Cross-Party Group on MS

08/03/22; 13:00-14:15

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Donald Cameron (Co-Convener, Chairing meeting)
David Torrance (Co-Convener)
Liam McArthur (CPG Member)
Beatrice Wishart (CPG Member)

Invited guests

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
Sam Barge (Office of Jeremy Balfour)
Stephanie Millar (Citizens Advice Scotland)
David Scott (Citizens Advice Scotland)
Andrew Jones (Citizens Advice Scotland, Speaker)
Dr Elaine Coulter (Glasgow Caledonian University, Speaker)
David Trotter (Speaker)

Non-MSP Group Members

Mark Bevan (Leuchie House)
Kevin Dillon (Revive MS Support)
Suz Elvey (MS Society Scotland)
Dr David Hunt (NHS Lothian)
Dr Judith MacSween (NHS Lothian)
Thomas Mulvey (MS Society Scotland)
Stephen O'Keane (MS Society Scotland)
Keith Park (MS Society Scotland)
Graeme Rose (Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK)
Morna Simpkin (MS Society Scotland)
Alan Stevens (Revive MS Support)
Phil Sully (Coloplast UK)
Donna (surname and organisation not recorded)

Apologies

Carol Mochan MSP (CPG Member)
Jeremy Balfour MSP (Invited guest, Non-group member)

Agenda item 1

Welcome from Convener

Minutes from previous meeting proposed and accepted by group

Agenda item 2

Introduction

Convener noted topic of Social Security, Mobility and MS. Secretariat noted work undertaken by MS Society on this topic so far.

Agenda item 3

Speakers Section

The CPG heard from:

Dr Elaine Coulter, a Lecturer in Physiotherapy at Glasgow Caledonian University. Andrew Jones, an experienced social security adviser from the Citizens Advice Scotland network.

David Trotter, a person living with MS with experience of navigating the social security system.

Agenda item 4

Action Plan

Secretariat outlined proposal for CPG to research, write and publish report on impact of mobility criteria on MS community and what the community want to see in future Social Security eligibility criteria. Action proposed by convener and agreed by group.

Members of group offered comments on contribution from speakers.

Agenda item 5

AOB

Co-Convener David Torrance MSP updated the group on the progress of his Members Business Motion on MS Awareness Week 2022.

Co-Convener David Torrance MSP updated group on progress of MS Society Petition PE1854, currently before the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee.