

# WASPI Scotland CPG

## Minutes of meeting 30 Nov 2022

### Attendees

#### MSPs/Government officials

Katy Clark (Chair)  
Siobhian Brown  
Mary Dickson

#### WASPI/CPG Members

Linda Carmichael  
Wendy Millar  
Frances Brown  
Rosie Dickson  
C O'Hara  
M Eley  
S McKellar (SWC)  
Catriona Melville (Age Scot)  
Joyce Stevenson (CWU)  
Eileen Cawley (Scottish Pensioners Forum)  
Anne Potter (Secretariat)

### Apologies

#### MSPs/MP's

Tom Arthur  
Jackie Baillie  
Ross Greer  
Tess White  
Neil Bibby  
R Leonard  
G Newlands  
Andrew Gwynne  
Peter Aldous

# WASPI

Anne Campbell  
H Smith  
M Dawson  
Christine Houston  
Olive Sharp  
Laura Robertson

NOTE – Several attendees had technical difficulties accessing “Teams” & may not have been able to access fully. Apologies if anyone omitted as names not displayed.

## 1. Welcome Intro & Apologies

Katy C welcomed all to the meeting with apologies to all who were unable to access “Teams”

## 2. Action points.

See attached.

## 3. WASPI Campaign Update.

Wendy Millar of GLDR reported on attendance at Energy Crisis demo along with SPF & group members at OFGEM offices Glasgow, plus also joined others at Holyrood demo. Govanhill Carnival was another successful event with members turning out to highlight the campaign. Wendy thanked Councillor Alison Dowling for her continued support & pleased she was able to join our CPG meeting. (NOTE, Due to technical difficulties this item limited to only those group coordinators who accessed Teams)

## 4. Refresh / Motion Update.

Linda C unable to access Teams at this stage to update refresh group activities. Alison Dowling introduced herself as Deputy Leader of Renfrew Labour Group & works closely with Wendy Millar of GLDR group. She confirmed she has the agreement of the Cooperative Labour party to continue to promote & highlight WASPI Scotland campaign & the ongoing PHSO issue. Renfrew Council have adopted the recent WASPI motion & will be rolling this out across Scotland along with the Challenge documents demonstrating the negative effects the lack of pension revenue has on the local economy. SB agreed it is important to keep the issue in the public domain & suggested

that perhaps SNP & Labour councils could work together & AD will look into this, commenting it could be regarded as part of “Levelling Up” (AP 3/6) RD reminded all that Norman McLeod of Glasgow City Council passed motion. RD also commented on the fact that those born in 1968 will be age 68 when they receive their state pension. SB suggested preparing a Members Debate for May.(AP4/6) Joyce Stevenson of STUC will propose motion with the STUC committee & will report back.(AP5/6) KC thanked those involved & emphasized the importance of keeping the campaign alive.

## 5. MSP/MP SUPPORT.

It was noted Tess White Tory MSP for North East Scotland sent apologies but we are hopeful she will join us at a later date. AP commented its so important to keep the pressure on politicians across the UK to engage with our campaign. SB asked if we can produce list of all supportive MPs & MSPs & asked what can be done to help. (AP6/6) RD keeps in touch with Annie Wells & also agreed all members should be encouraged to contact MPs/MSPs. LC accessed the meeting apologized for delay & confirmed she continues to communicate with Douglas Ross underlining the importance of cross party working. KC is actively preparing package to circulate to MSPs. (AP7/6) AP asked if following on from WM PACAC meeting is there anything CPG can do in support of the issues raised by Ronnie Cowan MP regarding timescales & compensation levels.(AP8/6) COH watched the PACAC meeting & felt the PHSO will not be influenced by anyone, adding there’s lots of evidence to review & its up in the air at the moment. BH said they would be interested in whether or not a payout by Scottish gov to Scottish women would be possible especially for those nearing end of life. SB responded negatively as finances are already stretched. KC stated the Scottish budget takes place Dec 15 & should have more of an insight by then. LC stated that many of us have been involved with these issues for number of years & Scottish compensation covered at CPG. AP recalled the various discussions regarding section 24,26 & 28 which did not go anywhere near satisfying the WASPI campaign ask.

## 6. PHSO/APPG.

KC happy to extend invite to APPG as its important to prepare for PHSO result. AP confirmed APPG had invited WASPI Scotland to attend the next meeting Dec 14 in WM & has asked if it could be viewed on line. RD said she had attended APPG previously & hopes there may be an opportunity for hybrid meetings in future. She also stated she had been involved with 2019 Labour plan regarding possible compensation. WM commented no amount of pressure will influence PHSO & further comments from complainants regarding their provisional views on stage 2 will be requested & it wont be a quick fix.

## 7. Challenge to Politicians.

(NOTE Again due to difficulties LP unable to join) FB gave an update on their papers. They met with Professor Angela O'Hagan & an economist colleague & received some useful feedback. They have suggested ways of developing the challenge linking to well being & Local Authorities & their advice is to focus on the huge impact lack of pension/compensation has on local economy. It was felt that Scottish Gov could assist (AP9/6) & there was a suggestion that if Scottish women were offered a settlement it would put pressure on UK Govt. There's still the feeling it should be rolled out across the UK. AD said we should concentrate on Scotland meantime but look at ways of including elsewhere. FB confirmed councillors as well as MP's & MSP's would be included but still work to be done. RD stated life expectancy is still an issue as is the concentration on those economically inactive. SB added that in her experience Long term sickness is a major factor in those economically inactive.

## 8. AOB.

Next meeting January via zoom, AD wishes to continue as CPG Contributor, KC asked if we can include working with councils on agenda plus allocate time for those who didn't manage to access this meeting. (AP10/6)