

## **Cross Party Group on Health Inequalities**

Draft Minutes of the First Meeting (Parliamentary session 2021-26)

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### **Present**

MSPs: Donald Cameron MSP and Emma Harper MSP.

Others: Angela , Bennett, Advice Resolutions

Narek, Bido, Addictions Support & Counselling (ASC)

David , Bingham, Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland

Lauren, Blair, Voluntary Health Scotland

Margaret, Brown, NHS Highland

Graham, Bush, Scottish Government

Kath, Byrne, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland

Hilda, Campbell, COPE Scotland

Terence, Canning, UK Sepsis Trust

christine, carlin, Home-Start

Janice, Connelly, .

Emma, Cormack, The Health Agency

Alison, Crofts, Voluntary Health Scotland

Sarah, Curtis, University of Edinburgh

Sarah, Doyle, Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland

Helen, Forrest, Children's Health Scotland

Karen, Garrott, Stroke Association

Derek , Goldman, The Open University in Scotland

Mairi, Gordon, Samaritans Scotland

Douglas, Guest, Home-Start Scotland

Alana, Harper, Deaf Links

Neil, Hay, Space @ Broomhouse Hub

Elizabeth, Hurst-High, Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP)  
Laura, Jones, RNIB Scotland  
Alison, Keir, RCOT  
Andrea, Lenssen, Scottish Government  
Paige, Linnell, positive steps  
Sandra, MacAllister, NHS Highland  
Mark, Macleod, Energy Saving Trust  
Karen, MacNee, Scottish Government  
Leigh, Mair, Scottish Rural Health Partnership  
Liz, Marquis, Energy Agency  
Ian, McCall, Paths for All  
Catriona, Melville, Age Scotland  
Helen, Morrison, Paths for All  
Thomas , Mulvey ,  
Sarah-Anne, Munoz, University of the Highlands and Islands  
Justina, Murray, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs  
Paul , Okroj , Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland  
Maureen, O'Neill, Faith in Older People  
Nell, Page, Salvesen Mindroom Centre  
Vanessa, Paynton, Art in Healthcare  
Kirsten, Phillips, BDA  
Sarah, Randell, Teapot Trust  
Patricia, Rodger, AdvoCard  
Daniela, Rondina, SIAA  
Graeme , Rose , Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK  
Jason, Schroeder, Scottish Men's Sheds Association  
Konstantina, Scott-Barrett, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Scotland  
Pat, Scrutton, Intergenerational National Network

Jonathan, Sher, Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland

Kimi, Smith, Scottish Government

Kimberley, Somerside, Voluntary Health Scotland

Claire, Stevens, Voluntary Health Scotland

Iain, Stewart, ASH Scotland

Martin, Tod, Men's Health Forum

Colette, Walker, Independence for Scotland Party (ISP)

Linda, West, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA)

Tom, Wightman, Pasda

Kirstin, Worsley, The Breastfeeding Network

Apologies: Bob Doris MSP, Carol Mochan MSP, Paul O’Kane MSP and Brian Whittle MSP.

### **1. Welcome and purpose of meeting**

Emma Harper MSP (chairing) welcomed everyone and noted that the Group’s agreed purpose, as registered in the previous parliamentary session, was:

“The group aims to raise awareness of the causes of health inequalities amongst parliamentarians to influence legislation and amongst policy makers to promote evidence-based actions which reduce health inequalities and to avoid legislation and policies which will make health inequalities in Scotland worse.”

As outgoing convener, Donald Cameron MSP noted this was one of the most important CPGs in the parliament, drawing together a huge variety of organisations and individuals with the ambition of reducing health inequalities. He felt the Group had been effective in highlighting issues and engaging with parliamentarians on the cross-portfolio elements of public health.

### **2. Cross-party support**

It was noted the following MSPs intend to be members of the Group: Emma Harper, Brian Whittle, Paul O’Kane, Carol Mochan and Donald Cameron.

### **3. Office Bearers**

Donald Cameron MSP proposed Emma Harper MSP as co-convener, and Brian Whittle MSP and Paul O’Kane MSP were proposed as co-convenors by Emma Harper MSP. With everyone in agreement, the three co-convenors were duly elected.

#### **4. Secretariat**

It was agreed that Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS) should be reappointed as Secretary to the Group.

#### **5. External membership and support**

- It was noted that the Group accepts external organisations as members and that there are currently 88, comprising third sector organisations, universities, public sector and professional bodies.
- It was noted that the Group does not accept individuals as formal members, other than MSPs, but the Secretariat maintains a supporters' list (currently 200+ individuals) and such individuals may attend and contribute to meetings
- It was noted that the Group does not accept media organisations as members or permit journalists to attend meetings.

#### **6. Future plans**

The Group discussed topics it wished to explore during the parliamentary session. It was noted other CPGs, such as Improving Scotland's Health, will likely be covering some of the suggested topics and collaborative working may be appropriate in some cases. In addition to those discussed during the meeting, feedback from a survey of Group members raised multiple areas of interest. Broadly, topics covered the following themes: public health theory; health harms; marginalised communities; place and housing; mental health; service improvements; children and young people; learning disabilities and autism; poverty; COVID and the wider recovery from the pandemic; and digital health literacy.

Further suggestions were made with regards to the Group's functionality:

- Producing action items for the Parliament from meetings.
- Facilitating three-minute pitches from members for knowledge sharing.
- Linking up members of the Group with shared interests prior to meetings.
- Creating a Twitter hashtag for further conversation.

#### **7. Any other business**

VHS proposed that the next meeting should take place before Christmas.