

Cross Party Group on Dyslexia

Thursday 11th December 2025 at 6:30pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Oliver Mundell MSP, Stuart McMillain MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Ross Duncan, Lena Gillies, Daisy Rasool, Thomas Evans, Margaret Crombie, Dean Smith, Sharon Hall, Martyn Cosh, Carolan Burnet, Lynne Young, Hilary Aitken, Lucinda Fass, Karen Dickson, Paul McNeill, Lois Lobban, Michelle Luciano

1. Introduction

Mr Mundell welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Business arising from the minute

There were no actions from the previous meeting that did not appear on the agenda.

4. Topic Area One

Mr Mundell introduced this section and passed over to Paul McNeill for an general update, who updated on the recent meeting with the First Minister, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The group was informed that since that meeting, progress has been made across some of agreed areas.

- Adult Assessments – A research proposal has been provided to the Scottish Government on this topic; and we are awaiting feedback.
- Scottish Government Adult Leads – These had now been appointed, and members had joined the call.
- School Dyslexia Guidance – This has been circulate to all schools and would seek to be an annual update.

There were no specific questions raised under this section, and members indicated that they were content with the updates provided and the direction of travel.

5. Topic Area Two

Edinburgh City Council Education and Learning Presentation

The group received a presentation from Hilary Aitken (City of Edinburgh Council) on work undertaken by Edinburgh City Council in partnership with Dyslexia Scotlad and supported through funding from the Sir Sean Connery Foundation.

Hilary outlined a three-year programme focused on supporting young people, particularly those with dyslexia and additional support needs, to improve outcomes through targeted interventions, structured training and enhanced support mechanisms.

The presentation detailed:

- The training provided to teaching and support staff
- The structures put in place to support young people
- Partnership working approaches
- Early indications of positive impact and measurable change within participating schools

Hilary highlighted that the programme had been supported by a range of partners and that her team had maintained consistent training and professional development throughout the period.

A number of questions were posed regarding methodology, evaluation processes and scalability. Hilary responded by outlining the evidence base used, the monitoring arrangements in place and the benchmarking approach being adopted.

There was discussion around whether similar support structures could be implemented across other local authorities. Hilary indicated that the project would provide a strong benchmark of good practice and that lessons learned could inform wider rollout discussions.

Members welcomed the presentation and agreed that the work represented a strong example of good practice that should be considered nationally. The group agreed that this model should be highlighted as part of ongoing discussions with Scottish Government colleagues.

6. Discussion points

The group had a general discussion about some of the areas raised and agreed that they should be followed up via Oliver and Paul.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be arranged prior to the Scottish Parliament elections.