

Minutes of Cross Party Group on Chronic Pain
Wednesday 12 March 2003 at 12.30
Quakers Rooms, 7 Victoria Terrace,Edinburgh

Attendance:-

Dorothy-Grace Elder,MSP (**Convenor**)

Gordon Anderson

John Thomson

Gerry Lafferty

Helen McDade

Cross Party Group on ME
MSP

Mary Mulligan

Yvonne McEwan

Derek Jones

QMUC\Pain Concern

Denis Martin,

Janette Barrie

NHS Lanarkshire

Bill Macrae

Ninewells Hospital,Dundee

John Asbury

Western Infirmary, Glasgow

David Falconer

Pain Association

Liz Macleod

Physiotherapy Pain Association

Colin Shearer

Backcare

Mary Scanlon

MSP

Mary Mulligan

Deputy Health Minister

Joe Logan

Scottish Executive

Michael Cornbleet

Scottish Executive

Apologies:-

Nora Radcliffe

MSP

Evelyn McKechnie

Blair Smith

John Currie

Susan Aikenhead

John McAllion

MSP

Nora Radcliffe

MSP

Susan Preston

Rosemary Showell

Michael Walton

Paulo Quadras

Christina McDonald

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1. Dorothy-Grace Elder opened the meeting welcoming everyone and introduced the Deputy Health Minister Mary Mulligan, MSP. The Deputy Minister had to leave at 1p.m and it was agreed to allow her to address the meeting first and then respond to questions.

2. Discussion ensued on the issues raised after the Minister left. It was agreed that all members would undertake to write to Joe Logan with their views and comments on the inquiry being conducted by Professor McEwan. Details of contact details would be circulated urgently to all members

Action: Gordon Anderson

A summary of action points would be circulated to all members.

Action :Gordon Anderson

3. Minutes of cross party group on chronic pain 20 June 2002
Proposed and seconded as an accurate record

2. Minutes of joint meeting with cross party group on Palliative Care 13 November 2002
Proposed and seconded as an accurate record

3. Notes of meetings with Deputy Health Minister
- a) June 2002 Pain Concern
 - b) 14 October 2002 representatives from Cross Party Group

These were noted for information

4. Correspondence from Dr Blair Smith to Malcolm Chisholm
This was noted for information

5. Correspondence from Malcolm Chisholm to Convenor of Health and Community Care committee.
This was noted for information

6. Report by Gordon Anderson-Implications of the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament
This was noted for information.
After discussion it was agreed that three newly elected MSP's would be approached after 1 May 2003 in order to re-register the cross party group.

Action:- All cross party group members

It was agreed to circulate contact details to those in attendance for subsequent contact between members during the dissolution of parliament until the group was formally re-registered in the next parliament.

Action: Gordon Anderson

7. Written answer S1W-33950

Since February 2002 in total 994,015 hits have been recorded on the parliament's interactive forum web pages.

In total 9,972 people have visited the Scottish Parliament interactive discussion forum since February 2002. In terms of individual forum, this total breaks down as follows.

Aberdeen Forums: 628 (6.3%)
Children's Hospice: 235 (2.37%)
Democracy Online: 920 (9.23%)
Europe: 245 (2.46%)
International Women's Day: 898 (9%)
Hamish Henderson: 631 (6.33%)
Scottish Education: 827 (8.29%)
Post Office: 536 (5.37%)
Future of Europe: 347 (3.48%)
Middle East: 853 (8.55%)
Chronic Pain: 3,327 (33.36%)
Value Nurses: 635 (6.37%)

8. Any other competent business.

Mary Scanlon expressed a vote of thanks to Dorothy-Grace Elder which was warmly received and reciprocated.

Bill Macrae expressed appreciation of Gordon Anderson and enquired if he intended to remain on the cross party group.

Gordon Anderson explained that he had not given any recent thought on future workings with the group as this would depend on his future employment situation.

The meeting ended at 2.10pm