

Cross Party Group on Arthritis and MSK Conditions

Note of meeting held Wednesday 29 May 2024, 6pm-8pm Fleming Room, Scottish Parliament.

Hybrid meeting.

Attending in person:

MSPs:

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP (Convenor)

Emma Roddick MSP

Rachael Hamilton MSP (Vice Convener) (from 19.00)

Non-MSPs:

Lauren Bennie, Versus Arthritis

Alan McGinley, Versus Arthritis

Anne Meikle, Versus Arthritis

Dr Robin Munro, consultant rheumatologist, NHS Lanarkshire, and attending as President of Scottish Society of Rheumatology.

Morag Innes, Case worker and researcher, Convener's office

Attending online:

Caron Jenkins; Maureen McAllister; Lesley Rose; Gary Macfarlane; Martin Davison; Sue Cole; Craig Jones; Lorna Neill; Richard Cuthbert; Stephen Bridgman; Deborah Nelson; Ailsa Bosworth; Phil Ackerman; Sarah Berry; Sade Asker; Eddie McGill

Apologies: Dervil Dockrell, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist; Kathryn Berg; Anne Sutherland; John Paton; Jill Hamilton; Stefan Siebert; Lucy Bramwell; Laura Neil; Carol Williams.

Agenda Item 1

Note of meeting held 20/09/23.

Approved by Lauren Bennie. Seconded by Lorna Neill

Matters Arising:

- a. Correction to minutes. Some correction required to names of attendees – Dr Maria Tahla, Lorna Neill not Neil.
- b. Meeting to agree the list of themes developed by VA following consultation with group members.
- c. Progress of action points from previous meeting–
 - i. Refining question. Not yet submitted.
 - ii. 5.7 Actioned. Available here: <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-12225>
 - iii. 5.11 Actioned. Meetings with CEO of Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board now resumed.

iv. 6.8 Actioned. On this meeting's agenda.

Agenda item 2

Reordering of Agenda for this evening's meeting.

It was proposed by the Convener that this evening's agenda be reordered due to one of the presentations (from British Society of Rheumatology) being withdrawn. This was agreed and the new agenda was as follows –

- Fracture Liaison Service: presentation by Craig Jones, Royal Osteoporosis Society.
- Theme discussion, facilitated by Lauren Bennie, Versus Arthritis
- Scottish Arthroplasty Waiting Well Project: presentation by Stephen Bridgman, Public Health Scotland.
- AOCB and DONM.

Agenda item 3

Presentation by Craig Jones, Royal Osteoporosis Society.

Members raised the following in response to Craig's presentation –

- There has been an increase in inequality of access over recent years with people not getting the treatment they need.
- There is a need to consider the economic and financial element, as more time on fractures means less time on joint replacement etc, with a 'revolving door' of fracture patients.
- There are increasing staffing pressures, and a general lack of strategic forward thinking and planning.
- Osteoporosis services are in crisis in Scotland. There is a clear need for the audit.

ACTION:

Convenor will raise some of the points raised here during the Parliamentary Debate on Health on Tuesday 4 June – Does the Scottish Government still plan to do an audit and if so, what the timescale for that would be?

Members could write to their MSPs asking questions and asking them to support ROS Motion S6M-12225 – using some of the information and asks on presentation slides. Find your MSP here - <https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps>

Agenda item 4

Themes for the Cross-Party Group

Lauren Bennie gave an introduction on previous discussions on the development of key themes for the cross-party group. There was an excellent response to the survey and a desire for the work of the group to be action orientated. The emergent themes were –

- Inequality and Access.
- Raising Awareness.
- Waiting Times.

- NHS Workforce.
- Employability and workplace support.

Convenor asked for a show of hands from group members if in favour of these themes being taken forward by the group. All were in favour and agreed that a series of actions can be attached to each theme. Suggestions included –

- Seeking a call for evidence and bringing in witnesses to the group.
- Timing will be crucial to what we do within our series of meetings and the run up to the Scottish Parliamentary elections.
- There needs to be a key focus on work and keeping people in work. Tools and support for people exist. The challenge to address is getting tools into practice, into employers, into NHS Scotland. Awareness raising required and plan to get best practice into the NHS.
- Short term funding is a problem, and we need to use and invest in what we know.
- Patients' organisations have an important role to play here.
- Parents of children with arthritis need support to work and stay in work.

ACTION

- Consider joint meeting(s) with other cross-party groups to share knowledge, experience, and action.
- Discussion outwith this space may be appropriate to develop some of these ideas. VA can facilitate.
- Consider writing to Parliamentary Committees such as the Economy and Fair Work Committee seeking information on key issues from the group.
- Write up a short paper for each of the agreed themes – describing the issues and opportunities for action. These short papers to be circulated to MSPs and beyond as appropriate.
- Convenor suggested hiring a room after FMQs and / or looking at other possibilities to engage with MSPs in the Parliament to discuss key issues. Could be a special CPG? Drop-in session? Bring along clinicians, parents, people with MSK conditions. A 'meet-and-greet'?

**At this point in the meeting, the convenor had to leave and the chair was given over to vice convenor, Rachael Hamilton MSP.*

Agenda item 5

Presentation by Stephen Bridgman, Scottish Arthroplasty Project Research

The following was raised in response to Stephen's presentation –

- Has there been any evidence to show numbers of people moving to private treatment? So far, this project doesn't show this as it is focussing on those waiting for NHS treatment. However, Stephen agreed to come back to the meeting on the issue if the project showed evidence of where people may be dropping off and seeking private care.

- 50% increase in arthroplasty expected over 10 year period with an ageing population
- Comment re Centre for Sustainable Delivery administratively and clinically validating cases on waiting lists.
- Final point was asked about what would be done with this information once the project had been completed? It is hoped that a series of standards would be set that would enable better practice to ensure that people were getting the care that they needed, when they needed it.
- Monitor progress of project and feedback to future CPG meetings.

Agenda item 6

AOCB – there was no other competent business.

Agenda item 7

DONM - A meeting schedule was agreed for September 2024, January 2025 and March 2025.

ACTION: VA to liaise with convenor's office for best dates.

Meeting closed with thanks from the chair. (19.30)