

Initial Meeting of the CPG on Migration

Date: 16th December 2021

Location: Zoom

MSP attendance:

- Paul Sweeney MSP
- Bob Doris MSP
- Mercedes Villalba MSP
- Katy Clark MSP
- Dovydas on behalf of Emma Roddick MSP
- Guy on behalf of Maggie Chapman MSP
- Lorna on behalf of Mark Ruskell MSP
- Blair on behalf of Ross Greer MSP
- Erin, office of Paul Sweeney MSP

Non-MSP attendance:

- VOICES Network
- Safe in Scotland
- British Red Cross
- Maryhill Integration Network
- Professor Alison Phipps UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts
- Scottish Detainee Visitors
- JustRight Scotland
- Positive Action in Housing
- Migration Policy Scotland

Apologies:

- Refugees for Justice
- Govan Community Project

Topics discussed:

- Election of Office Bearers
 - Convener - Paul Sweeney MSP. Nominated by Bob Doris MSP and seconded by Professor Alison Phipps

- Vice-Convener – Bob Doris MSP. Volunteered and seconded by Katy Clark MSP
- Secretariat – Maryhill Integration Network (MIN). Nominated by Paul Sweeney MSP and seconded by Bob Doris MSP.
- Discussion on CPG Aims and Actions:
 - to provide the Parliament with an information source on migration, refugees and asylum seekers based on lived experience
 - to provide a platform for policy makers, stakeholders and people with lived experience to discuss current issues and inform decision-making
 - to explore steps that can be taken within the devolved powers of the Scottish Parliament to improve the lives of migrant, asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland
- Potential issues to consider in future meetings
 - International examples and the findings of the New Scots Core Group
 - Destitution, higher education, free bus travel, asylum accommodation, detention
 - Importance of including voices of lived experience

Actions:

- Secretariat to create a Twitter account for the CPG on Migration.
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