

Agenda

Cross-Party Group on Visual Impairment

Tuesday 5 December 2023, 18.00-19.30

**Meeting to be held in Committee Room 3,
Scottish Parliament, and online**

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Visual Impairment #CPGVI

Purpose of the group:

The Cross-Party Group on Visual Impairment draws together the blind and partially sighted sector in Scotland to identify issues competent to the Scottish Parliament and seeks, in a reasonable fashion, to influence policy, legislation and decision makers to better reflect the needs of blind and partially sighted people.

Agenda

Agenda item 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

Welcome, introductions and apologies plus GDPR statement.

Agenda item 2 - Approval of minutes of meeting of 20 September 2023

Agenda item 3 - Matters arising and Action Points – see report after agenda

Agenda item 4 – Human rights in Scotland

Draft panel

- Mhairi Snowden, Human Rights Consortium Scotland – “It’s all Rights – A Human Rights Bill for Scotland”
- Sophie Bridger, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland – The Right to Rehabilitation campaign

Followed by Q and A.

Agenda item 5 - Visual impairment rehabilitation

- Gillian Hallard, RNIB Scotland – Overview on VI rehabilitation in Scotland.
- Laura Walker, Visibility Scotland, Chair of Scottish Visual Services Steering Group (SVSSG) – Actions taken to address rehab issues for blind and partially sighted people
- Adam Lodge, Visibility Scotland – Explaining the “Right to Dream” project (Visibility Scotland in partnership with Deaf Blind Scotland)

Followed by Q and A.

Agenda item 6 - Any other competent business

6.1. Collaboration request from Colin Beattie MSP – Chair of the CPG on Deafness.

6.2. Pavement parking – short update from Mike Moore, Guide Dogs Scotland.

6.3. Replacement for the Princess Alexandra Eye Hospital, Edinburgh – short update from Sylvia Paton, Chair, the campaign group Keep Edinburgh Eye Pavilion (KEEP).

6.4. Scottish Vision Strategy Conference, March 2024 – short update from James Adams, RNIB Scotland.

6.5. Convener Stuart McMillan MSP - report on meeting with reps from Glaukos and RLT UK (Red Light Therapy).

Agenda item 7 - Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21 February, 13.00-14.15, Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament and online.

Report on Action Points from the meeting of 20 September 2023:

There were three action points from the meeting:

1. Agenda item 5 - Following the panel discussion on education for vision impaired children and young people, James Adams and the CPGVI Secretary to follow up with Stuart McMillan MSP and to draft a letter to the NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) in collaboration with Professor Ravenscroft and Dr Campbell.

A letter was drafted and sent to NHS NSS by Stuart as Convener. This asked NSS to support VINCYP in the next stage of this important work [a proposal to deliver eye care to pupils within specialist school settings in Scotland]; to further explore the model, and to identify options for the implementation and funding of such a service.

Catriona Johnson, Associate Director, National Networks, National Specialist Services and Screening Division (NSD), NHS National Services Scotland has now replied providing the information that National Services Division (NSD) commissions specialist services on behalf of NHS Boards in Scotland.

Through national commissioning processes, proposals for service developments at national level are assessed against set criteria to determine appropriate routing. She also confirmed that the NSD VINCYP Network Team will support the VINCYP proposal through the process. The first step is the completion of an online registration process that will draw on and expand on the information presented to the Cross Party Group.

She would be happy to update the Cross Party Group on progress from VINCYP at a future meeting of the group.

2. Agenda item 6 - 6.1. - The Secretary will email asking all on the mailing list if they wish to continue to receive mailing by replying to either "opt in" or to "opt out." All opting in will remain on the mailing list.
Done.
3. Agenda item 6 - 6.2. - Mhairi Thurston will provide a link to the survey for distribution by the CPG Secretary.
Circulated.