

Cross-Party Group on WASPI

17 January 2023 at 6pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Katy Clark
Siobhian Brown
Beatrice Wishart
Tess White

Invited guests

N/A

Non-MSP Group Members

Mary Dawson
Sophie Taylor
Catriona Melville
Mary Dickson
Susan McKellar
Lynne Craighead
Hilda
C Houston
L Paterson
Zara Pennington Smith
Anna White
M Eley
W Millar
A Dowling
F Brown
L Carmichael
R Dickson
E Devine Daly
Anne Potter

Apologies

E Cawley
J Baillie
R Leonard

N Bibby
C O'Hara
A Campbell
O Sharp
P Aldous
M Chapman
F Steele
G Newlands
T Arthur

Action Points

AP 2/5 KC confirmed she is still hoping Prem Sika will attend CPG. He is Professor of Accountancy & has past experience of working on WASPI issues mainly relating to compensation for 2019 Labour manifesto. KC may also manage to have Brynn Davis an Actuary & Pensions expert attend a future meeting.

AP 2/6 Meeting with WASPI 2018 Steering group postponed.

AP 3/6 WASPI motion to be refreshed with CPG MSPs working on the rewording together.

AP4/6 Members debate to be discussed by CPG MSP's.

AP7/6 Updated Politician challenge to be circulated for use.

WASPI Groups Update

EDD of WASPI 2018 confirmed Steering Group postponed meeting with CPG. EDD advised Hilary Simpson Chair of WASPI 2018 attended meeting with Labour MPs 17 Jan at Westminster with Angela Madden of Waspi Ltd to discuss Labour manifesto. WASPI 2018 are supporting the rally/demo March 8 at Westminster.

LC of WASPI Ltd confirmed Ltd & 2018 had met with Andrew Gwynne at WM.

WM expressed thanks to Councillor Alison Dowling for delivering WASPI motion to Renfrewshire Council. KC agreed it is important to have as many councils as possible on board.

LC of 2018 confirmed she's keeping busy trying hard to keep up momentum. Had an article in Press & Journal & took part in a Radio Scotland phone in on Pensions. Maintaining contact with trade unions & also mentioned the rally in WM March 8 which importantly is also IWD.

Refresh/Motion Update

SB asked what was in the previous motion & AP offered to forward the wording for info. SB suggested we should contact all councils.

WM confirmed AD is trying to rollout motion across all Labour/CO-OP councils.

LC plans to have a Refresh Group meeting shortly & hopeful RD will be able to organise new campaign video.

MD advised there's to be an IWD event in Glasgow March 8.

MSP/MP Support

KC asked TW if she wanted to contribute but she confirmed she was only attending to listen.

AP mentioned it was disappointing to learn there was no stand available at Scottish Labour conference Edinburgh Feb 17-19. There may be an opportunity to attend as delegate & KC has offered assistance in securing attendance for those interested.

PHSO/APPG

AP mentioned that she had approached her contact at PHSO to check if stage 2 report could be shared with MSPs on CPG but their response was negative, unfortunately, & reiterated to only discuss with own MP.

BW confirmed Christine Jardine raises WASPI/PHSO issues at every opportunity.

PA though unable to attend sent his apologies but wants to be kept informed of all our activities. AP was in receipt of the APPG meeting minutes of Dec 14 & has passed them on for info.

CHALLENGE UPDATE

LP & FB have been working on the Challenge to Politicians to include effect on local economy as suggested by an economist they met with recently. Also including negative effect on "Well Being". May look at the whole of Scotland as an exercise.

FB emphasised her disappointment at the lack of take up in England / Wales.

AD confirmed the motion gained cross party support, other than Tory. She has approached Scottish Sec for Labour/CO-OP party & seems keen on promoting the motion.

AD also expressed her disappointment at the motion/challenge being restricted to Scotland as she has a good rapport with her colleagues across UK but respects the decision.

SB asked why England /Wales not taking part. EDD advised SG want to wait until PHSO result. KC wondered if AD able to move it through Council Network & AD confirmed she could but unable to at this stage because of different strategies across UK. KC & WM asked if AP & EDD able to refer back to SG however EDD stated it was in SG minutes to wait for PHSO result. SB stated how important this could be. EDD said campaign still working with MP's. LC confirmed many are keen to use the challenge & perhaps CPG could write to 2018 SG as it's such a big issue. LP agreed that those she had trained were keen.

AOB

SWC holding IWD Event Holyrood Sat March 4. Names to be registered if interested.

SB asked if motion could be ready for IWD & KC has suggested they should work on it urgently.

KC keen to pursue "Working with Councils"

EDD Suggesting taking part in IWMD & will provide date of event.

RD pointed out there is a Gender Pension Gap Day, details to be provided.

All agreed this was a good meeting.

Thanks to all who attended.

Future meetings will be on Tuesday evening at 6pm.