

Cross-Party Group on Stroke

Friday 5 December 2025, 1pm – 2pm

Agenda

Agenda item 1: Welcome & Apologies

MSPs present: Roz McCall MSP, deputy convener; Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP

Apologies noted from: Gillian Mackay MSP, Alexander Stewart MSP, Lisa Kidd, Alan Flynn, Rustam Al-Shahi Salman, Linda Campbell, Jackie Hamilton, Amy Mulroue, Frederike van Wijck

Agenda item 2: Review of previous meeting & actions

Previous meeting 1: **Friday 26 September 2025**

Topic: Delivering stroke as a priority

Actions from that meeting:

ACTION 1: For health professionals to sign up to the five asks of the “Delivering stroke as a priority” campaign once a mechanism is confirmed by the six organisations, and to share within their networks.

Deputy convener reported that 171 names have signed up to the campaign. Reiterated the ask to health professionals to sign up and get colleagues to do likewise.

ACTION 2: The deputy convener to contact her party’s health spokesperson, and those from other parties, for clarity on plans to develop and retain the stroke workforce.

Deputy convener has written to all parties and is awaiting responses.

Agenda item 3: Discussion Topic: Review of the Cross-Party Group on Stroke

The deputy convener introduced the meeting’s topic, which was a review of the Cross-Party Group on Stroke (CPG). The meeting was an opportunity for members to give feedback of the workings of the CPG and suggestions for improvement if re-convened in the next Parliament.

John Watson, associate director for the Stroke Association in Scotland, gave opening remarks to provide context to the members.

Key points:

- To be conscious of the volume of CPGs in the Scottish Parliament, how they function, and how they are perceived by MSPs.
- The ability of the CPG to be useful by lobbying, influencing change and raising awareness in Parliament.
- The role of the CPG in bringing people across the stroke community together.
- What topics the CPG selects for discussion and who is invited to join the membership.
- How the topics can result in meaningful actions for the CPG to take.

The deputy convener opened the floor to members to share views.

Members feedback:

- The CPG plays a positive role in linking the membership with politicians.
- Actions and topics have helped bring movement in stroke such as by writing to each health board's accountable individual and bringing challenges to thrombectomy service delivery to the attention of government.
- Providing up-to-date data at each meeting may be helpful for politicians and the membership.
- Family carers of stroke survivors are currently not represented in the membership.
- The CPG may wish to consider consulting stroke survivors harmed by missing out on thrombectomy to further make the case for prioritising roll-out of a 24/7 service, alongside highlighting the positive outcomes and cost savings.
- The CPG membership can use its collective expertise and influence to hold stroke clinicians and/or senior health board managers to account for their part in the lack of progress in stroke service delivery.
- The CPG could help highlight the lack of stroke rehabilitation data collected in the Scottish Stroke Care Audit, which significantly limits data-informed service improvements and stroke rehabilitation research.
- The CPG could help push for Scotland-wide solutions in aspects of stroke services, such as IT systems across the 14 health boards.
- A terms of reference for the CPG may assist individuals and organisations when approached to join the membership.

Agenda item 4: AOB

The deputy convener thanked the membership for their support; the CPG's member MSPs including James Dornan MSP, Alexander Stewart MSP, Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and in particular the CPG convener, Gillian Mackay MSP; and the Stroke Association for being the CPG's secretariat.

The final CPG Stroke meeting, its annual AGM, is to be confirmed.