

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

<b>Name of Cross-Party Group</b>
<b>Cross-Party Group on Dyslexia</b>
<b>Date Group Established</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
<b>Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
<b>Date Annual Return Submitted</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Date of Preceding AGM</b> [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]
28 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
<b>Group Meetings and Activities</b>
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (via Microsoft teams)</b>  The Cross Party Group held its initial meeting to confirm its key priorities and considered a briefing on the national context relating to dyslexia in Scotland. This focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and recovery plans</li><li>• The implications of the Morgan Review of Additional Support for Learning</li><li>• Adult assessments and affordability.</li></ul>

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (via Microsoft Teams)**

The meeting focused on a range of issues raised by members including concerns regarding teacher training, quality assurance and data gathering. The Group agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills inviting her comments on these issues with an invitation to attend a future meeting of the group.

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 (via Microsoft Teams)**

The focus of the meeting was on adult assessments. The group heard a number of contributions from the perspectives of adult assessors, HE sector dyslexia advisers and adults who had recent experience of the assessment process. Key concerns were expressed regarding the low numbers of appropriately qualified assessors, the lack of specific qualifications in Scotland, the growth of private providers and their qualifications and expertise. Additional concerns were expressed about the complex and challenging assessment processes faced by students in the FE and HE sectors and the resultant negative impacts and outcomes for many young people.

The high cost of obtaining an assessment was noted and was viewed as prohibitive raising the question as to whether this potentially resulted in a form of financial discrimination against those who could not afford to pay for an assessment.

### **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The Group considered the response from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills regarding a number of issues raised by members.

The Group welcomed the detailed response. However, disappointment was expressed that elements of the Minister's response did not adequately consider specific issues including:

- the inconsistent approaches by local authorities in the collection of data from schools and the resulting impacts.
- The issue of teacher training and the confidence of teachers to undertake assessments including reports that in some areas teachers were informing parents that some schools were no longer undertaking assessments and advising parents to seek private assessments.

The Group agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary asking for further clarification and inviting her to a future meeting.

### **MSP Members of The Group**

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

**Oliver Mundell MSP**

**Stuart McMillan MSP**

**Paul Kane MSP**

**Rachel Hamilton MSP**

**Pam Gosal MSP**

### **Non-MSP Members of The Group**

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

<b>Individuals</b>	David Jones, Dr. Julie Ross, Jennie Guise, Dr. Gillian Evans, Dr. Margaret Crombie, Dean Smith, Owen Ferry, Paul McNeil,
<b>Organisations</b>	MIndroom, Dyslexia Scotland, Dyslexia Scotland Adult Network, Call Scotland, University of Edinburgh, Glasgow University, Education Scotland

### **Group Office Bearers**

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

<b>Convener</b>	Oliver Mundell MSP
<b>Deputy Convener</b>	Stuart McMillan MSP
<b>Secretary</b>	David Jones
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Jones
<p><b>Financial Benefits or Other Benefits</b></p> <p>Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.</p>	
<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>	
<p><b>Convener Contact Details</b></p>	
<b>Name</b>	Oliver Mundell MSP
<b>Parliamentary address</b>	Room M3.21 The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
<b>Telephone number</b>	0131 348 5631