

WASPI Scotland CPG

Minutes of meeting no 2

Attendees,

MSP's/Government officials.

Katy Clark (Chair),
Siobhan Brown,
Beatrice Wishart,
Richard Leonard

WASPI /CPG Members,

Linda Carmichael,
Rosie Dickson,
Liz Daly,
M Eley,
L McColl,
Wendy Millar,
Olive Sharp,
FrancesBrown,
Christine McMillan,
Catriona Melville, (Age Scotland),
Lynn Paterson,
ChristineHouston,
Anne Ferguson,
S Brown,
Mary Dawson,
Anne Potter, -(Secretariat).

Apologies

MSP's

Jackie Baillie,
Paul O'Kane

WASPI

Anne Campbell,
C O'Hara,
A Wallis,
E Brown.

1. Welcome Intro & Apologies

Katy C welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Anne P updated the action points.

PHSO Stage 1 report feedback was discussed plus Anne P explained that the APPG in Westminster had held their evidence sessions with all campaign groups via zoom & they will be preparing a summary of all the input. Still no indication of timescales from PHSO regarding stage 2.

3. WASPI Campaign Update.

Lynne C Scottish Borders group (WASPI Ltd) confirmed their campaign is continuing to look for fair justice in tandem with WASPI 2018. Anne F asked if there was any consideration given to men affected by delayed SP however Richard Leonard along with others felt that whilst men are affected women were suffering more severely.

4. Regional Update.

Linda C of Aberdeen North East commented that they were carrying on as best they can during COVID. Keeping in touch when possible as people are feeling quite desperate. Olive S of Banff & Buchan is continuing to keep in touch with members mainly by Facebook. She has also been in contact with her local MP. Wendy M of GLDR Group confirmed keeping up to date with Facebook & is encouraging all to communicate with politicians. She is hopeful of receiving PHSO timescales for Stage 2 of their investigation. Lynne C (Scottish Borders) still using Facebook & trying to make contact with local MP John Lamont. Mary D (UNISON) been in touch with Christina McAteer & is hopeful of her support going forward. Mary also highlighted the problems of many Council workers regarding actual SP payment delays & Equal Pay issues. Liz Daly (W Dunbartonshire) confirmed she, along with 2 other WASPI Scotland Coordinators actively involved with WASPI 2018 Steering group & in her role concentrating on social media. Liz also highlighted her SP still not received. Her area is one of the worst affected by high death rate & this is a real concern. Liz attended the Silent Rally in Manchester in October which she enjoyed. Frances Brown (Ayrshire) reported they have recently had a meeting which Phillipa Whitford MP attended. Frances confirmed they have many supportive politicians in Ayrshire. The group are continuing to work on their Local economy research project along with Alan Dorans MP.

MSP Siobhan Brown agreed the local economy is severely impacted & focus on this worthwhile. Siobhan suggested creating a video & perhaps look at a campaign refresh. Frances & Beatrice agreed to these suggestions as marches not making any impact. Important to note that every age group is affected & all should engage with MSP/MSPs. Katy C felt it might be a possibility to meet with MP's & perhaps APPG. Anne F feels it's important to highlight serious effect on 60+ women by using the Ayrshire research findings & in her case stressed she had already lost over £58k. Richard L stated there is the morality factor & not just finance to be considered. He added it's a poor reflection on our society & agrees with refreshing the campaign,

possibly producing a video & organising another parliamentary debate. Katy C is keen to review ways of communicating the WASPI issues to MSPs & campaign refresh. Rosie D reiterated keen to have next stage of PHSO report & emphasised our cohort could be seen as part of the solution with regards to employment & assist with economic recovery. In her case she has had to remortgage which she never anticipated & is concerned that thousands have died before SP age. Rosie reminded all that GLDR did have a video a few years ago which is on Youtube & WPIYPO have produced a book detailing the many cases of suffering endured by women of the 50's. Katy C has asked if we could organise a sub-committee to work on the suggestions to raise awareness of the campaign issues, plus get together with MPs to demonstrate adverse economic effects. Liz D mentioned in her line of work they had a forum called "The Wee Blether" so could be adapted to "Old Blether" & perhaps roll out to England/Wales. Frances B would like to engage with MPs & suggests providing regular updates on their constituencies. Siobhian liked this suggestion though feels it's essential to include England/Wales.

5. Date of next meeting

TBA.