

Cross-Party Group on Changing Places Toilets

2nd of March 2022 | 6pm to 7:30pm

Present

MSPs

Paul O’Kane MSP
Elena Witham MSP

Invited guests

Lorna Fillingham

Non-MSP Group Members

Angela Dulley (Secretary), John Long, Diana Winfield (Inclusion Shetland), Jackie, Jenny Miller (PAMIS), Fiona Souter (PAMIS), Cara Devaney, Dave Paterson, Gary McLean, Rachel Boyd, Laura Rutherford, Libby Herbert (Colostomy UK), Lois Speed, May Wiseman, Alex Thorburn, Paul Hoenigmann (Inclusive Play), Sarah Heward, Cameron Smith (SCLD), Fiona MacLeod-Chiarini, Dr Gerald Melvin, Dr Caroline Gould, Alex Wilson (Inclusion Scotland), Amanda Foster, Jan MacLugash, Jan Kerr, Arron Ashton (Scottish Government), Claire D’All (Euan’s Guide), Andrew Smith, Linda Riley, Kim Kemp (HD Scotland), Morven Brooks (Disability Scotland), Alex Thorburn, Martin Robertson.

Apologies

Jeremy Balfour MSP, Jackie Baillie MSP, Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP, Kate Lock Capability Scotland, Kerry McPhee, Jill Clark, Patricia Ferguson

Welcome

Paul O’Kane welcomed the group and explained that himself and Elena Witham MSP would be leaving for ten minutes as decision time had been put back to 6:10pm. Paul asked Angela Dulley, in her role as Secretary, to explain our first inaugural meeting for Changing Places Toilets and what the MSP’s had discussed as a way forward for the Group.

Angela explained that to date, the number of Changing Places toilets in Scotland is 246, which for a small country, is a vast improvement from the time she was in search for them pre 2017. Angela's late son Finn had a rare form of muscular dystrophy, which led her to campaigning locally.

Jeremy Balfour MSP and retired MSP Mary Fee worked on an amendment in the Planning Scotland Act (2019), which was accepted by the Scottish Government. This meant large buildings such as stadia and shopping malls must include a changing places toilet.

This left with the issue of how we improve facilities in existing buildings, smaller buildings, community groups and local authorities.

Angela went on to explain that in March 2021, an Intern from Inclusion Scotland, Gary McLean and herself delivered a presentation that they had both worked on, to Kevin Stewart MSP. At the time Mr Stewart was Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning and a very vocal supporter of Changing Places toilets.

They asked for a fund that local authorities, small business, and community groups could apply to. This costed out by SPICe, a group who work independently in the Scottish Parliament, who advised that the fund would need £9.8 million pounds, over five years.

Angela further stated that Mr Stewart asked for the presentation and informed them that he would speak with someone. Two weeks later the presentation fund was included in the SNP's election manifesto and also the manifesto of Scottish Labour. With the SNP in Government, this fund became part of the Programme for Government.

At the presentation, the last piece of advice Kevin Stewart gave was to start a Cross Party Group.

Angela explained that the group belongs to all of us, as Changing Places users, as parent carers, the lived experience is the most valuable information we can share. We are wanting everyone to feel involved and to be involved as much as possible - to ask questions. to participate.

Angela went on to explain there would be two guest speakers – Campaigner in England, Lorna Fillingham and Fiona Souter of PAMIS.

Guest Speakers

Guest speaker, Lorna Fillingham explained her work as a campaigner in England, and her part in Rishi Sunak MP awarding a £30 million pound fund to England when he became Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lorna spoke of the campaign she led over seven years and a highlight of this being the delivery of her petition to Downing Street with Paralympic wheelchair racer, Anne Wafula Strike MBE. With her background in nursing, Lorna knew that physically lifting and back care were

essential to be highlighted for parent/carers and teachers and occupational therapists, lifting this would be a Health and Safety issue too.

As a nurse, Lorna recognised that lying children and adults on a disabled toilet floor would be against infection control policies. Her 700 paged petition brought testimonies of hundreds of voices and experiences to Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister of State for Health and Rishi Sunak MP who was Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government at the time.

Lorna highlighted to both MP's that disabled children and adults were having to lie in bodily fluids or having to lie in someone else's bodily fluids just to have their basic care needs met. Families told her of adults having unnecessary surgeries because of the lack of CPT's. Social isolation was a common denominator. Not only social occasions were mentioned but being able to visit loved ones in hospital and saying goodbye to a family member at a funeral were given as testimony.

Lorna gave the example of 1,700 Changing Places Toilets are available over the whole of the United Kingdom and yet, Wembley Football stadium, just one building contains 2,500 toilets.

Lorna pointed out that she has visited Scotland in the past on holiday but now her daughter is that bit older and taller she would be put off travelling here as Scotland's statistics prove that there are only 3 train stations, 2 motorway service stations, four airports and 3 ferry ports that would be able to equip her daughter's needs. Lorna asked VisitScotland to put the investment into Scotland and boost Scotland's tourism.

Angela introduced Fiona Souter, PAMIS. Fiona is Information and Inclusive Communities director.

In Scotland, PAMIS are the consortium chair on all things Changing Places. Fiona gave a presentation on PAMIS and them founding the Changing Places campaign with Jenny Whinnett, family carer and campaigner. Jenny struggled with the size of accessible toilets with her late son, Craig's buggy and her only alternative was to attempt changing Craig at the back of her vehicle. Jenny discovered that, through the special interest group at PAMIS, other families were in the same position.

With the support of the previous CEO and Founder of PAMIS, Loretto Lambe, the group worked on layout and design of what a Changing Places toilet should look like. This was shared with Mencap, Nottingham City Council and the Scottish Government. In 2003, PAMIS created and shared a video of families and Craig agreed to be filmed on the toilet floor. Loretto Lambe and the lead physio were heard on the voiceover explaining the risk of wrong positioning and handling. The completed video was successful in driving the message. Sadly, Craig has since passed away, but his family would like his legacy to be the continuation of this essential work. Fiona shared a photograph of Craig accepting an award at the

launch of the Changing Places Toilet Campaign at the Tate London in 2006. Craig accepted this on behalf of PAMIS and the University of Dundee.

The Key Life Strategy was launched 2013 and the strategy made 52 recommendations and one of them being that Scotland had 100 Changing Places Toilets by 2015. PAMIS and Disability Equality Scotland were delighted to announce that this challenge was reached on the 9th of December 2014 – seven months ahead of schedule and the 100th CPT opened in Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh.

Fiona mentioned the Changing Places Toilets Consortium are a group of organisations working to support the rights of disabled people who need these essential toilets.

PAMIS co-chair this group alongside Muscular Dystrophy UK and are a key partner with the Centre for Accessible Environments. Their work includes supporting standards (BS8300), they are an enquiry service, provide staff training for venues. They provide design, management and technical advice, equipment advice; official registration status for CPT's. They also provide international advice, trademark of logo, supporting campaigners and families; provide research and data gathering. There is a website for the Consortium and a toilet map. Fiona admits they would like to have the map as an app and that is something they plan in the future as it is a pilot at this stage.

Fiona spoke of the Summary of Survey findings and highlighted that not always are large cities an ask of the users. They would like to see the following list being considered – Country Parks; open spaces; gardens; playparks; Seaside resorts; rural communities and islands; transport hubs and connections – an example of Tyndrum and Oban were mentioned with two members of the CPG from Tyndrum acknowledging this.

The Scottish provision of CT's in 2018 was less than 200. After a public consultation in February 2019 over 1,000 responses were received and Fiona commented that this was the most responses that the Building Standards division had received.

Fiona acknowledged that Jeremy Balfour MSP and former MSP, Mary Fee were instrumental in pushing through the amendment to the Planning Scotland Act (2019) and that this has been a huge impact on new public buildings. Fiona also acknowledged Lorna Fillingham's work being instrumental to the change in Social Care in England and to acknowledge the work of Zack Kerr with motorway service stations.

Fiona asked if Angela could share the website when the minutes of the meeting are made available.

Questions to the speakers

In a question to Lorna Fillingham about the £30 million fund being granted in England, Dr Gerald Melvin asked “As a parent and Business Strategy lecturer, I am interested in finding out what was the convincing argument that the fund was granted? Was it a business case or a humanitarian case? Was it the associated physical pain of lifting for parent/carer’s lifting that won the argument?”

Lorna Fillingham replied that, in her opinion, the testimonies on her petition overwhelming won the argument that they could not ignore the parent/carer. What pushed them was the “places that said no” to installing a Changing Places Toilet. Their argument not to install was, unless the building regulations made them do it, then they did not need too.

Lorna Fillingham also acknowledged that NHS England told her they had ‘made reasonable adjustments’ but Lorna gave evidence to them that they had not.

Jenny Miller, CEO of PAMIS, commented that the power of family testimonies and their meetings with Kevin Stewart MSP. Jenny also mentioned the value of the Purple Pound and gave an example of Dumfries having CPT’s lifts the economic argument.

Lorna Fillingham spoke of living near two seaside resorts in Yorkshire – Whitby, who has a CPT well outside of Whitby and Bridlington who have five CPT’s within the area. Bridlington and its local businesses gain so many visits by families with disability, simply because they encourage accessibility.

Davie Gallant mentioned that he is in attendance within the Group in his capacity of representing the Disability Focus Group for Highland Council Tenants. He spoke of the length of time that appointments, predominately hospital appointments, can take and no accessible toilets to aid; potentially a 240 miles round trip can take 6 hours in a car and 8 hours in public transport. He asks if the Highlands and Islands can be considered with the fund.

Davie Gallant highlighted that Changing Places toilets that he is aware of – Thorne House day care centre and North Highland College are included on PAMIS’s map, but they don’t state the opening times of these establishments; that the restricted hours are not mentioned.

Fiona Souter from PAMIS took these comments on board. Fiona acknowledged that there are huge gaps like this and will update the map with inclusion of opening hours. Fiona asked the Group if they know of any CPT’s that are not registered this can be flagged up.

Davie Gallant commented that the distance from Harris and Lewis to attend a hospital appointment in Glasgow and that finding hotel accommodation that is accessible is hard to find.

Martin Robertson asked PAMIS if the CPT's are designed to be "dementia friendly"? Martin was involved in "A Public Inconvenience" project where he shared his experience of public toilets as a person with dementia. He highlighted the issues of mirrors which can be distressing and confusing for people with dementia as well as bright lights, reflective surfaces and unclear signs. Jenny from PAMIS replied that with Martin's research PAMIS want to address with the practical guide.

Claire D'All from Euan's Guide mentioned in the comments box that Euan's Guide have an App that gives details of all CPT's in Scotland.

Jackie Maceira commented that a brand-new health centre in Clydebank does not have a CPT but has several accessible toilets. He asked if they could have considered putting two accessible toilets together and built of CPT?

Jan MacLugash commented that her local leisure centre have a changing room that her daughter can access in her power wheelchair but the local authority have included a baby changing table in this room and now there is huge queues that they have to join.

John Long commented that the "Lack of Access" panel in Inverness is reforming and are looking for people to join.

Jenny Miller suggested having Susan Grant, Principal Architect for NHS Scotland Health Facilities Scotland healthcare design as a speaker.

Lois Speed asked as a Group, can we ask for more clarity about the funding and timescales of the fund. Will the CPG be able to take part in the rollout and identify the biggest gaps, geographically?

Martin Robertson asked if Angela could share the link for "A Public Inconvenience" with the letters to Ministers? Angela agreed to speak with him regarding this.

Diana Winfield asked if we could link in with Local government policies. In her area new housing schemes and small towns are being encouraged but accessibility needs to be considered.

Paul O'Kane replied that planning policy has to be considered and he spoke of "The 20-minute neighbourhood" - about 'living locally, giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with safe cycling and local transport options.

Morven Brooks from Disability Equality Scotland suggests that the meetings move from Microsoft Teams to Zoom to prevent this evening's glitches. Paul put forward and the consensus agreed.

Jenny Miller mentioned in the comments box that Aaron Ashton from the Scottish Government was online, and Paul invited him to speak. Aaron explained he was attending the meeting as an observer.

AOB

Paul thanked the Group for attending and stated moving forward we would swap from Microsoft Teams to Zoom as we had experienced glitches. The Group agreed that staying online is the way forward allowing everyone to attend.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 1st of June 2022 at 6pm

Actions

- Angela Dulley to invite ministers - Christine McKelvie MSP, Tom Arthur MSP and Humza Yousaf MSP.
- Angela Dulley to give presentation of the findings of Freedom of Information sent to 32 local authorities.
- Angela to share the PAMIS website link with the Agenda
- Angela to invite members to join Agenda working subgroup
- Angela to invite COSLA to participate once election is completed.
- Angela to invite Transport for Scotland for future meeting
- Angela to share "A Public Inconvenience"
- Angela to look into inviting Susan Grant, Principal Architect for NHS Scotland

Paul thanked the Group and closed the meeting 7:24pm