Cross-Party Group on Deafness

12pm – 12.10pm, Thurs 8th Oct 2026

Minute

Present

MSPs

Colin Beattie MSP
David Smith MSP
Karen Adam MSP
Mark Griffin MSP

Invited guests

N/A

Non-MSP Group Members

Hannah Tweed, the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
Amy White, the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
Jenny Gray, Office Manager for Colin Beattie MSP, Scottish Parliament

Apologies

Cara McKee MSP
Stephen Kerr MSP

Agenda item 1 - welcome, membership, and apologies

The CPG on Deafness met to welcome new and returning MSP members and introduce the work of the CPG on Deafness.

Colin Beattie raised the appointment of office bearers as the first item of business, and asked Mark Griffin to take over as chair.

Colin Beattie was nominated as Convenor by Mark Griffin, seconded by Karen Adam. Colin Beattie accepted and then chaired the remainder of the meeting.

David Smith was nominated as the Vice Convenor by Colin Beattie, seconded by Mark Griffin. David Smith accepted.

Hannah Tweed (the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland) was nominated as the Secretariat by Colin Beattie, seconded by Karen Adam. Hannah Tweed accepted.

All attendees agreed to the confirmed list of office bearers.

Agenda item 2 – inclusion of sensory within SIGN 168 dementia guideline

Colin Beattie introduced previous work of the CPG on Deafness on dementia and sensory care, via a short life working group. Proposed to send a letter of support to the SIGN 168 dementia guideline review committee. Letter recommends that the SIGN 168 guideline should include evidence-based information on when, how and why to perform sensory assessments, to support health and medical professionals to be better informed on the importance of sensory assessments within dementia and post-diagnostic support planning.

Attendees agreed that letter should be sent to Healthcare Improvement Scotland for the attention of the SIGN 168 review committee, from Colin Beattie as convenor of the CPG on Deafness.

Agenda item 3 – future meeting dates for 2026

Attendees discussed future meeting dates and times. Mark Griffin proposed alternating between online daytime and evening meetings to support greater participation. All attendees agreed to this model, with planned quarterly meetings.

Proposed next CPG meeting as a daytime session in early December 2026, following re-registration. Hannah Tweed to circulate suggested dates and times to MSPs, and then to wider membership once MSP availability confirmed. Amy White to book communication support professionals.

Colin Beattie to submit minutes and re-registration paperwork to Clerks within 30 days of meeting, with support from Secretariat.

The meeting ended with thanks to all attendees.

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