

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on  
Disability  
Held on 07 December 2011**

**Present:**

Susan Archibald, *Archibald Foundation*  
Robert Allan, *DG Voice*  
Linda Algie, *Glasgow Disability Alliance*  
Bob Bennet, *Perth and Kinross Action Group*  
Shirley Bradley, *Glasgow Disability Alliance*  
Tressa Burke, *Glasgow Disability Alliance*  
Brenda Cherney, *G.A.P*  
Yuling Cockburn, *Places for People Care and Support*  
Nadia Drennan, *Glasgow Disability Alliance*  
Pam Duncan, *Independent Living in Scotland*  
Gary Dow, *STUC*  
Raine Du Puy, *Perth and Kinross Action Group*  
Margaret Ellis, *Phone Ability*  
Annabelle Ewing, *MSP*  
Kenneth Gibson, *MSP*  
Susan Grasekamp, *SDEF*  
Rebekah Gronowski, *Inclusion Scotland*  
Sheila Hands, *SAIF*  
Nicol Hands  
Alison Hill, *Glasgow Disability Alliance*  
Colin Jardine, *Inclusion Scotland*  
Jacq Kelly, *Leonard Cheshire Disability*  
Sue Kelly  
Catriona Kirkpatrick, *Engender*  
Andrew Kunz  
John McArdle, *Black Triangle*  
William Macrae, *Contact 100*

Frances McGlinchey, *GDA/NLC*  
Graham McGuire, *Stroke Association Scotland*  
Michael McMahon, *MSP*  
Siobhan McMahon, *MSP*  
Paul Miller, *Places for People Care and Support*  
Elizabeth Montgomery-Fox, *Angus Independent Advocacy*  
Rod Murchison  
Shabnum Mustapha, *Amnesty Int Scotland*  
Pauline Nolan, *Inclusion Scotland*  
Bobby Park, *Scottish Accessible Info Forum*  
Colin Paterson, *STUC – DWP*  
Alan Rees, *SATA*  
Marianne Scobie, *Glasgow Disability Alliance*  
Bill Scott, *Inclusion Scotland*  
Margaret Saint Claire  
Kate Sanford, *Quarriers*  
Fiona Sinclair, *Autism Rights*  
Gregor Sinclair  
Frances Tobin, *Quarriers*  
Ann Wardlaw, *STUC, Unison*  
Tom Wightman, *Autism Rights*  
Gail Wilson, *Update, Disability Info Scotland*  
John Wilson *MSP*  
Ann Young, *SEAG*  
Sally Witcher  
Deanne Wardrope, *NLC Employee Disability Forum*

**Apologies**

Katy Green, *Arthritis Care in Scotland*  
Patricia Osborne, *The Brittle Bone Society*  
Catriona McGregor, *Headway*  
John Sutherland, *Leonard Cheshire*

Laura Delaney, *Momentum*  
Jackie Baillie, *MSP*  
Terry Robinson, *SATA*  
Stan Flett, *SATA*  
Faye Keogh, *Turning Point Scotland*  
Valarie Breck, *Visibility*  
Saher Ali, *Action Group*

## 1. Welcome and introductions

Michael welcomed all members and guests to the meeting.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

## 3. Matters arising from previous minutes

The cross party briefing for Westminster politicians will be arranged early in the New Year. This will remain an agenda item.

**Action: Michael McMahon/Kate Sanford**

## 4. Launch of Human Rights Toolkit.

**Bill Scott, Inclusion Scotland**, provided background information as to how the Toolkit came to be.

**Tressa Burke, Glasgow Learning Disability Alliance and board member of Inclusion Scotland** provided the meeting with some information regarding GDA and its membership and also their involvement in the development of the toolkit. Tressa highlighted key points from the toolkit such as definitions of Independent Living, Disability and Rights. It was stressed that action is required to turn rights into reality.

**Sally Witcher and Sue Kelly; writers of the Toolkit.** Sally Witcher provided the meeting with background information about herself and how she came to be involved with the toolkit. Sally briefly took the meeting through the toolkit highlighting the definitions included, the explanations of what rights are, where these started and where they are now and an overview of how these all fit together and where they connect. Sue highlighted that Inclusion Scotland would welcome feedback as this is about continuing to learn and if anyone has any good examples which would be of benefit to others these should be sent on. This is about moving away from the deserving/undeserving debate. It is hoped that the toolkit will provide confidence to people and guidance should their first steps fail.

Michael McMahon thanked all those who had presented. A discussion then followed, the main points of which were:

- Noted it was an excellent document and asked how this would be disseminated, it would be beneficial to send to law clinics etc – is there any scope for legal aid involvement in cases? The document will be available on Inclusion Scotland's website after the launch. It will also be circulated to all MSPs and will be included within e-newsletter which has a current subscription of 1200. Difficulty in getting lawyers

involved due to lack of experience. What would be required are lawyers to do pro-bono work for disabled people's rights. Highlights the need for education and the lack of experience. Important to find other ways forward.

- Successful challenges require competent legal resources.
- Document will be beneficial for carers as well as disabled people.
- Feeling that law is too generic. There are no standards attached to specific groups therefore no enforcement or accountability, feeling of there being very little way forward without taking court action.
- Excellent document although problems of enforcement remain.
- What has been the involvement of the SHRC and are they going to use the document? Drawn on the material available from them although would need to talk to them directly about any endorsement of the toolkit.
- Real value would be Human Rights being embedded in policies, would this not also apply to the Scottish Government – marginalised people cuts to vulnerable people etc
- Any scope for class action – individual weaknesses come together as group to fight for rights?
- There may be cases where people are unaware of other technologies which are available to assist people in living independent lives. It may be beneficial for these to be more accessible.
- Hoped that the toolkit will be accessible to all and should provide carers with good information/guidance.

Thanks to the organisations involved in the development of the toolkit.

Pauline Nolan brought to the meetings attention that there are due to be seminars online from the SHRC – more details can be found at

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/ourwork/crpd/seminar>

Michael thanked all for their attendance and Inclusion Scotland for the presentation of the toolkit. Michael commented that it is important that politicians hear how things are impacting on the lives of people.

#### **4. Any other business**

There was no other business discussed.

#### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 5.30pm until 7.30pm, Committee Room 4