Cross-Party Group on Cancer

Tuesday 15th September 2026, 18:00-19:00, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Jackie Baillie MSP (Co-Convener, Chair)
Miles Briggs MSP (Co-Convener, Chair)
Dr Sorcha Hume (Office Bearer)
Jyoti Chand (Secretariat)

1. Welcome

Dr Sorcha Hume (SH) welcomed the group and outlined we will be going through the processes needed to submit an application form to re-establish the Cross-Party Group on Cancer.

2. New Membership

Jyoti Chand (JC) confirmed that the political party representation requirements for the re-establishment of the Cross-Party Group (CPG) had been met, with members from five political parties represented. The current MSP membership comprises one Labour MSP, two Conservative MSPs, three SNP MSPs, two Reform MSPs and one Liberal Democrat MSP, who are:

- Jackie Baillie MSP
- Miles Briggs MSP
- Finlay Carson MSP
- Adam Harley MSP
- Heather Anderson MSP
- Martyn Day MSP
- Colin Beattie MSP
- Jamie Langan MSP
- Helen McDade MSP

JC advised that she had contacted all members of the Cross-Party Group on Cancer from the previous session of Parliament to establish who wished to remain involved. To date, 47 organisational members and 14 individual members have confirmed their intention to continue their membership. JC noted that, should the application to re-

establish the CPG be approved, a final communication would be issued to those members who have not yet responded. This correspondence would confirm that the CPG had been successfully re-established and invite them to rejoin, which may result in additional organisational and individual memberships being secured.

3. Annual Workplan for CPG

JC advised that, as part of the preparations for the potential re-establishment of the CPG, members and interested stakeholders had been invited to suggest topics for future meeting agendas. SH noted that the submissions received also included breakout session proposals submitted for the Scottish Cancer Conference that had not been selected for inclusion in the programme. Jackie Baillie MSP (JB) and Miles Briggs MSP (MB) reviewed the submissions and agreed that the following topics should be prioritised for discussion at future CPG meetings:

- Children and young people
- Brain tumours, diagnostics, genomics and clinical trials (To be scheduled jointly with CPG on Brain Tumours)
- Precision medicine and genomic testing
- Cancer action plan
- Screening and Early Detection

4. Application form for Re-Establishing CPG on Cancer

The attendees reviewed the draft application form, which was approved by JB and MB subject to one minor amendment. JC advised that she would incorporate the agreed correction, attach the workplan, and circulate the finalised application form to JB and MB's offices for approval.

5. Scottish Cancer Conference

JC advised that the Cancer Research UK team had established a lived experience working group comprising of nine Cancer Research UK Campaigns Ambassadors and Patient Involvement members. The group has played an active role in strengthening conference planning, including reviewing breakout sessions, meeting with breakout session leads to provide feedback, co-hosting the welcome and closing sessions, supporting the organisation of the panel discussion, and participating as panel members. JB and MB approved the relevant sections of the programme and welcomed the strong emphasis on patient involvement. They noted that the extensive contribution from people with lived experience was a significant strength of the conference and suggested allocating additional dedicated speaking time for the co-hosts to share their personal experiences and aspirations for the conference.

6. AOB

No additional business.