

Cross-Party Group on Improving Scotland's Health

Wednesday 6 September, 12:45-13:15, online

Summary

Present

MSPs

Foyso! Choudhury MSP
Emma Harper MSP (Chair)
Brian Whittle MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Jacqueline Cunningham, REHIS
Alan Dalziel, ASH Scotland
Mathis Heydtmann, NHS Scotland
Glenys Jones, Association for Nutrition
Fiona Lockett, Fife Health & Social Care Partnership
Laura Mahon, Alcohol Focus Scotland
Robert McGeachy, Food Standards Scotland
Nicola Paul, ASH Scotland
Jonathan Sher, HPBL
Rebecca Sibbett, Alcohol Focus Scotland
Alexandra Taylor, Alcohol Focus Scotland
Lorraine Tulloch, Obesity Action Scotland

Apologies

Hilda Campbell, COPE Scotland
Emilia Crighton, NHS GGC
Alison Douglas, Alcohol Focus Scotland
Sheila Duffy, ASH Scotland
Carol Emslie, Glasgow Caledonian University
Jennifer Forsyth, Obesity Action Scotland
Andy MagGregor, Scottish Centre for Social Research
Gillian Mackay MSP
Bushra Riaz, Kidney Research

Agenda item 1: Welcome and apologies for absence

Emma Harper MSP (EH) welcomed **Brian Whittle MSP (BW)**, **Foyso Choudhury MSP (FC)**, and other attendees to the meeting. Apologies were noted in the meeting minutes, as above.

Agenda item 2: Declaration of Interests (Standing Item)

EH explained that this agenda point asks members to declare any updates to their original declared interests and to highlight any conflicts of interest specific to the meeting. No one reported any updated or conflicts of interest specific to the meeting.

Agenda item 3: Approval of Wednesday 07/06/23 meeting minutes and any matters arising

EH asked for someone to propose and second approving the minutes. **Brian Whittle MSP** proposed approving the minutes, and **Jacqueline Cunningham** seconded their approval. The group unanimously approved the previous meeting minutes with no amendments. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Agenda item 4: Office bearer elections – Co-conveners and Secretariat

Jonathan Sher (JS) nominated **EH** as co-convener, seconded by **Matthis Heydtmann**. **EH** nominated **FC** as co-convener, seconded by **JS**. **EH** nominated **BW** as co-convener, seconded by **JS**. There were no further nominations.

Laura Mahon (LM), representing Alcohol Focus Scotland, and **Alan Dalziel (AD)**, representing ASH Scotland, agreed that both organisations are happy to continue as the joint secretariat of the CPG. **JS** nominated that they continue, seconded by **EH**.

Agenda item 5: Draft Annual Return

EH spoke briefly about the two CPG meetings held in the last year, voicing thanks to the experts who spoke to the membership. **EH** indicated that this is particularly helpful and informative for MSPs as it helps provide questions for committees and in chamber and provides them with better information for debates. **BW** proposed agreeing on the Draft Annual Return, seconded by **FC**.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Business

EH opened the floor to participants for suggestions around speakers and subjects for upcoming meetings, indicating that members should submit their thoughts to Alcohol Focus Scotland and ASH Scotland.

BW noted three upcoming bills: the Good Food Nation Bill, the Agricultural Bill, and the Land Reform Bill. As the three are intrinsically linked, they could make the basis for topics to consider.

EH agreed. She added that vaping and particularly youth vaping were mentioned in the Programme for Government. **Sheila Duffy, CEO of ASH Scotland**, had spoken to the Lung Health Cross-Party Group on the harms of marketing vapes directly to young people. She suggested that the group would welcome experts' input on upcoming legislation or regulation.

JS noted that although the Programme for Government mentioned improving services and health care from pre-birth into childhood, it did not include pre-conception. He suggested that preparing for healthy pregnancy could be a topic for the CPG to learn more about, exploring what primary prevention could and should mean.

EH thanked everyone for attending the AGM and ended the meeting.

CPG members will be notified of the date of the next meeting by email.

END