

Minutes of Cross Party Vision Group meeting 4 June 2014

In attendance

Val Bailey (RCN), Andrea Gordon (Guide Dogs Cymru), Ceri Jackson (RNIB Cymru), Ann Jones AM, Peter Jones (Guide Dogs Cymru), Alexandra McMillan (RNIB Cymru), Sandy Mewies AM (Chair), Jonathan Mudd (Guide Dogs Cymru), Judith Parry (Sight Cymru), Tess Saunders (RNIB Cymru), Owen Williams (Vision in Wales)

Apologies

Sharon Beckett (Sight Cymru), Nicola Davis-Job (RCN), Sali Davis (Optometry Wales), Janet Finch-Saunders AM, Wayne Lewis (Sense Cymru), Martin O'Donnell (RCGP), Eluned Parrott AM, Julie Thomas (BridgeVis), Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM

Note of meeting

The group agreed that the planned AGM would have to be postponed due to lack of attendance by AMs from different political parties.

Andrea Gordon presented a paper on the draft Active Travel Act guidance, which is currently out for consultation. The group agreed with all the points raised in the paper and that a letter should go to the Minister, from the group, to raise issues. Agreed to include examples of good and bad practice (e.g. around where local authorities had/ had not effectively engaged with blind and partially sighted people) and the suggestion that Welsh Government considers using the Planning Bill or the Future Generations Bill to put local access groups on a statutory footing. Also agreed on the need for greater reference to the duties under the Equality Act within the guidance.

Agreed actions

1. Alex McMillan and Ceri Jackson to meet with Chair as soon as possible to discuss future of the group.
2. Alex to draft letter on behalf of the group and circulate for agreement to all those present, as well as to those AMs, who are members of the group and were unable to attend. Chair will then send it to the Minister.