Cross-Party Group on Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses
Theme of Meeting: Access to Sexual Health Services (including testing)

MINUTES for CPG on SHBBV
20 February 2018
Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 6

Cross Party Group on Sexual Health & Blood Borne Viruses
Meeting Minutes – 20th February 2018

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Alastair Rose (SX, Waverley Care), Adrienne Hannah (Scottsih Drug Forum), Cathy Crawford (HIV Scotland volunteer), Eric Chen (Framework Research Manager), Gail Grant (Abbvie), Grant Sugden (Waverley Care), Hosanna Bankhead (Hwupenyu Project), Kezia Dugdale (Member of Scottish Parliament), Karen Lorimer (Glasgow Caledonian University), Patrick Harvie (Member of Scottish Parliament), Nicoletta Policek (HIV Scotland), Sara Allstaff (NHS Tayside), Vaughan Statham (NHS Lothian), Pauline McCough (Chair, Lead Clinicians Sexual Health), Ryan Devlin (Edinburgh Youth Stop AIDS), Anastacia Ryan (THT Scotland), Will Dalgleish (Lothian HIV Patient Forum), Yvonne Kerr (NHS Lothian), Alan Eagleson (THT Scotland), Eugene G. (Patient Forum Member)

Apologies: Aidan Rylatt (Hepatitis C Trust), Aileen Ferguson (National Gender Identity Clinical Network), Alex Cole-Hamilton (Member of Scottish Parliament), Ann Eriksen (SHBBV Executive Lead, NHS Tayside), Anne McLellan (Lead clinician, sexual health, NHS Lanarkshire), Avril Hendry (Edinburgh Napier University), Brandi Lee Lough Dennell (LGBT Youth Scotland), Cara Spence (LGBT Youth), Chris Stothart (NHS Lothian Patient Forum), Christine Bird (Project Officer - SHBBV Managed Care Network NHS Tayside), Clive King (THT Scotland), Dan Murphy (Gilead, Senior Manager, Government Affairs, UK & Ireland), Daniela Brawley (BASHH Scotland), David Liddell (Scottish Drugs Forum), David Whiteley (Edinburgh Napier, School of Health and Social Care), Dina Sidhva (University of Edinburgh), Fiona Rose (Viral hepatitis Clinical Nurse Specialist, NHS Lothian), Frances Neo Johnston (University of Aberdeen), George Palattiyil (University of Edinburgh), Ingrid Young (University of Edinburgh), Jai NicAllen (Scottish Transgender Alliance), Jamie Frankis (Glasgow Caledonian University), Jayne Scotland (National Specialist and Screening Services Directorate), Jim Clark (Hep C Trust), Jonathan Ssentamu (Waverley Care), Julian Heng (Steve Retson Project), Katali Kasengele (HIV Peer Support & Patient Engagement, Manager at Brownlee Centre), Kathleen Grieve (MSD), Kay Eadie (Gilead), Leon Wylie (Hepatitis Scotland), Lesley Wallace (Health Protection Scotland), Lisa McDaid (University of Glasgow), Maggie Gurney (NHS Dumfries and Galloway), Martin Hutcheson (THT Scotland), Maruska Greenwood (LGBT Health and Wellbeing), Mary Stewart (Scottish Government), Matthew Straw (Positive Help), Michael Verlander (HIV Scotland volunteer), Nadine Stott (SCOT-PEP), Nicky Coia (Sandyford Steve Retson Project), Nicola Boydell (University of Edinburgh), Nicola Plunkett (Head of Ill Health and Disability Benefits Unit, Social Security Policy), Nil Banerjee (NHS Fife), Paul Flowers (Glasgow Caladonian University), Paul Surgenor (Pagoda Porter Novelli), Paula McCabe (THT...
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Scotland), Petra Wright (The Hepatitis C Trust), Rachel Barr (NHS Lothian), Rachel Smith (Waverley Care), Ruth Lewis (MRC/CSO Social & Public Health Science Unit), Sophie Bridger (Stonewall Scotland), Swang Shallangwa (Waverley Care), Tom Arthur (Member of Scottish Parliament), Urte Macikene (The Hepatitis C Trust), William Ferrie (Steve Retson Project), Zoe Kelly (NHS Ayrshire and Arran).

2. Welcome

MSP Kezia Dugdale welcomes everyone to the sexual health and blood borne viruses’ cross-party group meeting.

3. Benchmarks for Access

Presentation by Dr Pauline McGough (attached) – Benchmarks for access to sexual health services.

4. Barriers to Access

Presentation by Dr Karen Lorimer (attached) – Barriers to sexual health service use: Socio-cultural explanations.

5. Open Discussion

Grant Sugden (Waverley Care) asks, ‘how can we extend the conversation to a broader audience with regards to health inequality?’ Adrienne Hannah (Scottish Drug Forum) adds that people who inject drugs (PWID) and homeless people are experiencing difficulties in preventing SHBBVs as well. Dr Pauline McGough (Lead Clinicians Sexual Health) responds that these groups may not have the right language to ask for help or even be aware there is an issue. She adds that the lack of funding and complacency is a big issues, as seen in Glasgow and the closure of a large needle exchange site. There needs to be a broader representation to address these issues. Karen Lorimer (Glasgow Caledonian University) adds that technologies can help with involvement opportunities for at-risk populations, although there are challenges.

Sara Allstaff (NHS Tayside) shares that the NATSAL survey (National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyle) does not provide statistically significant figures that are specific to Scotland. Further, MSP Kezia Dugdale reflects on what the measurements and indicators are and whether these targets are the right targets for Scotland? Dr Pauline McGough responds that measuring ‘access’ is crucial and developing targets based on access should be a priority to ensure a strategic response to HIV. Dr Pauline McGough continues by
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stating that a refresh may be needed to redevelop measurements, benchmarks, targets, and indicators. Dr Karen Lorimer recommends the ‘Research Excellence Framework’ as a starting point for a refresh. An area where more research is needed is how to measure stigma.

Anastacia Ryan (THT Scotland) asks, ‘how do we implement community-based programmes to address HIV in vulnerable populations and whether there are any solutions that address access in these group?’ Anastacia Ryan adds that there is significant international evidence that demonstrate that community-based interventions are critical to reach hard-to-reach populations and have proven to measurably reduce HIV in key populations.

Anastacia Ryan highlights that there is a lack of focus on criminalisation of HIV and how motherhood can be affected by HIV, sex work, or drug use, and the possibility of social service interventions which may potentially disrupt family life.

6. **Good Practice in Collaboration**

Presentation by Vaughn Statham and Alistair Rose (attached) – ROAM SX Hub Partnerships.

Grant Sugden (Waverley Care) explains that SX is training volunteers to have conversations with other peers to help inform positive sexual health messages in the community. Anastacia Ryan sees similarities with the Checkpoint initiative in Greece which targets the MSM and other key populations and asks whether Waverley Care is planning to extend their programming out to other key populations. Grant Sugden responds that it is a possibility.

7. **Action Points and Close**

MSP Kezia Dugdale reminds the group that there will be a summer inquiry into transgender health.

**Actions:**

- MSP Kezia Dugdale to convene as small working group to discuss parliamentary questions regarding access to sexual health.