

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Disability Held on 16 September 2009**

### **Present:**

Michael McMahon MSP  
Kate Sanford, Quarriers  
Ryan McQuigg, Leonard Cheshire Disability  
Mark Cooper, Capability Scotland  
Susie Fitton, Capability Scotland  
Katy Green, Arthritis Care  
Chris White, SAMH  
Alan Rees, SATA  
John Sutherland, Leonard Cheshire Disability  
Ken Sanderson, CCNUK  
Kate Higgins, FSDC  
Alan Imlah, British Psychological Society  
Lyn Galmiche, PA  
Patricia Osbourne, Brittle Bone Society  
Susan Archibald, Archibald Foundation  
Joyce Burns, PAMIS

### **Apologies:**

Derek Kelter	Lesley Carcary
Faye Keogh	John Womersley
Maureen McAllister	Maggie Ellis
Robert Mooney	Hugh Farrell
Judy Panton	Lynne Veitch
Morag Cassidy	Liz Rowlett
Jackie Baillie MSP	

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Michael McMahon welcomed members to the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

Socio-economic duty: after consultation, the Scottish Government has now agreed to include this in the Equality Bill as it applies in Scotland.

Shaping the Future of Care:

- Michael McMahon has written to Jim Murphy MP, but no response received yet.
- The Scottish Government response to the consultation has been circulated to CPG members.
- The Personal Care At Home Bill has been introduced in the UK Parliament.

### 3. Accessibility

**Barred! Campaign: Mark Cooper and Susie Fitton from Capability Scotland** gave a presentation on the Barred! Campaign. This was started in February after Mark went to a pub in Edinburgh with friends. The premises had a flat entrance and he presumed that there would be a wheelchair-accessible toilet but this was not the case, and he had to leave the pub to find a toilet in another pub. This then prompted him to ask Edinburgh City Council to carry out an access audit of pubs in the city.

The aims of the campaign are:

- To improve information about accessible facilities so that disabled people can make informed decisions about where to go.
- To amend the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill, to create a requirement on licensees to produce an access statement in compliance with Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act, whenever applications are made for a new or renewed licence.
- To improve accessibility to pubs and clubs for disabled people, where this is possible.

The campaign's Facebook group now has over 1000 members worldwide and a wide range of cross-party support has been received from MSPs, including those who have signed George Foulkes' motion, which will be debated in the Scottish Parliament this evening.

A working group is being established to work with licensing boards to improve access, by developing a list of accessibility features which can be used to determine what adjustments are reasonable and achievable.

There is an economic case for improved accessibility, as organisers of events which include disabled people will not use venues if clear information on accessibility is not available.

The CPG was asked to consider supporting the Barred! Campaign by:

- Joining the working group on pub access
- Lobby MSPs to support the amendment to the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill.
- Encourage supporters to join the Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/group](http://www.facebook.com/group)

Further information from [mark.cooper@capability-scotland.org.uk](mailto:mark.cooper@capability-scotland.org.uk)

**Changing Places Campaign: Joyce Burns from PAMIS** gave an update on progress of the Changing Place Campaign. This issue was raised more than 17 years ago, to provide suitable facilities for people with profound and multiple disabilities and their carers, and a consortium has been formed to take the campaign national. A Changing Places toilet has:

- Adequate spaces for a wheelchair user and 2 carers
- A centrally placed toilet with space either side
- A privacy screen or curtain

- Tracking hoist or mobile hoist
- Adult-sized changing bench, height adjustable

The campaign is calling for a Changing Places toilet to be provided in all major public places, including city centres, shopping centres, arts venues, hospitals, motorway service stations, leisure complexes, large railway stations, airports, and these should be in addition to standard accessible toilets.

There are now 126 Changing Places toilets in the UK and a new Changing Places category has been introduced in the National Loo of the Year Awards. There have been early day motions in the UK Parliament and a public petition to the Scottish Parliament. A new British Standard, BS8300:2009 has been introduced.

Further information from [J.W.Burns@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:J.W.Burns@dundee.ac.uk)

### **Questions, comments and discussion**

- No negative feedback to the Barred campaign has been received from any MSPs or political parties, and work on the amendment is continuing with the Justice clerks and with George Foulkes MSP.
- Local Access Panels may be a useful source of support and large chains of hotels might be interested.
- It may be possible to gain more support for the Changing Places campaign by widening to include improved baby changing facilities for Dads.
- There are lists of places where disabled people will not go because of poor facilities, and a wide, informal network of information, so businesses may be losing out, without knowing it.
- There is also a problem in schools, with very poor facilities for disabled children and staff who refuse to do changing.
- It was felt that BS 8300 should be used in new schools and all new public buildings, including leisure centres, but the cost is £240, although Joyce is working on putting the key points on the Changing Places website.
- Students of architecture and planning officers should be better informed about accessibility issues

### **4. AOB**

#### **Inquiry into harassment of disabled people**

The Equality & Human Rights Commission have today launched an inquiry into disability related harassment, and will gather evidence from local authorities and disabled people. Terms of reference for the Inquiry will be published for consultation shortly and further information forwarded to the group.

**Joint Vision for Independent Living** – this will be signed by Scottish Government and COSLA on 8 December.

**5. Date and subject of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 3 March 2010 at 5.30pm and it was agreed that the subject should be transport.