**23.8.23 Carers’ Panel meeting with Pam Duncan- Glancy and Martin Whitfield**

**Traprain Room, ELCH and via zoom 13:30 – 15:00**

**Attendees:**

Panel Members (in person): P. Gordon, M. Scrimgeour, H. Doig

Panel Members (online): J. Aston, J. Innes-Campbell, L. Sandie

2x additional members attended in person, as well as 1 additional attendee online

Questions and contributions were submitted by D. Binnie, J.Howie and A. Bissett in advance as they were not able to attend the meeting, as well as SPACE group members

Attending staff: Jessica Wade, Gemma Twells-Davison, Claire Spiden, Kate Horne

MSP’s: Martin Whitfield, Pam Duncan- Glancy

Ryan Norton (office of M. Whitfield), Chris (office of P.Duncan-Glancy)

**Agenda**

* Update on the Bill
* Questions on the Bill
* Carers share experiences of transitions and any issues
* Carers share wider / local issues

**Meeting content**

The Carers’ Panel met with MSPs Martin Whitfield and Pam Duncan-Glancy to discuss transitions for disabled children.

Pam Duncan-Glancy informed panel members about the Members’ Bill that she has introduced: the Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill, to try and help address some of the difficulties often experienced by young disabled people and their families.

Attendees were given the opportunity to raise questions and suggestions, as well as share their personal experiences/ challenges of transition with MSP’s to inform their development of the work and deepen their understanding of issues impacting carers.

The panel were given information about how the Bill came about and next steps as well as having time to explore the following topics:

* How the Bill would be resourced, particularly during times of financial pressure for LA’s
* How transition plans would be managed – key adults that may be involved
* Accountability for support for disabled children going through transitions
* Who owns the plan/ YP choice around who is involved
* Appeal processes
* Eligibility for transitions and how this will be fair and inclusive

MSP’s heard from carers on:

* Disabled young people’s isolation
* Historic lack of support around transition
* Lack of joined up support
* Challenges in education for disabled young people and carers’ recommendations on where improvements could be made
* The need for a person – centred approach/ specialist lead professional

The Carers’ Panel welcomed further opportunities to meet with Martin Whitfield to discuss issues of importance for carers.