

# **Cross Party Group on Dyslexia**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 6pm

(via Microsoft Teams)

Minute

Present

## **MSPs**

Oliver Mundell MSP, Rachael Hamilton MSP

## **Non-MSP Group Members**

Paul McNeill, Ann Menzies, Adult Network (no name of individual at meeting), Cathy Magee, Dr Julie Ross, Fran Foreman, Gillian Evans, Joanna Karkanevatou, Margaret Crombie, Michelle Luciano, Mrs Brown (no first name), Patricia Hewitt, Paul Nisbet, Ross Duncan, Sharon Mayhall, Thomas McGovern, Lena Gillies

Apologies

Pam Gosal MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP, Paul O'Kane MSP

## **1. Introduction**

Mr Mundell welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their attendance, he thanked the group for all the feedback from the previous meeting.

## **2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were approved.

## **3. Business arising from the minute**

The group discussed the feedback via the questions that had been posed from the last meeting and all agreed that these create a good baseline for the creation of a framework for a plan with some formal recommendations.

## 4. Presentation Thomas McGovern

Thomas provides a presentation on his journey from primary school to becoming a lawyer and the challenges he faced with being dyslexic. Thomas highlighted the challenges he faces at schools and sometimes the lack of the correct support, however, he continued to succeed.

Thomas provided the group with the situation that he found himself in when a judge criticised him for using his phone in court when he explained that he required it to enable him to perform his job. Since that situation Thomas has championed for better WIFI connectivity within the court rooms to enable people that have to use digital devices that ability to do this successfully.

Thomas indicated that it has been a challenge to get the digital technology in the court room that would match what he has via his employers.

The group had a general discussion with a few follow up questions to Thomas about what support the group could provide to help or raise awareness of this situation. Thomas indicated that he was happy to provide any further information or support to the group.

Oliver thanked Thomas has highlighted that these were the challenges still being faced.

## 5. Presentation Paul Nisbit (CALL Scotland)

Paul provides a very in-depth presentation on the role of CALL Scotland and what support it can provide to different organisations. Paul highlighted the different digital approaches that could be taken to help support people with dyslexia.

The presentation was very thought provoking and brought about a lot of discussion from the group about the required next steps linked to what the group had agreed was one of its main objectives to help improve digital support for young people with the education environment.

Paul highlighted that although digital support was very good, if you only provide a young person with a IPad or Laptop without the adequate support and training it was not that helpful. Paul indicated that it would required a more holistic approach to ensure that young people were supported correctly.

The group thanked Paul for all great presentation and Paul said he was more than happy to support the group going forward.

## 6. Discussion points

The group had a general discussion about the two presentations and agreed they brought to life the objectives that had been set at the last meeting in September.

Paul McNeill thanked the group and suggested that if everyone was happy he would pull together a framework for a report to present at the next meeting.

The group agreed to this action and Oliver thanked the group and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year when it arrived.

## 7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place 14<sup>th</sup> March 6pm on TEAMS