

Cross-Party Group on Diabetes

13 December 2022, 6 pm – 7:30 pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Emma Harper MSP
Paul O’Kane MSP
Jackie Baillie MSP

Guests

Dr Brian Kennon- Clinical Lead for Diabetes

Non-MSP Group Members

Lesley Ross
Kenneth Robertson
Alison Templeton
Angela Mitchell
Carol Bodwick
Christine Ritch
David Curry
Esther Rue
Ian Sloan
Isabel Macleod
Jennifer Watson
Jinty Moffett
Margot Watson
Mary Moody
May Millward
Norma Fraser
Paula Collings
Ron McDowall
Jennifer Watson
Mary Moody
May Millward
Norma Fraser
Paula Collings
Ron McDowall
Sheila M
Sheila Reith
Stuart McLaughlan

Sue Hampson
Susan Fletcher

Apologies

No apologies.

Agenda item 1

Daniel John O'Malley, Campaigns and Public Affairs Officer Diabetes Scotland opened the meeting by welcoming all the attendees.

Passed the meeting over to Emma Harper MSP to chair the meeting.

Agenda item 2

Annual General Meeting

Emma Harper MSP nominated Paul O'Kane as Co-Convener.

Jackie Ballie MSP seconded.

Paul O'Kane MSP nominated Emma Harper MSP as Co-Convener.
Jackie Ballie MSP seconded.

Diabetes Scotland nominated as Secretariat.
Confirmed

Agenda item 3

Discussion Topic: The current realities for people living with diabetes in Scotland.
Presentation by Dr Brian Kennon, Clinical Lead for Diabetes

Dr Kennon presented an overview of the current policy and health care landscape and outlined key commitments and workstreams happening to deliver on the commitments and priorities of the Diabetes Improvement Plan.

Open Forum Questions:

Lesley Ross: How to achieve equality from a tech point of view, hard to get access told its too expensive.

Brian Kennon: There are barriers to accessing tech which include funding and staff expertise to help people onboard. The ANIA pathway is looking at solutions to this including a national team who could onboard people onto technology.

Lesley Ross: 4-year waiting list?

Brian Kennon: This is the reason for exploring a national approach to tackle the waiting times.

Kenneth Robertson: Positive picture but challenges are resources, how do we innovate? Diabetes is in a good position to show new models.

Brian Kennon: Dumfries and Galloway have innovated post covid to develop Type 1 Pathway and done work on risk stratification with Sci Diabetes. Debbie Wake leading the charge on AI development. Libre transformational. The national data set shows improvement across the board irrespective of demographics.

Emma Harper MSP: Lung Health CT scan on bus example. If someone fails to attend 2 appointments and is discharged who made this rule?

Brian Kennon: Each Health Board has their own rules. Silo'd in diabetes needs a community outreach approach. Challenge for diabetes is we don't have a metric that Health Boards are accountable for such as cancer waiting time. The preventative approach is a key shift in narrative. Got funding for one bus which is step in right direction.

Emma Harper MSP: Social prescribing is key. Interest in exploring social prescribing. Will bring your points to the health inequalities debate.

Ian Sloan: Move to shift care out to primary care and community. Crisis in GP. In 5 years where will be treated?

Brian Kennon: We'd not be talking about primary or secondary care if I had my way. Break down those barriers – multi-disciplinary teams are key. Let's not over medicalise. We need digital solutions that support people at different points and different care models and risk-stratified care.

Emma Harper MSP: Optometry Scotland is interested in finger prick testing, would you support it?

Brian Kennon: good example in Tayside Pharmacy point of care pilot. Also £250,000 funding for postal HbA1C testing. Optometry could be a valuable resource if the tests are validated and we ensure there are standards re quality of care.

Emma Harper MSP: Cervical cancer screening example drop off in supermarkets.

Alison Templeton: If we move to a different care model does it allow more time to meet with specialist consultants to talk about example mental health?

Brian Kennon: one size fits all is not a solution, let's target needs.

Agenda item 4

Any other competent business

Emma Harper MSP:

- Huge thanks for taking the time to speak to us and great to get Cross-Party re-started.
- Upcoming meetings will be hybrid.
- Future topics:
 - Diabetes tech.
 - Stigma.
 - Maree Todd MSP possibly come along to provide ministerial insights.
 - Suggestions in chat:
 - Podiatry is an issue.
 - Type 2, specifically mental health.
- 21st to the 23rd of March West Lothian Community Group (Diabetes Scotland) hosting an awareness-raising art exhibition in the Scottish Parliament lobby.

Agenda item 5

Date of next meetings: 21st of March 2023 (21/03/2023) Hybrid in Scottish Parliament.

For more details please contact Daniel John O'Malley, Campaigns & Public Affairs Officer, Diabetes Scotland. Daniel.omalley@diabetes.org.uk