



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Joan McAlpine MSP

Convener

Cross Party Group on Culture

Via email only

Health and Sport Committee

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Dear Joan

Thank you for your letter of 16 December on behalf of the cross party group for culture in relation to the Health and Sport Committee work on social prescribing.

The remit of this Committee includes Sport and members agreed to undertake a short piece of work, as part of a wider general inquiry, with a focus to reflect the Sport aspect of the remit looking at social prescribing in relation to physical and sporting activities. The Committee published its [report](#) on 4 December which I appreciate post dates the cross party group meeting you referenced.

Had the group had an opportunity to consider the report they would have noted the Committee states that “social prescribing should not be limited to physical activity and sport”. Our report also states “Most of what we say, and conclude, in this report applies across the full ambit of social prescribing”. Indeed, many submissions we received highlighted benefits from non sporting activities which will fall within the cultural ambit.

We also paid a good deal of attention to mental as well as physical health and well-being. The increased share of funding we recommended at paragraph 90 of our report would support all forms of social prescribing, not only those related to sport and physical activity

While we await the Scottish Governments response to the report you may also be interested that we have asked the Conveners Group to allocate Committee time in the Chamber to debate the Committee report and I anticipate this will be scheduled in early course. MSP members of the cross party group will doubtless wish to take the opportunity presented by the debate to contribute.

The Committee report concluded that cost benefits of social prescribing are not in dispute and sought delivering of initiatives at scale across all Health Boards.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald
Convener, Health and Sport Committee