

Cross Party Group on Carers

8th June 2022 1230 – 2pm

Minutes

Item 1

Welcome and Introductions

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke through the agenda and apologised for technical gremlins that Gillian was experiencing

Item 2

Minutes and matters arising from minutes of last meeting

Minutes proposed by Robert McGeachy and seconded by Lucy Challoner

Item 3

Carers Week – Carers Scotland update

Fiona Collie from Carers Scotland gave a presentation on Carers Week

She spoke to a report on research that had been carried out by You Gov and the report is available on the Carers week website

<https://www.carersweek.org/about-carers-week/latest-news/posts-folder/2022/june/make-caring-visible-valued-and-supported-carers-week-2022-report/>

The meeting was then opened up for questions or suggestions on the report

Mark asked how the work on Carers week was crossing over on the changes to carers allowance and if it had been a topic for discussions.

Fiona stated that the National Carers Organisations are working with The minister Ben McPherson on the consultation for the new allowance and about the carers who missed out on the chancellor's one of payment for the cost of living crisis

Paul asked there is any action she would like the group to take either with the minister It was agreed a letter should be sent regarding Care Charging and the progress on that and the cost of living crisis

Action: Cross party group to write to Ministers for an update on the timeline and the measures to assist carers with the cost of living crisis.

Carers Poverty Strategy and looking at the child poverty strategy what you don't see you can't measure and a lot of care poverty is hidden and do not look at the financial impact on a young carers life limits when caring. Or the impact over life course when someone who reduces or gives up work cannot input to pensions and reduces their outlook for their future.

Doug Sloan – Dementia asked if there was any link between age and or condition data but Fiona said she would check and get in back to him

Fiona stated that they wanted to look at underlining entitlement and not everyone can get the supplement and some preferred the two lump systems and some stated they would like it added to the monthly payment.

NCO responded to the consultation and did ask about additional payments for those with underlying entitlement e.g. those on receipt of state pension

Action: Group will take forward the two topics raised by Fiona and Peter stated that they were happy and a letter can be sent to the minister.

Item 4

Future Plans and dates of meetings

Paul stated that there was still no definite date for publication of the National Carers Strategy or the National Care Service update but that any updates would be sent out.

Andrew asked about the review of the mental health and it not giving carers enough of a voice, Mark suggested contacting the local MSP and members of the mental health committees or cross party groups. Mark can send list of health and social care committee

An overview of the remaining topics was discussed and it was decided to ask the minister to attend to discuss the strategy update at the next meeting.

There was also some discussion on what format the meetings should take going forward with the possibility of face to face meetings happening in the future.

Item 5

AOCB

HSCP doing a lot for recruiting hidden carers if there is an additional demand there is a need to ensure that there is funding to support this through the Carers Act Funding going to HSCP and to carers services to ensure that the support workers are there to support the additional carers

Item 6

Proposed dates of next meetings

14th September 2022 – Virtual