

Cross-Party Group on Lung Health

12-1.30pm, 7 February 2025

Recording can be found here -

Present

MSPs

Emma Harper MSP (Co-Convenor)
Alexander Stewart MSP (Co-Convenor)
Beatrice Wishart

Non-MSP Group Members

Gareth Brown (Secretariat)
Agnes Whyte
Amanda Walker
Anne McMurray
Chris Griffiths
Claire Shah
Colin Brett
Damian Crombie
David Heffernan
Dr Phyllis Murphie
Emma Clitheroe
Esme Allen
Garry McDonald
George Davidson
Joseph Carter
Katie Johnston
Leigh Mair
Lesley Hill
Lisa Murray
Liz Mason
Margaret Stevenson
Martin Charters
Mike Parker
Monica Fletcher
Nicola Roberts
Pam Cumming
Param Bharaj
Sheila Duffy
Steve Brown
Steven Adair
Vivienne Gaynor

Apologies

Anne Crilly
Carol Wood
Dianne Foster
Dr Emily Kennedy
Dr Gourab Choudhury
Dr Pamela Kirkpatrick
Frankie Toner
John Lockhart
Julie MacDougall
Kenneth Macleod
Liam Clutterbuck
Linda McLeod
Olivia Fulton
Zieda Taylor

Welcome and Introductions

- Emma Harper (EH) welcomed everyone to the CPG on Lung Health, introducing herself, Alexander Stewart (AS) and Beatrice Wishart (BW).
- EH asked Gareth Brown (GB) to discuss the next agenda item.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

- GB asked members to raise concerns by raising their hands or adding to the discussion.
- EH asked for members to approve the minute. Vivienne Gaynor (VG) and Liz Mason (LM) approved the minutes of the last meeting minutes.

Tobacco and Vaping Legislation

- EH introduced Sheila Duffy (SD), Chief Executive Officer of ASH Scotland. EH informed the meeting that Sheila has just celebrated 30years with ASH Scotland.
- SD started by saying she was initially going to speak about the Tobacco and Vaping legislation, adding that after 30 years in this field she would speak about the history of tobacco and health, as well the focus of the tobacco industry.
- SD pointed out that “big tobacco and big vape” are motivated by profit and cause issues for those working in health, adding that there is a difference in position across the UK on vapes.
- At population-level, SD said that vapes are problematic, after adding that for a certain demographic that vapes may support smoking cessation.
- Evidence base-levels for vaping are short-term and not a lot of information is available, compared to tobacco according to SD.
- SD provided a historical evidence-based view of tobacco, adding that we are not at the same level of research for vaped yet, either in the UK or at an international level, although there is an emerging evidence base.
- SD spoke about the evidence of particulate matter in vapes which can cause serious impact for lungs and other parts of the body, citing research showing formaldehyde in some liquids.

- SD spoke about the Scottish Health Survey which indicated the rising use of vaping products by children and young people, then spoke of the rising use of nicotine pouches by children and young people and the marketing of these products to this demographic, without proper legislation to capture such products, including notice toothpicks.
- SD highlighted examples of the tobacco and vaping industry to use loopholes.
- The ban on disposable vape products was explained by SD, but again pointed out potential loopholes the industry uses.
- There are around 50 countries that ban e-cigarettes according to SD.
- SD spoke of the legislation carried forward by the current UK Government, from its predecessor, which has a great deal of cross-party support and is the best deal on the table.
- Examples of good sections of the bill are rising age of sale for children born after 2009, with SD citing examples in New Zealand.
- SD also spoke about ASH Scotland's support for packaging measures to warn smokers, but added that industry always finds loopholes and that heated tobacco should be brought into this.
- SD then spoke about enforcement, which needs resource and capacity and that the current bill would not make a conditional register in Scotland, but will in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which could leave a challenge under the Internal Markets Act.
- SD highlighted other measures that will require further consultation, including marketing measures that Scotland enacted in 2016 but hasn't enforced.
- On smoke-free spaces, SD spoke about where agreement can be made and including vapes, heated-tobacco, etc., adding that there are potential debates to be had on banning smoking on further indoor areas which have a health harm.
- SD then detailed where the current legislation is in relation to the UK Parliament and when it is likely to pass, further adding that the Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) was introduced in November 2024, but further debate is being considered by different committees of the Scottish Parliament.
- SD pointed out that the industry is quieter compared to previous legislation but lobbying and funding third-party voices.
- Before finishing, SD added that the World Health Organisation (WHO) is vital in producing the research and messaging but under constant attack internationally, partly from the tobacco lobby and recent changes in the US Government.
- There were questions from Garry MacDonald (GM) on rechargeable disposable vapes and the industry circumventing legislation, Joseph Carter (JC) about the impact on lung health and asked about the readiness of the Scottish Government to use these new powers from the UK Bill, Mike Parker (MP) on advertising of chewing/pouch (oral) tobacco causing cancers and other conditions, GB on capturing nicotine pouches under environmental regulations and EH on specialist cigar sellers and how they will be legislated under the new tobacco and vapes bill.
- EH thanked SD for her discussion and taking questions, before moving to the next topic.

Centre for Applied Respiratory Research, Innovation and Impact (CARRii)

- EH introduced Monica Fletcher (MF), who introduced Professor Chris Griffiths (CG) to jointly present on CARRii, which is a successor to Asthma UK Centre for Applied Research.
- MF spoke of the legacy of AUKCAR, the impact and funding models.
- MF highlighted the focus of CARRii on winter pressures on the NHS and its impact on health inequalities.
- CG then spoke about why CARRii are looking at winter pressures and health inequalities as priorities and went through the missions of CARRii relating to these priorities, why they were chosen and what outcomes they would like to see.
- CG stressed the link between respiratory disease and health inequalities, explaining the theme that will support CARRii to tackle health inequalities: Reducing Risk and Infections, Connected Care and Optimising Clinical Care.
- MF added that much of the theme of Reducing Risk and Infection needs to be done across different sectors, not just health.
- MF showed a slide of CARRii governance and then on its broad interdisciplinary approach, then asked for anyone interested further to get in touch as CARRii are looking to extend its networks and partnerships.
- MF finished by promoting the official launch of CARRii which is taking place in the House of Commons, Westminster on Monday 24 February.
- EH thanked MF and CG for their presentation, then handed over to AS to chair the rest of the meeting.
- There were questions and comments from AS on the importance of identifying areas of high air pollution and EH on behavioural change linked to her work on the health committee that requires cross-portfolio work and how to measure behavioural change of children walking to school and parents using the car less.
- AS thanked MF and CG for their presentation and wished them luck for the launch in the House of Commons.
- AS then moved to the Three-minute Good New Pitch agenda item.

Three-minute Good News Pitch

- a. Dr Phyllis Murphie (PM) – Sunrise device for screening and diagnosing sleep apnoea.
 - PM spoke about the new device for sleep apnoea, improving patients pathways and new NICE guidelines on sleep apnoea.
 - PM added that the sunrise device is available in Scotland and making a difference already.
 - PM showed the device onscreen and showed how it works.
- b. Sarah Robertson (SR) – Young Peoples Study
 - SR spoke about the Young Peoples Study, how it is funded and works across different research areas.
 - SR highlighted the need to get more young people involved in the study, citing impacts of mental health, smoking and vaping, cost of living, climate change and more, asking the CPG members to share the survey on social media.

AOCB

- GB informed the CPG that the Scottish Government is moving to a Long-Term Conditions strategy, which is causing some anxiety and unhappiness in the charity sector, adding that the secretary of the CPG on Chronic Pain has emailed to ask to share the details of their email taking place in the following week.
- AS thanked the speakers and everyone for attending, praising the commitment of everyone involved in the CPG to work on respiratory health.

End of Meeting