Cross-Party Group on Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses  
*Theme of meeting: Eliminating Hepatitis C*  
Draft Minutes  
Wednesday 28\(^{th}\) March 2018  
Committee Room 4, The Scottish Parliament

1. Welcome and apologies  
Present: Patrick Harvie MSP, Tom Arthur MSP, Nathan Sparling (HIV Scotland), Ryan Devlin (Youth Stop AIDS), Anne McLellan (NHS Lanarkshire), Alastair Rose (Sx Scotland), Petra Wright (Hepatitis C Trust), Nicola Boydell (University of Edinburgh), Karen Lorimer (Glasgow Caledonian University), Lisa McDaid (University of Glasgow), Leon Wylie (Hepatitis Scotland), Will Dalgliesh (Lothian HIV Patient Forum), Grant Sugden (Waverley Care), Scott Ferguson (Forth Valley Recovery), John Dillon (University of Dundee), Ann Eriksen (NHS Tayside), Andrew Radley (NHS Tayside), Wendy Mitchell (NHS Forth Valley), Claire Fuller (Waverley Care)  
*This attendees list is incomplete and members of the CPG are invited to email info@hivscotland.com if they were in attendance.*

Apologies: Were noted from Kezia Dugdale MSP and Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

The meeting was convened by Tom Arthur MSP.

2. Minute of the last meeting 20\(^{th}\) February 2017  
Minutes were agreed and have since been published on the Scottish Parliament website.

3. Presentations, followed by open discussion  
   a. Prof John Dillon: Provided the group with statistics about hepatitis C in Scotland, and work that is being done in Tayside to support the micro-elimination of hepatitis C in a health board area. The topic of this presentation was Setting the Scene.  
   b. Scott Ferguson: Scott outlined his personal experience of hepatitis C, including the history of treatment and how stigma impacts on recovery of people living with hepatitis C. He spoke of what it would mean to people affected by hepatitis C to achieve elimination in Scotland.  
   c. Petra Wright: Petra spoke on behalf of Louise Bowman (SDF) about the work that had been undertaken in Fife with regards to peer research.  
   d. Claire Fuller: Claire spoke about Waverley Care’s prison link project that supports people living with hepatitis C in and out of prison to ensure they have a treatment and support plan.  
   e. Andrew Radley: Andrew spoke about NHS Tayside’s pharmacy testing project that increases access to hepatitis C testing through
services which provide opioid replacement therapy and needle exchange services.

f. **Wendy Mitchell:** Wendy from Forth Valley spoke about the Keep Well project that uses a holistic approach to casefind and promote hepatitis C testing and treatment.

4. **Discussion**
   - Tom Arthur MSP noted his upcoming debate on eliminating of hepatitis C and asked those present to send relevant information for circulation among MSPs ahead of the debate. Ann Eriksen noted that NHS Tayside had produced a briefing and would circulate.
   - Leon Wylie (Hepatitis Scotland) made comment that services needed the right infrastructure before working towards elimination. Many do not have the capacity to deal with increase in testing or treatment.