

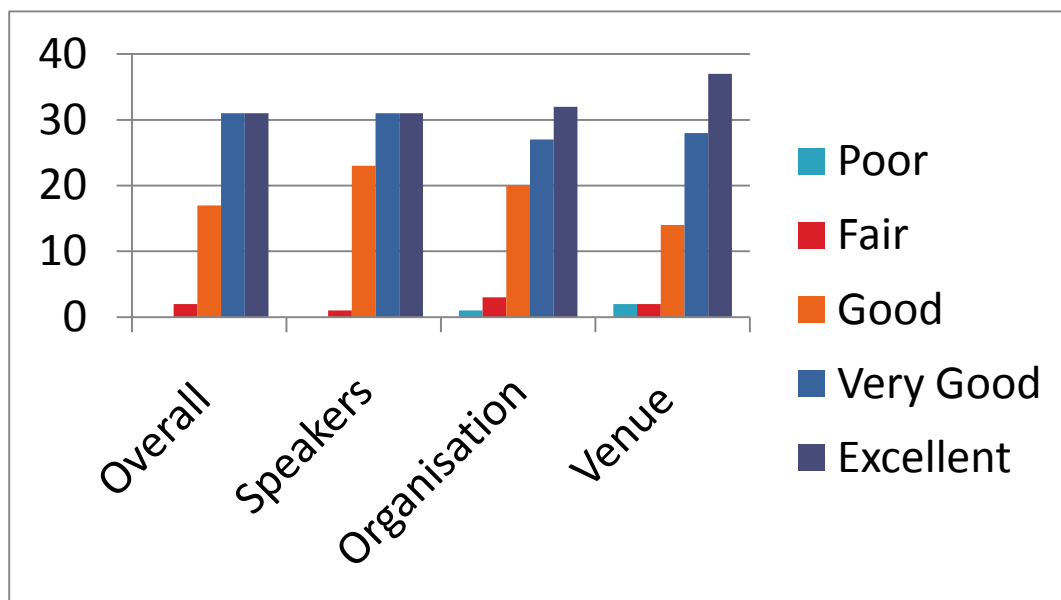


**APRIL 2010**

### 1. POST-COMMISSIONING EPILEPSY SERVICES CONFERENCE REPORT

A meeting has recently been held with the Department of Health to evaluate the “Best Value, Better Care” Commissioning Conference held at the Holiday Inn, Kensington London Forum on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2010.

Of the 86 delegates who returned their evaluation forms, 62 reported that the speakers and overall rating of the day was very good or excellent (see below for comparisons).



When asked, on a scale of 1 (not) – 5 (very), how motivated delegates were to improve epilepsy services in their area, the results were:

scale 3 = 3      scale 4 = 13      scale 5 = 54.

Plans are in hand to make available a written transcript as well as the video filmed at the event and these will be accessible on the DH and JEC websites as soon as editing has been completed. Additionally, a resource pack, containing these, and other useful information, documents and templates, will be sent to all commissioners and to all who attended.

At the conference delegates were asked to write down three things, as a postcard promise, that they would do following the conference to try and improve epilepsy services in their area. All delegates will now be contacted asking them to complete a short on-line questionnaire to tell us how far they have got with implementing their promises. Thanks to Epilepsy Action for their offer to create the on-line questionnaire and collate the results for the JEC.



Further details of this, and the resource pack, will be advised as soon as possible.

## 2. MEMBER CONSULTATION MEETING

A JEC Council Consultation meeting was held at the newly opened NCYPE Neville Centre in March. Fourteen JEC member organisations were represented and frank discussions took place regarding the future model and direction of the JEC.

The JEC Executive will now prepare an action plan in response to the consultation process which will be circulated to members in due course.

## 3. JEC WORKING GROUPS

### JEC Health Group

A good response was received for JEC members to join the JEC Health Group and an initial meeting will be held on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May. Any further expressions of interest should be communicated as soon as possible, please.

Additionally, the **JEC Marketing & Communications Group** will hold a voice conference to discuss National Epilepsy Week on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, followed by a face-to-face meeting in May. The **JEC Research Group** next meets on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> May and the **JEC Education Group** have a meeting planned at NCYPE for the 29<sup>th</sup> June.

The **JEC Residential Provider Group** will next meet on the day of the JEC AGM and Council Meeting at the David Lewis Centre – Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

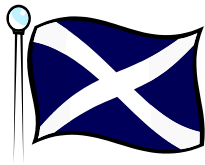
The next meeting of the JEC Executive will take place in Edinburgh on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

## 4. PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

### All-Party Parliamentary Group on Epilepsy at Westminster

Activities for the Westminster Group have now been curtailed by the impending General Election. A new meeting date has provisionally been set for the 7<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2010, being dependent upon the results of the election. Should a Conservative Government be elected, our current Chair of the group, Earl Howe, may be appointed as a Minister and would, under parliamentary rules, be unable to continue his role with group and a successor would therefore have to be found. Work, of course, also has to be done to attract new members amongst the undoubtedly large group of new MPs entering the Westminster Parliament.

However, it is still very much business as usual at the Scottish Parliament where the **Cross Party Group of the Scottish Parliament** held their last meeting on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January when guest speaker Iona McCloud discussed Epilepsy Awareness in Schools.



The next meeting of the group will be the AGM and will take place on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 in Committee Room 2 at 1.00p. Guest speakers include the Minister for Public Health and Sport, Shona Robinson. There will also be a presentation on transition services for young people with epilepsy, showcased by Highland Council and NHS Highland.

Please contact Allana Parker at Epilepsy Scotland - [AParker@epilepsyscotland.org.uk](mailto:AParker@epilepsyscotland.org.uk) if you are interested in attending this meeting.

### **Other Parliamentary Activity**

The steering group met with Baroness Thornton, the newly appointed Health Minister, and her officials, following her attendance at an epilepsy awareness meeting in the House of Lords. Baroness Thornton was supportive of our case and recognised a “shocking A&E admission rate”. QUIPP (Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention) was described as the current key lever and there is a possibility of focussing QUIPP work on epilepsy, using the condition as a demonstration project. A later meeting held at the Department of Health is progressing this exciting opportunity and further information will be disseminated as it becomes available.

Recent meetings have been held with Strategic Health Authorities to discuss follow up to Health Minister Ann Keen’s letter regarding epilepsy services. These were with NHS West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber and South Central. A further meeting is scheduled to meet with NHS North East in May.

Additionally, a meeting with Ofsted is planned for Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, offering an opportunity for representatives from the steering group and the JEC Education Group to put forward the issues regarding epilepsy and education.