

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Children and Young People
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.)
12/6/18
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
12/6/19
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
09/07/19
DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]
12/6/18
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.
1. Thursday, 25 October 2018: Exiting the European Union and Children and Young People Chair: Alex Cole Hamilton MSP Attendance: 3 MSPs, 31 Non-MSPs

Summary: This meeting discussed how we can support children and young people as part of the process of exiting the European Union. The CPG heard presentations on

Mhairi Snowden, The Human Rights Consortium Scotland, presented on the EU Withdrawal Agreement and its impact on children and young people's rights. She identified where rights have already been lost, where there is a hazard and where there is a longer-term issue that could mean rights are lost.

Dr Sinead Gormally, Glasgow University, spoke about research on the impact of Exiting the EU on the Youth Work Sector. It was identified that the impact is unknown and unpredictable but identified that Brexit could mean a continuation of the cuts that have been experienced in the Youth Work Sector.

Jack Norquoy MSYP spoke about the work of the Scottish Youth Parliament in relation to exiting the EU, including the recent Right Here Right Now campaign to ensure that children and young people's rights are upheld in Scotland, the launch of a Brexit manifesto and meetings with key decision makers in relation to Brexit.

Members of the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe discussed recommendations on how to meet the needs of children and young people in the Brexit negotiations.

The CPG broke into small groups to discuss two key questions;

- What are your concerns about Brexit for the children and young people you work with?
- How can the panel engage with the children and young people you work with & how can you promote our work?

Actions agreed:

- The secretariat will follow up with convenors to agree joint motion and foreward on the back of April meeting on mental health.
- The secretariat will follow up with Kezia Dugdale MSP to lodge a question about supporting children and young people to learn about their rights in school.
- Alex Cole Hamilton MSP will organise a meeting with the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe.
- Alex Cole Hamilton MSP to ask a question in parliament about the work of the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe.
- The secretariat will explore with Alex Cole Hamilton MSP about an event in parliament and a motion to support the work of the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe.
- The secretariat to follow up with other CPG convenors to see if they will meet with the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe.

2. Wednesday, 28 November 2018: Family Contact

Chair: Alison Johnstone MSP

Attendance: 3 MSPs, 35 Non-MSPs

Summary: This meeting discussed grandparents rights to contact. The main question was: Should there be a presumption in law that children benefit from contact with their grandparents?

Members of the CPG heard a case study highlighting the issues from grandparents, Gordon and Shona Mason. Gordon and Shona have been grandparents since 2013 but have not had any access to their grandson since spring 2014. They wished to "ensure, as far as possible, that grandparents' rights are considered and that they can retain the contact with their grandchildren that is sometimes denied to them".

Simon Stockwell, Head of Family Law Unit at the Scottish Government, set out the proposed Family Law Bill in the context of wider Scottish Government policy to frame the panel contributions. Simon discussed the proposed changes to the Bill and some initial findings from the consultation process.

There were panel contributions from Roseanna MacDonald (Scottish Women's Aid) on issues relating to contact with grandparents and wider family members in the specific context of domestic abuse, Sarah Lilley (Innes & MacKay) on this issue from a legal perspective, Dr Kirsteen MacKay (The University of Edinburgh) on the position that there should not be a presumption in law that children benefit from contact with their grandparents, June Loudoun (Grandparents Apart UK) on the legal right of the child to have contact with grandparents, Beth Anne Logan (youth campaigner for care experienced young people) on the need for decisions need to be made on a case by case basis and Alison Bavidge (Social Work Scotland) on the fact that SWS members did not want to see an extension of rights to contact for grandparents as the paramount consideration is the child's welfare.

Actions agreed:

- The CPG will send minutes from the November meeting to the Justice Committee.
- The CPG will encourage the Justice Committee to have an evidence session with children and young people on the Family Law Bill when appropriate.

3. Wednesday, 6 February 2019: Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill

Chair: Fulton MacGregor MSP

Attendance: 3 MSPs, 37 Non-MSPs

Summary: This meeting discussed the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill and gave members an opportunity to

Paul Beaton, Bill Team Leader on the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill at the Scottish Government, updated members on the current debate. Paul highlighted that much of the debate has been regarding the age of criminal responsibility itself, which has been known to have been out of date in Scotland for a long time. Paul gave some background to the current bill and highlighted that in 2013, there was further debate alongside the Criminal Justice Bill, which led to the introduction of an advisory group in 2015.

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP and Fulton MacGregor MSP began the discussions, each giving their own perspective as members of the Committee discussing the Bill.

There were panel contributions from Megan Farr (CYPCS), Juliet Harris (Together), Fiona Dyer (CYCJ), Robbie Burgess MSYP, Richard Cockbain (Police Scotland) and Morag Driscoll and Mark Allison (The Law Society), in which they discussed raising the age further than 12.

Agreed action:

- CPG to write to the Minister with a summary of the discussion today and to ask them to articulate a timescale where the age of 14 or 16 could be considered.

4. Wednesday, 1 May 2019: Legacy of Year of Young People

Chair: Fulton MacGregor MSP

Attendance: 3 MSPs, 34 Non-MSPs

Summary: This meeting presented an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Year of Young People and work on securing a meaningful legacy going forward.

Rebecca McQuaker, youth worker seconded to work on YOYP, Kaytlyn Lessels, Lauren Asher and Dami Samuels, YOYP champions and volunteers from Dumfries and Galloway Council, spoke about how they are currently working on delivery because the year itself may have ended but it is not over for Dumfries and Galloway, where a legacy plan has been developed moving forward from YOYP.

Kaytlyn outlined the plans for continuation in Dumfries and Galloway:

1. The showcase of the talents and achievements of young people.
2. Youth beats, a music festival which gives young people the opportunity to gain hands on experience and educated them about different issues.
3. 10,000 voices consultation. The results of which have been used to inform a 5-year plan.
4. Development of a youth council, which gives young people a voice in decision making.

Joel Meekison, who is a YOYP Ambassador, spoke about the legacy of YOYP. He highlighted that although we made 2018 an exciting year for many young people, we need to break outwith the children given that opportunity and show all CYP that they can be involved.

Joel outlined how we should go forward:

- Concrete policy changes
- Budgetary support (funding)
- Application of learning to make real terms impact
- Minimum age of criminal age of responsibility
- Allowing CYP voices to be heard and influence the Climate Change Bill

There was a group discussion on the following questions:

- a) How could the Scottish Government secure a meaningful legacy from the Year of Young People?
- b) What are the barriers to a meaningful legacy from Year of Young People?
- c) How could the CPG help take forward to legacy of the Year of Young People?
- d) What specific policies would take forward the legacy of the Year of Young People?

Agreed actions:

- Send a letter to the Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd MSP.
- Secretariat to bring proposal for changes to time and location of CPG.
- Secretariat to bring back a paper on how we can bring in Children and Young People as Co-convenors.
- Secretariat to explore safeguarding training for all MSPs.

5. Wednesday, 12 June 2019: Scottish Government Consultation on Incorporation of the UNCRC

Chair: Kezia Dugdale MSP

Attendance: 3 MSPs, 48 Non-MSPs

Summary: This meeting formed both the AGM and a meeting of the Cross-Party Group. The main body of the meeting focused on exploring different models of incorporation of the UNCRC into domestic law in Scotland.

At the AGM:

- Iain Gray MSP was nominated by Sara Lurie from The Fostering Network Scotland. This was seconded by Louise Slorance from RCPCH.
- The Membership agreed to re-elect Alison Johnstone MSP, Fulton MacGregor MSP and Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP and Brian Whittle MSP as co-convenors.
- Kezia Dugdale MSP asked for a formal note of thanks to the secretariat for their ongoing work on the CPG.
- The Membership agreed to re-elect the joint secretariat provided by YouthLink Scotland and Children in Scotland.

Helen Fogarty, Head of the Children's Rights Unit at the Scottish Government, spoke about the different models of incorporation being explored. She outlined the advantages and disadvantages of the two main models of incorporation: direct and transposing. She confirmed that work is well under way and that the programme will be published in September and completed within this parliamentary session.

Dr Kasey McCall Smith, The University of Edinburgh, updated the group on the work of the Incorporation Advisory Group convened by Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) and the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, of

which she is a member. The advisory group produced a draft Children's Rights Scotland Bill, which is designed to ensure that no child is left behind. They advocate direct incorporation, because it will promote a culture of children's rights across all levels.

The group discussed the following questions:

- a) How should Scotland take forward incorporation of the UNCRC?
- b) How can children's rights be embedded within public authorities?
- c) What additional non-legislative activities are needed to support Incorporation of the UNCRC?

Actions:

- The Secretariat will prepare a paper for submission to the Scottish Government Consultation on Incorporation of the UNCRC summarising points made at this meeting.
- Secretariat to hold annual summer members survey.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Alex Cole Hamilton MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrats

Iain Gray MSP, Scottish Labour

Alison Johnstone MSP, Scottish Green Party

Fulton MacGregor MSP, SNP

Brian Whittle MSP Scottish Conservatives

Ruth Maguire - SNP

Jeremy Balfour – Scottish Conservatives

Rachael Hamilton – Scottish Conservatives

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	David Ashford Rozanne Chortton Bill Cook Kirsty Craig Gerry Croall Jackie Doig Susan Elsley Mairi Ferris Margot Gillon
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	<p>Tracy Griffen Fiona Henderson Clare Lally Kenny Lindsay Katy MacFarlane Kirsteen MacKay Donna Mackie Louise Marryat Vicky McGraw Robert McHarg John McKinney Martine Miller Pat Salter Jayne Scotland Neil Seaton Carolyn Wilson Mark Wong Kit Wyeth</p>
<p>Organisations</p>	<p>Children in Scotland and YouthLink Scotland - secretary and treasurer A & M Training Aberlour Action Duchenne Action for Children Scotland Action for Children's Arts Action for Sick Children Scotland) Afacic Scotland Alcohol Focus Scotland The ALLIANCE Article 12 in Scotland Association of Family Therapist in Scotland The Barn Youth Centre Barnardo's Scotland Beat Befriending Networks Bellenden Big Lottery Fund BMA Scotland British Association for Adoption and Fostering British Psychological Society Division of Clinical Psychology in Scotland Caledonia Consulting Central Scotland Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre CAHRU - University of St Andrews CALL Scotland Camphill Capability Scotland Carers Trust CCPS Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland Changing Faces Scotland</p>

CHAS
Child Brain Injury Trust
Child Poverty Action Group
Children 1st
Children's Hearings Scotland
Children in Need
Children's Parliament
Church of Scotland Committee on Education
Circle
CI@n Childlaw
CLIC Sargent
Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership
College of Occupational Therapists
Columba 1400
Common Thread
Contact a Family Scotland
COSCA
Covey Bfrinding
Crossroads Youth and Community Association
Diabetes UK
Division of Forensic Psychology - Scotland
DofE
Downs Syndrome Scotland
Edinburgh Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
Enable
Engender
Enquire
Families First St Andrews
Families Need Fathers
Families Outside
Family Fund
Fife Gingerbread
Firsthand
The Fostering Network
Foursquare
Girlguiding Scotland
Grounds for Learning
GYP Borders
Highland Children Forum
Home Link Family Support
I Can
Includem
In train
Keys to Inclusion
Kibble
Kids VIP
KIND (Scotland)
Legal Services Agency
LGBT Youth
Licketyspit
Living Streets

Lothian Autistic Society
Mindroom
National Autistic Society
National Deaf Children's Society
NewsDirect
NHS Health Scotland
The Notre Dame Centre
NSPCC Scotland
Ocean Youth Trust Scotland
One Parent Families Scotland
Open Secret
PAMIS
Parenting Across Scotland
Partners in Advocacy
Partners in Play
Personalised Education Now
The Place 2Be
Play Scotland
PlayTalkRead
Prince's Trust
Quarriers
Rathbone
Real World Learning Scotland
Relationships Scotland
Resolve ASL
Rising Stars
RNIB
Roshni
RoSPA
Royal College of Nursing
Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health
Royal College of Psychiatrists
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy
Samaritans
Save the Children
Sense Scotland
Scotcen
Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People
Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils
Scottish Child Law Centre
Scottish Child Psychotherapy Trust
Scottish Childminding Association
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Scottish Children's Services Coalition
Scottish Council of Independent Schools
Scottish Division of Education Psychology
Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems
Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Parent Teacher Council
Scottish Pre-School Play Association

	Scottish Sports Association Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum Scottish Women's Aid Scottish Youth Parliament Shelter Scotland Sick Children's Hospital Skills Development Scotland Smart Play Network Sound Lab Spark of Genius Strathcarron Hospice STUC TACT Tartan Silk The Salvation Army The Spark Together Scotland UK ADHD Partnership University of Edinburgh – CAHRU, CRFR, NSPCC Centre Vocal West Lothian Youth Action Project Who Cares? Scotland Working on Wheels YWCA Scotland Young Scot Your Voice Youth Bus Youth Scotland Zero Tolerance
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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.

Co-Conveners	Alex Cole Hamilton MSP, Iain Gray MSP, Alison Johnstone MSP, Fulton MacGregor MSP, Brian Whittle MSP
Secretary	Children in Scotland
Treasurer	YouthLink Scotland

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.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

COST OF MATERIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT (paid for by the organisations who make up the joint secretariat)

YouthLink Scotland – time of one staff member £2,950

Children in Scotland – time of one staff member £2,950

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

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

£0

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Iain Gray
Parliamentary address	M1.08 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	01620 822711