

Cross Party Group on Deafness

Special General Meeting, Wednesday 6 December 2023 at 6pm.

Via Zoom (an online video conferencing platform)

Minutes - Present

MSPs

Convenor – Colin Beattie MSP (Scottish National Party)

Karen Adams MSP (Scottish National Party)

Roz McCall MSP (Conservative)

Invited guests

Lucy Sherwood and Kirsten Abioye (FLAAG)

Adrian Carragher (Scottish Audiology Heads of Service)

Hannah Tweed (The ALLIANCE)

Amanda McNamara (Teacher of the Deaf)

Douglas Lyons (Colin Beattie MSP staff member)

Non-MSP Group Members

Secretariat – Janis McDonald (The ALLIANCE)

Assistant Secretariat – Amy White (The ALLIANCE)

Anita Grover and Tori Bishop-Rowe (AVUK)

Jacquie Winning (Forth Valley Sensory Centre)

Linda Sharkey (Scottish Audiology Heads of Service)

Colin Heatherington and Isabella Goldie (Deafblind Scotland)

Deirdre Aitken (Sight Action Sensory Services)

Jane Gallacher (Scottish Cochlear Implant Centre)

Mark Ballard (NDCS Scotland)

Julie Ferguson (Education Institute for Scotland)

Rachel Mapson and Christine Johnson (Queen Margaret University)

Deborah Innes (Scottish Mental Health Service for Deaf People)

Professor John Ravenscroft (Edinburgh University)

Carla Marchbank (North East Sensory Services)

Jim Harrigan (Scottish Paediatric Audiology)

Teri Devine (RNID)

Individuals

Donald Richards

Language Service Professionals

Niamh Cochrane (BSL/English Interpreter)
Eddie Foley (BSL/English Interpreter)
Paula McGuire (Electronic Notetaker)
Mel Coulter (Electronic Notetaker)

APOLOGIES

MSPs

Annabelle Ewing MSP (Scottish National Party)
Mark Griffen MSP (Scottish Labour)

Non-MSP Group Members

Jill Bradshaw (ATLA Scotland)
Cathie Finestone and Teresa Quail (BATOD)
Avril Hepner (BDA Scotland)
Nicholas Orpin (Hearing Link)
Gary Quinn (Heriot Watt University)
Dumfries and Galloway Hard of Hearing Group
Tessa Slaughter (ASLI Scotland)
Enrique Canton (Deaf Equality and Accessibility Forum South Lanarkshire)
Denise McClung (SISG Ayrshire)
Philip Gerrard (Deaf Action)
Kath Cooper (Donaldson's)
Alana Harper (Deaf Links)
Amanda Wilson (NHS Highland Deaf Services)
Douglas Bryce (Disability Equality Scotland)
Glenn Carter and Brogan Ferguson (Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Scotland)
Joanne O'Donnell (Sense Scotland)

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and Introductions

The Convenor welcomed everyone to the special meeting and reminded people to say who they were and what organisation they represented before making contributions.

Agenda item 2 – Attendance, Apologies and Members

Attendance and apologies noted in the minutes.

Member Resignation, Individual: Peter Spencer Davies – unable to attend the meetings.

Agenda item 3 – Approve the minutes from last meeting and discuss matters arising

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 6 September 2023 were approved. Matters arising will be picked up at the meeting on 17 January 2024. CPGD subgroups: Definition of Deafblindness, Teachers of the Deaf and Dual Sensory Loss/Dementia are progressing and will report to the January 2024 meeting.

Agenda Item 4 - Special Topic: National Audiology Review (NAR)

Mark Ballard from NDCS introduced the topic and covered the background leading to the NAR and the process leading to the Report. He noted we continue to wait for the Scottish Government response and are concerned about the delay.

Hannah Tweed from the ALLIANCE presented on the findings from the lived experience research that fed into the review.

Lucy Sherwood spoke about the impact on families affected by the situation. A briefing from the discussion is attached.

Agenda item 5 - Any other business

No other items of business

Agenda item 6 - Date of next meeting and closing remarks

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday 17 January 2024.

The dates for 2024 meetings will be:

Wednesday 20 March 2024

June 2024 (tbc): Launch of Definition of Deafblindness “Declaration”

Wednesday 4 September 2024

Wednesday 12 Dec 2024

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