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the action it is taking to tackle the reported staffing shortages within the NHS.

### **National Health Service Recovery Plan (9 February 2022)**

The waiting list for orthopaedic surgery in Scotland has risen from 21,000 in March 2020 to 37,000 in January 2022. A patient who was added to the waiting list for hip replacement in January 2022 will wait between 18 months and three years for surgery, depending on the health board. Does the cabinet secretary agree that that is an unacceptable time to wait for treatment and that it is wrong that waiting times are determined by a postcode lottery? What urgent action will the Scottish Government take to address that?

### **Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (16 June 2022)**

This week is the first-ever juvenile idiopathic arthritis week. I thank members for their support in promoting it and for wearing purple. I also thank the activists who have shared their personal stories.

One in 1,000 children in Scotland has JIA. I ask the First Minister to join me in thanking organisations such as Versus Arthritis and clinicians who are working tirelessly for the work that they do to support people who are living with JIA in Scotland. What more can the Scottish Government do to raise awareness of the condition?

#### **MSP Members of The Group**

Pam Duncan- Glancy MSP (Scottish Labour)

Rhoda Grant MSP (Scottish Labour)

Rachael Hamilton MSP (Scottish Conservatives)

Liam McArthur MSP (Scottish Liberal-Democrats)

Paul O Kane MSP (Scottish Labour)

Emma Roddick MSP (Scottish National Party)

Annie Wells MSP (Scottish Conservatives)

## Non-MSP Members of The Group

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

### Individuals

Dr Louise Bennet  
Jordan Canning  
Paul Cockburn  
Professor Colin Howie  
Joan Kerr  
Lynn Laidlaw  
Dr Alex Mavroedi  
Professor Ian McKinnes  
Professor Stuart Ralston  
Anne Simpson (voluntary secretary)  
Andrew Torrance  
Dr Louise Wilson  
Dr Uwe Wolfram

### Organisations

ABPI Scotland  
Abbvie  
Amgen  
British Society for Rheumatology  
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Scotland  
Community Pharmacy Scotland  
Cross Party Group:Chronic Pain  
Friends of Highland Rheumatology Unit



Galapagos  
Glasgow Caledonian University/Ageing and Health  
National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society  
National Rheumatology Arthritis Society  
NHS Ayrshire and Arran/Rheumatology  
NHS Borders/Rheumatology  
NHS Forth Valley/Rheumatology  
NHs Grampian/Rheumatology  
NHs Grampian/Podiatry  
NHS Greater Clyde and Glasgow/Rheumatology  
NHS Lanarkshire/Rheumatology  
NHS Lothian/Rheumatology  
NHS Research Scotland /Musculoskeletal Health  
Non-Celgene  
Novartis  
Pfizer  
Polymyalgia Rheumatica and Giant Cell Arteritis  
Scotland  
Queen Margaret University/Department of Nursing  
Royal Osteoporosis Society  
Sanofi  
Scottish Network for Arthritis in Children  
Scottish Society of Rheumatology  
Scottish Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology  
Network  
Sobi  
The Teapot Trust  
UCB Pharma Ltd

	University of Aberdeen Versus Arthritis
<p>Group Office Bearers</p> <p>Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.</p>	
Convener	Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
Deputy Convener	Emma Roddick MSP
Secretary	Anne Simpson(voluntary secretary)
Treasurer	Not applicable
<p>If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).</p>	
<p>Subscription Charged by the Group</p> <p>None</p> <p>Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.</p>	
N/A	
Convener Contact Details	
Name	Pam Duncan- Glancy MSP

Parliamentary address	MG.O2 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH 99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6389