

Cross-Party Group on Carers

15th September 2021

Minute

Present

MSPs

Gillian Mackay – MSP

Mark Griffin – MSP

Invited guests

Non-MSP Group Members

Claire Cairns – Coalition of Carers in Scotland

Andrew Muir – Psychiatric Rights Scotland

Catherine Paterson - Dochas Carers Centre

Ailsa Tweedie – Lanarkshire Carers Centre

Janice Moreland – Carer

Celia Sweeney – Carer

Chris Griffith - Pasda

Lisa Ross - Salvesen Mindroom Centre

Jean Campbell - Unpaid Carer Support in Mind & Soroptimist International
Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI)

Jess Wade - Carers of East Lothian

Jenny Miller – PAMIS (Promoting a more inclusive society)

Christine Farquhar – Carer

Fiona Pirrie – East Ayrshire Carers Centre

Lucy Challoner – Carer

Debbie Travers – Lanarkshire Carers Centre

Rebecca McColl – SFAD (Scottish Families affected by alcohol and Drugs)

Colette McDiarmid – MND Scotland

Lorna Gibson – Carers Trust Scotland

Danielle Rondina - SIAA

Kate Hogarth – Shared Care Scotland

Bev Read – Firsthand Lothian

Susan Lancaster – LGBT Health & Wellbeing

Salena Begley MBE – Family Fund

Robert McGeachy – Camphill Scotland

Lesley Jeffrey – Carer

Tom Wightman – Carer

Margaret Murphy – Edinburgh Young Carers
Carole Kelly – VOCAL
Paul Traynor – Carers Trust Scotland
Carolanne Christie – north Lanarkshire Carers Together
Karen Maloney – Carers Trust Scotland

Apologies

Mark Bevan – Leuchie House
Alison Wright – Carers of West Lothian
Alexandra Belgeonne - Carer
Peter Minshall – Dochas Carers Centre

item 1 – Welcome and introductions

Mark Welcomed everyone to the meeting introducing Gillian as the new co-convenor. He spoke about the format of the meeting.

Previous meeting minutes for election of office bearers ratified

item 2 – Priorities for 6th Parliamentary Session – Topics for discussion

Mark highlighted the topics for this coming session of parliament and asked if anyone had any other topics they wished to put forward. The following suggestions were put forward.

- The implementation of The Carers Act and for the group to look at the failings and where we can look to the government to use their powers of Direction
- Carers being equal partners in care and being involved and consulted at all stages of the treatment of the person they care for
- Medical and nursing students to spend some time in carers centres to see what the issues are for carers and get a better idea of what life is like for carers and how their work and decisions affects them
- Transition for young carers into adult carers services, Vocal working on a project just now with Edinburgh young carers
- Triangle of care not being done in all areas need to be looked at

item 3 – National Care Service – Consultation process, presentation and discussion

Claire gave an overview of the presentation on the proposed National Carers Service consultation; she spoke about the Feeley report and that this was the most radical review since the NHS had been set up.

Claire highlighted three areas where improvement was needed

- Language used around social care
- Strengthening foundations
- Redesigning the service

The theme of the consultation is Getting it right for everyone with the below themes

- Improving carer for people includes rights to short breaks for carers
- National care service
- Reforming IJB- Community Health & social care Boards
- Commissioning of services – Ethical commissioning
- Regulation - Bringing on board care commission
- Valuing people who work in social care

Claire picked out the most popular three areas for carers

- A right to breaks for carers
- Spoke about should it be a flat rate; stepped provision or personalised amount based on assessment
- Should it be available to all carers or qualifying threshold

There was a discussion around the points raised by Claire, and these are on a separate document which will be sent out with the minutes

Mark offered to write to Scottish government on the points raised on the employing of family members as PA's when the current provisions end and also on the subject of extending the flexibility around use of SDS payments.

item 4 – AOCB

Members asked if the Cabinet Secretary could attend a meeting to discuss the public inquiry into COVID-19 and allow carers to feed into the debate.

Are there any discussions on the crisis situations for people at the moment?

Thanks all of NCO's for doing so much to have voice of carers to be heard.

Claire stated that the Scottish Government had approached the NCOs for a representative and a carer representative to be part of the pandemic response on the board we are currently recruiting for a carer.

Robert thanked the NCOs for their significant input on Joanne Lamont bills for transitions. This is now being taken forward by Pam Duncan – Glancy MSP and she is looking to reintroduce bill.

item 5 – Proposed dates for next meetings

15th December 2021

9th March 2022

8th June 2022

14th September 2022