

Minutes of the CPG on Disability

Wednesday 5 February 2020 at 1pm-3pm in The Burns Room TG.40 – CR 1

Scottish Parliament

Attendees: -

MSPs: Jeremy Balfour MSP (convener), Stuart McMillan MSP (deputy convener), Alexander Stewart MSP, Alison Johnstone MSP

MSPs representative: Katie Mackie, (Office of Jeremy Balfour MSP), Angela Dulley (Office of Mary Fee MSP)

Treasurer: Mike Harrison

Secretary: Office of Jeremy Balfour MSP

Other attendees: -

Lynne Glen - Scottish Disability Sport, Neal Herbert – Scottish Disability Sport, Patricia Hewitt – Parent/Carer, Catherine Purves – Carers at West Lothian, Antonella Valbonesi – One Parent Families Scotland, Avril Elliott – Parent, Salena Begley – Family Fund, Tina Yu – Sense Scotland, Paul Cockburn – Freelance, Callum MacDonald – RNIB Scotland, Laura Anderson – Scottish EA, Dan Miekal – RNIB, Iain Templeton – Partners in Advocacy, Robert McGeachy – Camphill Scotland, Denis Robert Shovlin – Scottish Churches Disability Group, Deirdre Henderson – Inclusion Scotland, Catriona Burness – RNIB Scotland, James Adams – RNIB Scotland, Stanley Flett – RNIB, Anne-Marie Barry – Guide Dogs Scotland, Shona Black – Cycling UK, Eileen Clarkson – Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, Shona Cardle GCHC, John Miller – Action Duchenne, Stuart Forbes – City of Edinburgh Council, Councillor Derek Howie – City of Edinburgh Council, Peter Carruthers – South Edinburgh Amenities Group (SEAG), Gillian Sefton – Scottish Motor Sports, Shabaz Khan – Tri Rugby International, John Ballantine – Edinburgh Access Panel, Gavin McLeod – Scottish Disability Sport, Cate Vallis – RNIB Scotland, Peter McGuire Paralympic boccia player, David McArdle – Scottish Football Association, Ammar Ashraf – Cricket Scotland, Anne Marie Fleming – RNIB Scotland, Carol Burt-Wilson – I am me, Stephen Moffat – Scottish Orienteering.

Apologies:-

MSPs: Jackie Baillie MSP

Other Apologies: Seonaid Cooke – Talk Time, Maggie Ellis – EKTG & WSA, Terry Robinson – Describe online, Alison Skillin – Assistance Dogs, Aurora Constantin – Individual, Nada Shawa – Equality & Rights Network, James Orrell – Scouts Scotland, Andrew Ewen – Leonard Cheshire, Margaret Anslow (STUC Disabled Workers' Committee / Unite), Tony Slaven (STUC Disabled Workers' Committee / Unison)

The CPG was led by RNIB Scotland and covered Disability and Sport.

Minutes:

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies, review and approval of minutes from last meeting.

2. Jeremy reported that no reply had been received to the CPG's correspondence with John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. A response is anticipated soon and will be circulated.

3. Two new organisation members of the CPG were approved:

- Guide Dogs Scotland;
- Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.

4. CPG Disability Sport for All section

Jeremy thanked RNIB Scotland for putting together the programme on "Sport for All" and called on Cate Vallis of RNIB Scotland to chair the session.

Speakers/presenters:

Cate Vallis of RNIB Scotland introduced the section and was in the chair throughout the series of brief presentations.

Peter McGuire – Paralympic boccia player

- Peter explained that he first got involved with the ball game of boccia with this brother who has the same condition as he has.
- He emphasised that sport was very important and that many disabled people do not leave their house.
- Boccia has got him out and active instead of staring at four walls. He is a Paralympic boccia player and has a coaching qualification.

- 58% of the GB boccia team come from Scotland.
- The support of the National Lottery has helped to develop boccia clubs.

Gavin MacLeod - Scottish Disability Sport

- Gavin outlined the context of one in five people in Scotland having a disability and the finding that one in seven disabled people would like to take part in sport. However, only 2% of coaches/players are disabled.
- Scottish Disability Sport (SDS) is the governing body for disability sport in Scotland. It is multi-sport with 13 member branches and spanning 37 national governing bodies.
- It takes a person-centred model of inclusion via local branches. They are the foot-soldiers of disability sport. There is not yet full national geographic cover, but the organisation spans an A-V of sports from athletics to volleyball.
- Scottish Disability Sport has held national engagement days with disability charities such as RNIB Scotland and Guide Dogs.
- Gavin referred to the importance of education and training to embed inclusion, for instance in Physical Education (PE) teacher training.
- SDS will hold 22 national events in 2020 building sustainable and meaningful partnerships.

David McArdle – Scottish Football Association

- Sport and football are widely regarded as positive forces with the potential to drive social integration and progress.
- The Scottish FA has been dedicated within the advancement of football opportunities for people living with a disability since 2005 with the employment of a full-time position dedicated to Disability Development.
- The Scottish FA launched its first strategy dedicated to Para-Football in 2012- "Scotland Untied – Scottish Football Disability Future – 2012 – 2017" followed up the initial strategy with the ground-breaking second strategy "PlayAbility...Our Game is the Same 2017-2022" which brought the Para-Football game in Scotland to the mainstream attention and aims to bring the sport to the forefront of Scottish Football.
- Since 2005 the Scottish FA has made huge strides in providing greater opportunities for players living with a disability within Scotland. The numbers participating in Para-Football teams have gone up from 1,000 participants to 7,000 participants with 450

grassroots teams, 14 recognised competitions and 9 games leader organisations whilst 6000 coaches have been educated.

- In 2017 the Scottish FA rebranded to “Para-Football” which is regarded as more positive and empowering terminology from the negative Dis-ability (which comes from Disadvantage of your ability) which goes against the advancement and skill in which the participants can provide.
- The Scottish FA is regarded as a world leader within the development of Para-Football due to its ground-breaking work and visionary projects and is currently a member of the UEFA Disability Experts Group; Due to the level of expertise and the high regard its work has achieved across Europe the Scottish FA has supported and advised a number of European countries on Para-Football.
- The presentation closed with a photo reflecting the emotional impact of sport whether winning or losing.

Ammar Ashraf – Community Engagement Co-ordinator, Cricket Scotland

- Cricket Scotland is intent on raising the profile of disability cricket and now employs a full-time Disability Officer.
- We are in the infancy of growing disability cricket and the success of Para-football is an inspiration.
- Cricket Scotland hopes to appoint a second Disability Officer this year and aspires to have an international cricket team. England has four or five disabled cricket teams.
- Cricket Scotland has worked with RNIB Scotland. It is running disabled cricket for a range of age groups including over-50s.
- Ammar is jealous of the football presentation!

Shabaz Khan – Tri Rugby International

- Shabaz outlined some of the features of vision-impaired rugby. It is based on traditional rugby with element from both the Union and League Codes.
- The main differences between mainstream rugby and VI rugby are that the ball contains small ball bearings, or bells, to make it audible, you do two-hand touch tackles (essentially like touch rugby) and scrums are uncontested.
- Red cap players are touch rugby only and yellow cap players have some level of contact.
- The game is seven a side and can be played indoors and out. The coach is very vocal making a running commentary on where the ball is.
- Shabaz emphasised the social aspect of the sport and the desire to have Scotland disabled team play in the 2020 World Cup.

Scottish Motor Sports

- Scottish Motor Sports runs "Come and Try" events with racing cars at their South Ayrshire base.
- Their motor sport inclusion training focuses on making small reasonable adjustments and is a world first!

Anne Marie Fleming – Education, CYPF & Transitions Lead, RNIB Scotland

- Anne-Marie outlined her background as a PE Teacher and Qualified Teacher of Visual Impairment (QTVI).
- Within Scottish education we have the presumption of mainstreaming. Primary school pupils are entitled to two hours PE per week and secondary school pupils should have two PE lessons per week.
- BUT only 7% of pupils with a disability took part in two hours per week. They also have lack of access to lunch time and after school clubs and often are excluded from school trips.
- Health & Safety is frequently cited as a reason and PE lesson time can get used for other things, such as Physiotherapy, Braille, or mobility. This is due to lack of appropriate training/knowledge of what is needed.
- We have already heard about the benefits of sport. Increased training for undergraduates; improved opportunity for CPD related to disability; support to access post graduate training; and dedicated disability training in PE are urgently needed. RNIB Scotland recently developed PE Inclusion course with partners.
- Anne-Marie called for research on the current position and increased training of teachers at undergraduate level.

Shona Black – Senior Development Officer (All-Ability Cycling), Cycling UK

- Cycling UK has 85,000 members across the UK with 4,500 in Scotland.
- Shona outlined Cycling UK support for active biking and emphasised that there is a range of bikes to suit all types of disability.
- For example, there are tandems that can be used pairing people with visual impairment with a sighted pilot. Cycling UK runs the Vie Velo tandem club in Edinburgh.
- However, barriers to encouraging disabled people to explore cycling options for them include concerns about losing welfare benefits.

Discussion and a Question & Answer session followed. Questions raised included:

- A question on how blind cricket worked. Ammar explained that it depended on the level and category of cricket. There are boundaries. The ball has a bell inside. All bowling is underarm. Cricket Scotland takes a flexible approach to VI cricket based on what blind and partially sighted trainees can do.
- The low participation of disabled people in gym membership was raised along with issues of access, changing facilities, hygiene questions, the absence of hoists in toilets. There were good practice examples but the issue of the perceived cost-effectiveness of making adjustments was also mentioned.
- Concern over losing benefits as a barrier to disabled participation in sport was discussed. The Convenor said that we need to be clear that we are talking about disability benefits.
- Some examples of disabled children being excluded from school outings were given and the negative impacts this had on them including social isolation and weight gain.
- David McArdle encouraged the use of social funds to address the costs issue. Specific funds such as Take a Break and the Independent Living Fund were cited.

Cate Vallis closed the session by asking each speaker for one top ask;

- Shona asked for better infrastructure for cycling;
- Gavin for training and support for PE;
- Peter for help with meeting wheelchair costs;
- Anne-Marie for research into the current situation on disabled pupils and access to sport;
- David for more teacher training on disabled sport;
- and Shabaz for ensuring that teachers had a better understanding of disability.

Proposed actions:

1. On behalf of the CPG, Jeremy will ask the Convenor of the Social Security Committee to take evidence on benefits and disabled participation in sport.
2. Jeremy will also write to John Swinney MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills about the need for research and training raised by Anne-Marie Fleming.

5. AOB

5.1. Deirdre Henderson of Inclusion Scotland gave an update on their commission from the Scottish Government on the reform of adult social care support. They have recruited 50 people from across Scotland to form a policy panel. A core group of 20 members will take part in meetings with the Cabinet Minister five times per annum working on seven workstreams. The Scottish Parliament is also running an Inquiry into Social Care.

5.2. Jeremy will ask the Scottish Parliament Bureau if a fund can be set up to cover the costs of preparing accessible formats of CPG materials.

6. The meeting closed at 2.30pm giving an opportunity to network.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next CPG on Disability is Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 1.30pm via Zoom.

The lead of the meeting will be MACS.