

Cross-Party Group on Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses

Note of preliminary meeting, 14th December 2016

Room Q1.03, The Scottish Parliament

This was a preliminary meeting to explore the establishment of the Group, prior to apply for official recognition via the Scottish Parliament.

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Kezia Dugdale MSP, Patrick Harvie MSP, Tom Arthur MSP, and a number of possible non-MSP members of the Group.

Apologies: Monica Lennon MSP.

The meeting was chaired by Kezia Dugdale MSP.

2. Roundtable introduction by attendees

3. Name of the Group

The following name was agreed: Cross-Party Group for Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses.

4. Discussion on mission and purpose of the Group

After a discussion it was agreed that the purpose of the Group would be: *"To raise awareness of holistic sexual health and blood borne virus issues and to inform and promote policies grounded in evidence that will address Scotland's response, and health and wellbeing in this field, through the involvement of stakeholders and populations with direct experience."* There was a discussion on whether the Group's remit extends to reproductive health. It was decided that it would as it is covered in the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework and no other CPGs are working in this area.

5. Appointment of office bearers

The following MSPs were elected as Co-Conveners:

- Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP
- Kezia Dugdale MSP
- Patrick Harvie MSP
- Tom Arthur MSP

Kezia Dugdale noted that HIV Scotland had offered to become the Secretariat for the proposed Group. There was a subsequent proposal that there could be a joint Secretariat by both Hepatitis Scotland and HIV Scotland. Following a discussion, it was decided that HIV Scotland would be the Secretariat, however this would be subject to a 6 month review to ensure that there was equal representation of issues included on future agendas.

6. Discussion on running costs (refreshments, postage, materials etc.)

Members decided there would be no significant costs associated with the Group and HIV Scotland agreed to meet the costs of refreshments at meetings in the short term.

7. Identify areas of mutual interest to form a work programme for the Group

The following themes were raised:

- Peer support
- Increased screening for Hepatitis C
- Government funding for HIV postal tests
- HIV outbreak in Glasgow
- HIV testing and screening
- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
- Sexual health education
- Treatment and care
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Sex work legislation
- Patient involvement
- Ageing
- Transgender sexual health
- Sexual coercion and violence
- Digital health
- HIV-related stigma
- Increased involvement of GPs in managing care in the community

It was noted that the topic areas and membership of the Group should have a good balance of sexual health and blood borne viruses issues.

8. Methods of communication, working practice and success measurement

It was agreed communication would be conducted via email. The Group decided that meetings should alternate between Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime/evenings. Patrick Harvie suggested that the Group should consider having one larger event each year to attract MSPs who are not members of the CPG.

A question was asked whether a microsite could be set up to host meeting documents. HIV Scotland agreed to investigate this.

9. AOB

Kezia Dugdale informed the Group that the next step would be for the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee to formally approve the CPG. Pending approval, a meeting will be held in early 2017 – date TBC.