

**Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions Cross Party Group**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 20 September 2023 6-6.30pm: HYBRID**

**Attendance**

**MSPs:**

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP                      Convener  
Annie Wells MSP  
Rhoda Grant MSP

**Non-MSPs:**

Alan McGinley	Policy & Engagement Manager, Versus Arthritis
Lauren Bennie	Head of Scotland, Versus Arthritis
Maureen McAllister	Workplace Health Development Manager, Versus Arthritis
Carol A. Williams	NRS Champion Support Manager (Musculoskeletal)
Philip Ackerman	Advanced Practice Physiotherapist, NHS Lothian?
Ailsa Bosworth	Founder, NRAS
Anne Sutherland	Lead Volunteer, The Ehlers-Danlos Support UK
Dr Martin Davison	Consultant - Orthopaedics
Dorothy Grace-Elder	Chronic Pain CPG Secretary
Eddie McGill	
Kathryn Berg	Trial Manager, University of Edinburgh
Laura Neil	AHP Lead, NHS 24
Louise Wilson	Director of Public Health, NHS Orkney
Lesley Rose	
Lorna Neil	Polymyalgia Rheumatica-Giant Cell Arteritis Scotland
Lucy Bramwell	Head of Policy, Public Affairs & Service Influencing, Royal Osteoporosis Society
Richard Cuthbert	
Sue (Guest)	
Dr Maria Tahlia	
Michelle Stevenson	
Deborah Nelson	Osteoporosis Specialist Nurse, Royal Osteoporosis Society

**Apologies:**

Emma Roddick MSP	Stepped down due to appointment to Scottish Government
Rachael Hamilton MSP	
Paul O’Kane MSP	Stepped down due to change in portfolio

**AGM Agenda**

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. Minutes
3. AGM

4. Election of Office Bearers
5. Annual Return
6. Summary and close

## **Agenda item 1**

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Convenor thanked all those attending the Annual General Meeting online and in person to elect office bearers. The main meeting of the CPG will follow the AGM. Apologies to be recorded in the minutes.

## **Agenda item 2**

### **Previous minutes 03/05/24**

Approved

## **Agenda item 3**

### **Annual General Meeting**

#### **1. Election of Office Bearers**

- Convenor: Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
- Deputy Convenor
  - Emma Roddick MSP stepping down due to appointment to Scottish Government.
  - Rachael Hamilton MSP proposed by Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and seconded by Annie Wells MSP
- Secretariat of the Cross Party Group
  - Convener thanked the outstanding contribution of Anne Simpson, stepping down as volunteer Secretariat.
  - Scotland Versus Arthritis proposed as new Secretariat for the Cross Party Group by Pam Duncan Glancy MSP and seconded by Annie Wells MSP.
  - Alan McGinley, Policy & Engagement Manager in Scotland for Versus Arthritis will take on the role of Secretary.

#### **2. Annual Return**

Ahead of the annual report, PD-G noted party representation to be addressed as the CPG is represented by Scottish Labour and Scottish Conservatives. Scottish Lib Dems, Scottish Greens and Scottish National Party to be approached. Update at next meeting.

Annual Return to be shared with members when approved by Convenor.

#### **3. Summary and Close**

Convenor Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP thanked everyone for attending this Annual General Meeting and invited the membership to join the opening the next meeting of the Cross Party Group.

**-END-**

**Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions Cross Party Group  
Ordinary Meeting  
Wednesday 20 September 2023 6.30-8pm: HYBRID**

**Agenda**

1. Convener Opening Remarks
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Matters Arising
5. Member presentations
  - a. Fracture Liaison Service, Royal Osteoporosis Society
  - b. Waiting Well, Scotland Versus Arthritis
6. Facilitated session to set agenda for year ahead
7. Summary of next steps and close

**Agenda item 1**

**Convener Opening Remarks**

- 1.1. Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP welcomed all to the main meeting of the arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions cross party Group (AMC CPG).
- 1.2. Convener thanked previous speakers including Dr Basu and Dr Davison and members of the CPG for continued support.
- 1.3. Convener thanked the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society for all their work to juvenile idiopathic arthritis awareness week in July 2023.
- 1.4. Convener asked members to note the upcoming All of Us Versus Arthritis Parliamentary Reception on 08 November 2023, an event sponsored by Pam Duncan Glancy MSP with Minister Jenni Minto MSP as the keynote speaker.

**Agenda item 2**

**Apologies:**

Stefan Siebert, Margaret-Mary Gordon, Jill Hamilton, Dervill Dockrell, Caron Jenkins, Claire Jacklin, Robin Munro, Louise Fisher, Lesley Rose

**Agenda item 3**

**Minutes of previous meeting**

- 1.5. Lorna Neil requested that all abbreviations and acronyms are given in full for purpose of future meetings. All agreed.
- 1.6. Dr Martin Davison noted incorrect mortality rate in previous minute to be changed from 78% to 7-8%

## Agenda item 4

### Matters arising

- 1.7. Dorothy Grace Elder confirmed Jenni Minto MSP attended Chronic Pain CPG. There was some discussion about lack of funding and patient representation noting the Chronic Pain CPG represents around 800,000 people with various conditions.
- 1.8. Louise Wilson asked that the Minister be chased for a response to the group's long covid question. **ACTION:** DGE to follow up in writing to the Minister

## Agenda item 5

### Member presentations

- 1.9. **Speaker: Lucy Bramwell, ROS re: Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) (slides available on request)**  
PDG thanked ROS for the work on calling for the FLS and asked about how to reduce the fracture burden to increase patient outcomes.
- 1.10. Lucy noted 17,000 on waiting list in NHSGGC for Dexa Scan. 24 month wait was reduced to 32 hour wait. The 12-14 month period after 1<sup>st</sup> fracture being critical time for intervention.
- 1.11. Lucy took a number of questions from the floor including references to importance of FLS to MSK as broken bones can be mistaken for flares.
- 1.12. PDG asked about clear pathways from flare to fracture. Dr Talia noted the DX referral route to get DX scan in response. 29% use that particular route.
- 1.13. Sue (Guest) asked if Vitamin D should be a matter of course for people in Scotland.
- 1.14. Health inequalities raised as an area for discussion. Speakers noted MSK Alliance, prevalence of poverty, private scans being paid for, poverty and sex (female) as markers for underrepresentation and undertreated, interest in the Scot Gov and NHS Board work in the prevention area and although 50% of those over 50s will break a bone, there should be a life course approach for all stages of life. **ACTION:** PDG suggested PQ on why Scotland with almost 50% more fractures than London and South does not have a dataset unlike the other 3 home nations of the UK?
- 1.15. **ACTION:** Motion from PDG as convener and regional MSP to commend achievements of FLS and QEUH referencing the commitment to datasets.
- 1.16. **TO NOTE:** ROS can share results of FLS work with CPG when available.
- 1.17. **TO NOTE:** FOI request made on 07 March 2023 in relation to Dexa Scan waiting times ref: IGTFOLISA12357
- 1.18. Financial circumstances of the project. Has cost £75,000 to roll out. If national, costs wouldn't be much higher. Falls into a gap because it's neither rheumatology or orthopaedics.
- 1.19. **ACTION:** PDG noted that CEO of NHSGGC used to meet Glasgow MSPs every 2 months but this has stopped. PDG to ask why this has ceased and to request a meeting.

- ## Agenda item 6

- 1.27. Members of the CPG were sent question in advance of the meeting. Members were asked: What does arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions mean to you?
- 1.28. 89% of recipients responded with 70 responses submitted in advance of the meeting. The most common response was *Pain* followed by the prominence of *Disability*.
- 1.29. The responses created this work cloud that materialised at the meeting.

- # What does arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions mean to you?

A word cloud visualization of the data from the 'Pain' category. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'pain' being the largest and most central word. Other prominent words include 'disability', 'fracture', 'treatable', 'stiffness', 'frustration', 'joint damage', 'impact on the individual', 'waiting in pain', 'limitations', 'loss of function', 'lack of prioritisation', 'independence', 'long term', 'limitation', 'job loss', 'tired', 'restrictions', 'self-management', 'poor mobility', 'so many of us', 'lack of national strategy', 'exercise', 'inequality', 'loss', 'reduces activity', 'violence', 'depression', 'adverse events', 'complex', 'delays', 'falls', 'huge waits', 'years of waits', 'chronic pain', 'suffering', 'mobility', 'fatigue', 'affirmative treatments', 'retirement', 'adversity', and 'waiting list'.

- 1.31. Next, the CPG members were asked: What is on your agenda? What do you want to discuss at the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions CPG?



- 1.32.
- 1.33. The 3 most prominent responses from the group were: inequity, waiting times and occupational health. Lauren Bennie talked through the live results and framed the collective responses (28 in total) into 5 key areas for the group's consideration and approval.
- 1.34. The five key areas were grouped:
- **Inequality, access to care for all**
  - **Profile, recognition, raising awareness**
  - **Waiting Times**
  - **The NHS workforce**
  - **Employability, work support, workplace, occupational health**
- 1.35. The group was asked to agree to these themes as the basis for the agenda for the coming year. **ACTION:** To approve the themes and sequencing at the next CPG on 24 April 2024.

## Agenda item 7

### Summary of next steps and close

- 1.36. Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP reflected on the discussions and actions created (as will be evident in the minutes) during the meeting and thanked the membership of the CPG online and in person and concluded that the year ahead looked a promising one for the cross party group.