

Cross-Party Group on Lung Health

Friday 28th January 2022, 10.30am-12pm

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Emma Harper MSP
Alexander Stewart MSP

Invited guests

Professor Jill Belch

Non-MSP Group Members

Gareth Brown
Joseph Carter
Dr Nicola Roberts
Dr Tom Fardon
Professor John Lockhart
Alison Stewart
Colin Brett
C. Thomson
Garry McDonald
George Davidson
Grace Beaumont
Ioanna Hadjicosta
Jim Honeyman
Katherine Byrne
Lesley Hill
Liam Clutterbuck
Linda McLeod
Mark Dodd
Maureen Ward
Ross Barrow
Steven Adair
Susie Shanks
Liz Mason
Martina Chukwuma-Ezike
Carol Thomson
Andy Currie

Martin Charters
Brian Cadenhead
Willie McGhee
Olivia Fulton

Apologies

Mark Ruskell MSP
Paul O’Kane MSP
Foysol Choudhury MSP
Monica Lennon MSP
Pauline Waugh
Kirsty Murray

Agenda item 1

Welcome and Introductions

- Emma Harper MSP welcomed members of the Cross-Party Group on Lung Health to the meeting. EH agreed to chair the meeting as Alexander Stewart MSP had to leave the meeting earlier than planned.
- Joseph Carter reminded attendees that the meeting was being live-streamed on Facebook and that subtitles may not correctly identify what people are saying.
- EH introduced the speakers and submitted apologies from Mark Ruskell MSP. EH asked Gareth Brown for any other apologies and GB responded to say some had been received before the meeting started and GB also asked if everyone could ensure that the name of their device is correct to identify who is on the meeting.

Agenda item 2

Minutes of Previous Meeting

EH asked if there were any additions or changes required before approving the minutes of the previous meeting. There were approved.

Agenda item 3

Air Pollution & Lung Health - Professor Jill Belch

- EH introduced speakers – Professor Jill Belch and also Dr Tom Fardon - by informing the CPG of their backgrounds and the experience.
- TF began by thanking EH and said he would speak briefly before passing over to JB.
- TF said the CPG has discussed the impact of air pollution on lung health and recalled the first meeting he attended that discussed the impact of transport on lung health.
- TF said he was asked if he would be a co-signatory to a recent letter which followed work carried out by JB and Professor James Chalmers.

- TF also said that the reason the CPG is titled the Lung Health is to allow the members to look at all areas of lung health, not just disease, and look at prevention and how we can get the Scottish population healthier with better air quality. TF gave experience of living outside of Dundee compared to living in the city of Dundee and the difference in air quality for his family.
- TF praised the fantastic work of JB and said her work can be a springboard to push the air quality agenda with the Scottish Government.
- JB thanked TF and said action is needed because the issues is preventable.
- JB then gave a presentation 'Air Pollution and Hospital Admission' – *watch from 11:56 on the video link [here](#).*
- EH thanked JB for her interesting presentation and asked for questions to be asked after the next presentation from Dr Nicola Roberts.

Agenda item 4

Air Experiences of Nurses During the Pandemic – Dr Nicola Roberts

- EH introduced Dr Nicola Roberts and provided an overview of her background and experience. EH then handed to NR to present on 'Resilience, Anxiety and Depression in Nurses Working in Respiratory Areas During the COVID-19 Pandemic' – *watch from 39:31 on the video link [here](#).*
- EH thanked NR for the presentation and followed by saying as a nurse, EH found the presentation very interesting because of her work administering vaccines during the pandemic and knowing the different experiences of nurses throughout.
- EH asked if NR could make her presentation available to put on the CPG website to share the information. NR agreed.
- AS had to leave the meeting and EH opened the meeting to questions for the two different presentations.
- EH asked the first question to JB about air quality monitors (AQMs) for schools, following information that JB presented about the number of monitors and the time of years they are being used.
- JB responded to say that there weren't enough from SEPA but councils could have a very effective spend and work with others to make sure AQMs are available to schools. JB also said that traffic wardens should be given powers to fine for people idling outside schools.
- Linda McLeod talked about idling of cars at schools, giving an experience of cars idling at a school near her home, with people also smoking in the car while idling. LM asked JB what can be done about that.
- JB repeated her ask that traffic wardens should be given powers to take action on drivers.
- EH raised concerns about taxi drivers idling in city centres.
- George Davidson thanked both JB and NR for their presentations. GD said there needs to be greater awareness and a public awareness campaign is needed and that he is motivated to do more to help spread awareness. GD then asked how we can change the behaviours of young people in cars.

- Liz Mason also thanked the speakers and said that as a former teacher, she knows the problems of idling. Liz Mason then gave examples of other countries who take idling far more seriously. Liz asked if laws are needed or if councils needed to enforce schools better.
- JB responded to say that there is a law already in place around idling and that a lot of people don't know about it. Idling for longer than 3 minutes is illegal and raised the potential to put up signs to warn against idling.
- JB also said that Scotland has good laws around idling, but they are not enforced.
- EH said that idling is something that could be raised in parliament, with a potential debate on air quality and lung health.
- Dr Tom Fardon commented saying that these issues were discussed at an in-person CPG meeting in the Scottish parliament before. TF raised the idea of exclusion zones around schools for transport.
- TF also said that transport is important to people who don't always live near schools and the bigger picture is around cycle and walk friendly environments, noting that the Highway Code is being changed as of today and that there is a new hierarchy of priority. However, the infrastructure is not in place compared to other countries and the solution is a long-term one, that cannot be done overnight.
- TF said that campaigners need to push local councils to promote healthier transport and that the Government can do more to make active travel easier.
- EH responded to say that the Transport Minister, Michael Mathieson MSP, gave a statement recently around active transport and opening more cycle lanes, etc. EH also said that question can be lodged to the Scottish Government as well as motions for debate.
- Colin Brett agreed with previous speakers and quoted a headline from the Independent which labelled UK Government Ministers cowards for not acting faster on pollution. CB also agreed that councils have a role to play but cannot be left to solve these problems alone. CB asked what the Scottish Government is doing.
- Joseph Carter said he could partially answer CB's question as the Scottish Government has published Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 strategy, however there are questions remaining around funding and timescales involved. JC asked TF and JB what academics could be doing and what engagement they have with Scottish Government and civil servants.
- JB pointed out that a recent letter was signed by 60 academics and was addressed to the First Minister and published in the Herald. JB warned that academics sometimes live in academia and don't always know the routes to lobby and make changes.
- JB also warned that there are challenges to protecting schools, especially around traffic exclusion zones which could cause problems in other streets nearby.

- JB highlighted that the most deprived people are the least likely to have cars but are the ones who suffer most from air pollution, labelling it “tragically unfair”.
- Gareth Brown said that Mark Ruskell MSP had lodged parliamentary questions around idling and that he would include the answers in the minutes of the meeting.
 - [Written question and answer: S6W-05581 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
 - [Written question and answer: S6W-05580 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
 - [Written question and answer: S6W-05579 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- GB also said that the Scottish Government has published the ‘Route map to 20% reduction in car kilometres by 2030’, which many members will hear because it promotes the Workplace Parking Levy, and that a lot of actions that are needed can be done with the political will.
- GB also reflected on a comment made by Katherine Byrne that the 2022 Local Government elections provide an opportunity to lobby council across Scotland to do more on air pollution and idling. GB also thanked JB and NR for their presentations.
- EH said that there is a lot of work being done by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament to improve active transport and promote healthier travel options, giving an example of e-bike sales during the lockdowns.
- EH then asked for final questions before handing over to Dr Tom Fardon to provide an update on the Respiratory Care Action Plan (RCAP). No other questions were submitted.

Agenda item 5

Respiratory Care Action Plan – Dr Tom Fardon

- TF said that he doesn’t have a lot to report because of the December COVID-19 waves resulted him working more in the clinic. He has met with the civil servants and charities recently to discuss progress on RCAP.
- TF said that meetings are being held to identify the priorities for year 1 – child to adult asthma transitions, data collection, and pulmonary rehabilitation.
- TF talked about the different aspects and needs of the year 1 priorities.
- The three priorities are issues that have been raised by patients, charities and the CPG over many years.
- TF said he is holding weekly meetings and things are moving forward. He is happy to take questions or for people to reach out to him outside of the CPG.
- EH thanked TF for his update and said we should look to invite the Health Minister to attend with TF to discuss the RCAP implementation. EH asked if there were any questions for TF.
- Dr Roberts said that the innovations of pulmonary rehab over the last two years will help people into the future.

- JC added that the Scottish Government and civil servants are overcoming barriers and that the patient network is underway to ensure that patients voices will be instrumental in the implementation of RCAP.
- JC also reflected on Dr Roberts comments about pulmonary rehab.
- Martina Chukwuma-Ezike asked TF about asthma data collection for children and young people, adding that inhalers are provided but without that child being registered as asthmatic. MCE said that the statistic of 72,000 children with asthma is debatable.
- TF responded to say that the problem with data is the veracity of the data collected from day one. TF referred to the code attributed from general practice and that it is hard to paint a proper picture and see the full scale and differentiate between asthma diagnosis and other breathing illnesses.
- TF pointed out that PCRS do fantastic work with primary care to diagnose asthma and that ongoing education for everyone involved in asthma care is crucial.

Agenda item 6

Dates of Future Meetings

- EH asked GB about the date of the next meeting. GB proposed that the next meeting to be held on Friday 1 April. EH agreed and suggested the 10.30am until 12pm

Agenda item 7

AOCB

- No AOCB raised.

Agenda item 8

Close of Meeting

- Emma Harper MSP closed the meeting and thanked everyone for taking part.
- EH added that discussion would be held with GB to lodge a motion for debate in the Scottish Parliament on the issues discussed today.

