

Cross-Party Group on Cancer

Monday 18th December 2023, 14:00-14:30, Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams

Minute

Present

MSPs

Miles Briggs MSP (Co-Convener, Chair)

Jackie Baillie MSP (Co-Convener)

Non-MSP Group Members

Lorna Bruce, South East Scotland Cancer Network (SCAN)

David Cameron, University of Edinburgh

Jennifer Cameron, Royal College of Occupational Therapists

Michael Clancy, Law Society of Scotland

Sharon Cowell-Smith, NHS Lothian

Dawn Crosby, Pancreatic Cancer UK

Kate Cunningham, Ochre

Lorraine Dallas, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation

Jen Hardy, Cancer Card

George Guy, ICUsteps

Murdina MacDonald, NHS Fife

Neil MacDonald, Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD)

Kira McDiarmid, Breast Cancer Now

Karen McNee, Action Kidney Cancer

Heather McVicars, NHS Lothian

Ian Pirrie, Cancer Card

Johnstone Shaw, Fight Bladder Cancer UK

Julie Wardrop, CANDU (Dundee Cancer Support Network)

Joe Woollcott, Prostate Cancer UK

Michael Heggie, Cancer Research UK (Secretariat)

Emily Hindmarch, Cancer Research UK (Secretariat)

Apologies

Sue Webber MSP

Sandra Auld, Healthcare Public Affairs

Edwin van Beek, University of Edinburgh

Christine Boylan, Aberdeen Myeloma Support Group

Martin Coombes, Opened Door Ltd

George Davidson, GlaxoSmithKline
Helen Fleming, Individual member
Jennifer Forsyth, Obesity Action Scotland
Doreen Miller, Cruse Scotland Bereavement Support
Mhairi Simpson, NHS Lanarkshire

1. Welcome & Minutes

Chair, Miles Briggs MSP (MB) opened the meeting and welcomed members. MB briefly described the meeting etiquette and the agenda. Minutes for the CPG on Cancer meeting on 25th September 2023 were then approved without any amendments.

2. AGM

MB began by explaining to attendees that the Scottish Parliament's Code of Conduct requires CPGs to hold AGMs and elections of office bearers annually. He added that the three posts to be confirmed are the group's MSP Conveners and the Secretariat.

Michael Heggie, Cancer Research UK, asked for a proposer for Miles Briggs MSP and Jackie Baillie MSP to remain as Co-Conveners, the only nominations. Jen Hardy, Cancer Card, proposed Miles and Jackie are re-elected. Dawn Crosby, Pancreatic Cancer UK, seconded this.

MB then asked for someone to propose Cancer Research UK to remain as Secretariat, which was the only nomination. George Guy, ICUsteps, proposed Cancer Research UK are re-elected as secretariat. Michael Clancy, Law Society of Scotland, seconded this.

MB thanked members and confirmed he and Jackie Baillie MSP would remain Co-Conveners and Cancer Research UK would remain Secretariat to the Cross-Party Group on Cancer. He added that the group's Annual Return Form would be submitted following the meeting.

MB reflected on the CPG's work over the past year. He then noted that work has begun on the CPG's workplan for 2024 and said if members have ideas for topics that the group should focus on at future meetings, they should get in touch with the Secretariat.

3. Look back at the Scottish Cancer Conference

MB thanked everyone on the call that made it along to the Scottish Cancer Conference on 27th November in Glasgow. MB added he and Jackie were delighted at the strong turnout and the wide range of organisations and individuals who attended this year's conference.

He noted that the conference examined what the Scottish Government's new Cancer Strategy promises to deliver over the next ten years. There was a very strong line up of speakers and sessions throughout the day, covering a range of important topics.

MB noted that he was impressed with some of the breakout sessions which he attended. MB also highlighted the personal stories which some of the patient representatives who attended the conference shared, and reflected on the speakers.

MB asked those on the call who attended the event if they could complete the conference evaluation form. He said that the feedback will be important in shaping next year's event. CRUK will also be circulating a post-conference report which will be shared with CPG members.

4. AOB

MB noted he and Jackie had recently sent a joint letter as CPG Co-Conveners to the Scottish Government, in support of an extension of funding for the National Pancreatic and Hepatocellular Cancer Pathway Improvement Project (PHCC PIP), which has been shared with members.

MB handed over to Dawn Crosby (DC) of Pancreatic Cancer UK who updated on the situation on behalf of the Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce (LSCT).

DC noted that one of the highlights over the Scottish Government's previous Cancer Recovery Plan was the awarding of funding to the Scottish Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Network, which was set up to speed up diagnostics for pancreatic and liver cancer. This includes the PHCC PIP.

DC explained that the LSCT are calling for the project, which has shown promising results, to be extended beyond its initial two-year trial. She explained that the pilot has faced governance/infrastructure issues. The LSCT are calling for an extension of funding to enable a full evaluation of the project.

The Secretariat will share the response from the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health, and Social Care to the Co-Conveners letter when it is received.

Julie Wardrop of CANDU updated members on their recent cancer lived experience conference and noted that they will be publishing a report which they will share with the CPG.

5. Close of Meeting

MB noted the next meeting date is still to be confirmed but will take place in March 2024. The secretariat will be in touch with more details on the next meeting agenda and how to register. MB closed the meeting, thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.