

Minutes of Initial Meeting

Cross-Party Group on Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions

Wednesday 22 September 2021 5.30pm-6pm

Present

MSP

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP

Emma Roddick MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Naomi Bwalya

Janet Brewar

Sue Cole

Richard Cuthbert

Dervill Dockerell

Sharon Douglas

Dorothy Grace Elder

Lousie Fisher

Mayrine Fraser

Nicki Gray

Sam Hemmati

Dr Alan Madonald

Maureen McAllister

Eddie McGill

Lorna Neil

John Paton

Professor Duncan Porter

Jenny Snell

Anne Simpson

Dr Louise Wilson

Apologies

Fay Campbell

Paul Cockburn

John Feinmann

Dr Margaret Mary-Gordon

Nicki Gray

Professor Colin Howie

Matt Pickup

Dr Ruth Richmond

Professor Stefan Siebert

Carol Williams

Dr Uwe Wolfram

Agenda item 1 Welcome

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP as chair welcomed everyone to this short initial meeting to elect office bearers- with apologies for the extremely late start due to business in the chamber continuing much longer than expected.

Both Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and Emma Roddick MSP expressed their wish to support the work of the Group from their personal perspective and experience as well as from their positions as newly elected parliamentarians.

Agenda item 2 Election of officer bearers

- Convenor-Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP proposed and agreed
- Deputy Convenor-Emma Roddick MSP proposed and agreed

- Secretariat-Anne Simpson -individual non -msp member-proposed and agreed

Agenda item 3 Priorities

Very brief discussion around priorities for this parliamentary session-with summary from Dr Alan Macdonald ,representing the Scottish Society of Rheumatology but it was decided ,due to very late start, lack of time and a number of members already having had to leave ,to defer a fuller discussion until next meeting

Points made included

- There needs to be a clear strategy for the group. For example, we could seek to “promote awareness of the specific needs of those with arthritis and musculoskeletal disease living in Scotland, highlight the high quality research and service improvement initiatives that are on going and promote best practice in all areas”
- This implies two functions as discussed at initial informal meeting. A sharing of information function and a lobbying function -both are relevant
- And whilst it is recognised that the issues faced by those with arthritis and MSK (eg manpower) as a consequence of pandemic and pandemic response may be similar to those with other long term conditions, we need to highlight those which may be more specific perhaps as a consequence of the lower public profile that arthritis and MSK has historically “enjoyed”
- The interests of the group should be broad rather than narrow. It should consider the range of musculoskeletal disease from the very common to the very rare
- Whilst there may be opportunity to work with other CPGs on occasion, it is not clear that there is sufficiently close alignment with other similarly constituted groups to allow more formal “merger” without loss of identity

Agenda item 4 Group Re- Registration

Re registration of the Group-paperwork to be submitted for approval via Convenor's office /secretariat to the Standards , Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

All members will be notified by the secretariat when re- registration of the Group is approved and date of next meeting agreed with Convenor

Agenda item 5 Summary and Close

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP thanked everyone for attending and apologised once again for the extreme delay in start and lack of discussion time due to parliamentary business.

