

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Volunteering and the Voluntary Sector

DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

29.09.2011

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

13.05.2014

GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

In the last year the group has meet four times, once jointly with the CPG on International Development. Unfortunately we had to cancel the meeting scheduled for November 2013.

Tuesday 18th June 2013

In **June** the CPG held a joint meeting with CPG on International Development. We were fortunate that Fiona Forsyth and Kate Cotton from VSO Scotland were able to speak to both CPGs about VSO's work and opportunities for volunteering in its four development areas: health, participation and governance, secure livelihoods and education.

In addition, Kate Cotton spoke about VSO's Theory of Change which centres on motivating people to work together, recruiting people who can bring about change, understanding organisations and how to work with them to achieve progress, sharing knowledge and experience, and bringing essential knowledge to help implement policies.

Kate also mentioned the importance of looking ahead to the future of volunteering and how the field could possibly change, including the introduction of e-volunteering and innovations in the development of volunteering

Following the presentations from VSO the group discussed:

The balance between specialist volunteers and youth workers; uncertainty about exactly what volunteering may entail; the ability of volunteers to interact with communities; that some services such as the RNLI are best provided by volunteers; government intervention in work of volunteers; Gap Years and what volunteering opportunities are available for those with learning disabilities.

MSP Attendees: 5; Non-MSP members: 38

September's meeting focused on the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill. The group discussed the following elements of the Bill that could be of concern including:

- the ability of third sector organisations to campaign and liaise with members of parliament in carrying out legitimate awareness-raising and non-party political activities;
- the fact that non-party campaigning was not part of the original draft bill and therefore has not been considered as part of the consultation process;
- that threshold limits could be disproportionate when applied in Scotland;
- the ambiguity around the definition of 'election purposes'.

As a result of this meeting the CPG wrote to Chloe Smith MP, Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform MP raising their concerns about the UK Bill. A response was received from Chloe Smith MP, Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform MP and is attached to this document.

MSP Attendees: 2 ; Non-MSP members: 12

In **February** the CPG was joined by Liz Watson from Befriending Networks who spoke on the topics of volunteering, older people and social inclusion and from by Lynne Blanchfield, Volunteer Be-friender.

Liz's presentation explored the themes of loneliness and social isolation and how volunteer befriending can help prevent older people especially from feeling excluded and alone. Liz highlighted evidence of the impact of loneliness and explained how a strategic, Scotland-wide approach to volunteer befriending to help.

Lynne explained how volunteer befriending has also positive impacts for the volunteer.

The group then discussed a number of the issues raised in the presentations

including:

How befriending is just one of many ways to help prevent older people from social isolation; the opportunities digital creates; the versatility of befriending; need to raise awareness of the devastating impact loneliness can have; how to identify those who could benefit from befriending; the need to interact with local authorities and health boards and the dangers of stigmatising older people.

Following the February meeting Liz has been in communication with both the convener and co-convener about the potential of lodging a Scottish parliamentary motion about the issue of loneliness, with the possibility of the issue being discussed by MSPs in the form of a members' debate.

MSP Attendees: 1; Non-MSP members: 18

Wednesday 23rd April

In **April** the group held its AGM. Margaret McDougall MSP and Annabelle Ewing MSP were re-elected to their respective positions of Convener and Co-Convener. SCVO and Volunteer Scotland were jointly elected to the secretariat. The rest of meeting focused on the future of the CPG, what members wished to get out of attending the group and what topics the CPG could consider in its 2014/2015 work programme.

Members discussed a number of potential topics including: trusteeship & governance; public service delivery; future of volunteering

It was agreed that the secretariat would draft a forward work programme for 2014/15 including suggested topics and objectives. This programme will be agreed at a future meeting of the CPG.

MSP Attendees: 2 Non-MSP members:16

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names of all MSP members of the Group. Note that only names need to be provided, no party designation or other information is required.

Aileen McLeod

Alex Fergusson

Annabelle Ewing

Claudia Beamish

Fiona McLeod

Hugh Henry
Jackie Baillie
Jenny Marra
John Mason
Margaret McDougall
Sarah Boyack

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

Organisations

Beat
SSAFA
Volunteer Centre Edinburgh
Citizen's Advice Scotland
Friends of the Pentlands
CSV
Shelter Scotland
City of Edinburgh Council
Diabetes UK Scotland
Borders Third Sector Partnership (Volunteer Centre Borders)
Planning Aid for Scotland
Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS)
Scottish Sports Association (SSA)
Paths For All
Befriending Networks

	Home-Start UK
	Turning Point Scotland
	Volunteer Centre Edinburgh
	NHS Borders
	Project Scotland
	Voluntary Action Fund
	Guide Dogs
	Waverleycare
	Big Lottery Fund
	Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council
	Quarriers
	Scotland manager at institute of fundraising
	British Heart Foundation
	SCVO
	Youth Link Scotland
	Samaritans
	Lead Scotland
	Roshni
	Butterfly Trust
	Volunteer Scotland
	Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland
	Scottish Youth Parliament
	Glasgow Life
	Voluntary Action Scotland
	Citizens Advice Edinburgh
	Fresh Start

GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Margaret McDougall MSP
Deputy Convener	Annabelle Ewing MSP
Secretary	Volunteer Scotland; SCVO
Treasurer	N/A

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

Volunteer Scotland & SCVO provide the secretariat and cover the costs of catering for the CPG. The estimated costs of this contribution are as follows:

Catering - £30 x 4 meetings a year = £120

Secretariat duties are estimated to cost:

- SCVO £1295 – (10 working days per year @ 129.50 per day)
- Volunteer Scotland £1230 - (10 working days per year @ £123.00 per day)

This includes: attending CPG meetings; regular meetings with Convener and Co-Convener; joint secretariat meetings to determine agenda items and forward work programme of the CPG; arranging speakers for meetings and various administrative duties (for example, responding to requests for CPG membership; minute taking and

completion of Annual Return)

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

N/A

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name

Margaret McDougall

Parliamentary
address

MG.12
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Telephone number

0131 348 6426