

Cross-Party Group on Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses

Theme of meeting: Sexual health and blood borne virus stigma

Minutes

Thursday 14th September 2017

Committee Room 4, The Scottish Parliament

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Patrick Harvie MSP, Tom Arthur MSP, Maree Todd MSP, Rona Mackay MSP, Nathan Sparling (HIV Scotland), Kelsey Smith (HIV Scotland), Ryan Devlin (Youth Stop AIDS), Anne McLellan (NHS Lanarkshire), Alastair Rose (Sx Scotland), Chris Stothart (NHS Lothian), Petra Wright (Hepatitis C Trust), James Clark (SDF), Hosanna Bankhead (Hwupenyu Project), Nicola Boydell (University of Edinburgh), Karen Lorimer (Glasgow Caledonian University), Jerusalem Barnabas (Waverley Care), Swang Shallangwa (Waverley Care), Joe McGurk (Scottish Parliament/Joan McAlpine MSP), Cathy Crawford (Lothian HIV Patients Forum), Yvonne Kerr (NHS Lothian), Lisa McDaid (University of Glasgow), Leon Wylie (Hepatitis Scotland), Emma Hamilton (SDF), Will Dalgliesh (Lothian HIV Patient Forum), Omolara Plang (Waverley Care)

Apologies: Kezia Dugdale MSP, Monica Lennon MSP, Dr Ingrid Young (University of Edinburgh), Dr Lesley Wallace (Health Protection Scotland), Brandi Lee Lough Dennell (LGBT Youth Scotland), Grant Sugden (Waverley Care), Maruska Greenwood (LGBT Health & Wellbeing), Kay Eadie (Gilead), Jamie Frankis (Glasgow Caledonian University), Katai Kasengele (NHS GGC), Annie Wells MSP, Fiona Hyslop MSP, Shona Robison MSP, Aileen Campbell MSP, Bruce Crawford MSP, Jeane Freeman MSP, Bob Doris MSP, Jackie Baillie MSP.

The meeting was convened by Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP.

2. Introductions and new members

The CPG agreed to approve the *membership* of Karen Lorimer (Glasgow Caledonian University)

3. Minute of the last meeting 21st June 2017

Minutes were agreed and have since been published on the Scottish Parliament website.

4. Matters arising

Nathan Sparling (HIV Scotland) noted that all actions agreed to at the June meeting had been complete:

- Patrick Harvie MSP submitted Parliamentary Questions in relation to resources and measurements for patient involvement, and these have since been answered by SG.
- A letter was sent to the SHBBV Executive Leads on funding for patient forums and what actions are being taken to ensure involvement of people at risk of

HIV in services. A concern was raised that many of the Health Boards had not responded. The letter was sent on 11th August, responses had been received from NHS Fife, NHS GGC, NHS Lothian & NHS Western Isles. A letter would be sent to the Executive Leads to note this concern and remind Executive Leads to response.*

5. Presentations, followed by open discussion

- a. **Hosanna Bankhead, Hwupenyu Project:** *How HIV related stigma is a huge barrier in full recovery for people living with HIV. She raised issues including criminalisation, and testing in GP practices. Hosanna's full speech can be found [here](#).*
- b. **Kelsey Smith, HIV Scotland:** *Understanding and addressing HIV-related stigma in Scotland. Achieving outcome 5 of the SHBBV Framework remains a priority. The HIV Anti-Stigma Consortium was formed to look at increasing actions to do this. The co-produced HIV Anti-Stigma Strategy will build on best practice and create a unified approach to eliminating HIV-related stigma. She further discussed the rigorous process of creating shared ownership and how through focus groups and online consultations, as well as the Consortium meetings themselves, that individuals living with and affected by HIV had been involved to ensure the Strategy meets their needs.*
- c. **Nicola Boydell, Edinburgh University, on behalf of Jamie Frankis, Glasgow Caledonian University:** *Stigma among MSM – Findings from the Social Media, MM and Sexual and Holistic Health Study (SMMASH2). The SMMASH2 study provides data about levels of gay-related stigma amongst MSM in Scotland, from a cross-sectional online survey. Nicola provided a brief overview of the level of perceived gay-related stigma, and that MSM do report some levels of perceived gay related stigma. Over half of MSM perceived they had experienced at least some, and 5-10% experienced a high level of stigma. Slides available on request.*

6. Any other business

- There was a discussion in to attitudes and activities of people using sociosexual applications, and the attitudes of the companies themselves. It was noted that funding for research could be investigated, and the Chair agreed to look in to this beginning with an enquiry through SPICe. It was noted that the Scottish Government fund a Research Manager based at Chalmers.
- The provision of formula milk for mothers living with HIV was raised under AOB. Currently there are two schemes funded by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and NHS Lothian.

7. Action points

- Invite Eric Chen as the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework Research Manager to future meetings of the CPG (NS)

- Send a reminder to Executive Leads regarding funding for patient forums and what actions are being taken to ensure involvement of people at risk of HIV in services.
- Submit Parliamentary Questions surrounding the provision of Formula Milk for mothers living with HIV in Scotland (ACH)
- Ask SPICe to investigate possible funding streams for research in to sociosexual attitudes and activities. (ACH)

8. Future meetings

The next meeting will be held on 6th December 2017 at 1pm in the Sir Alexander Fleming Room (CR3). This meeting will include the AGM, and be chaired by Kezia Dugdale MSP.

**Since the reminder letter was sent, responses were received from NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Tayside, NHS Dumfries & Galloway and NHS Forth Valley.*