

Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Shared Parenting

**Wednesday 29th January 2020
From 18:00 to 20:00**

The Clerk Maxwell Room T1.60-CR4, Scottish Parliament

Draft Minutes

Present: Fulton McGregor MSP (Convener), Bob Doris MSP, Gillian Martin MSP, Eoin Keane (parent), Ian Maxwell (Shared Parenting Scotland), Peter Cloke (Circle), Sara McFarlane (Connect), Kenny Spence (Men in Childcare), June Loudoun (Grandparents Apart), Maureen McVey (Grandparents Apart), Adam Wilson (Families Outside), John Forsyth (Shared Parenting Scotland)
In attendance: Simon Stockwell (Scottish Government)

Apologies: Finlay Carson MSP, Megan Farr (Childrens and Young People Commissioner), Lorna Kettles (Early Years Scotland), Cheryl Brown (Midlothian Sure Start), Brock Lueck, (OPFS), Pauline Linn (Family Mediation West), Eileen Brownlie (Relationships Scotland), Dave Devenney (Fathers Network Scotland), Elaine Stalker (Families Outside), Douglas Guest (Home Start Scotland).
Hannah Frodsham (Scottish Government), Wendy Georgeson (Scottish Government).

Welcome and introductions

Fulton opened the meeting and everyone present introduced themselves.

New members and changes

Douglas Guest has replaced Shelagh Young for Home Start Scotland but sent his apologies for tonight's meeting. Together Scotland is joining as a corresponding member. Tonight's presentation will be delivered by Director, Juliet Harris –

Minutes of November 6th 2019 meeting and matters arising

There were no changes or matters arising. Draft minutes were approved.

AGM

Gillian Martin took the chair. Fulton McGregor agreed to continue as convener. He was duly nominated and seconded and resumed the chair.
Gillian Martin and Jeremy Balfour (in absentia) were nominated and seconded as co-vice conveners.

John Forsyth gave a verbal report on the year's activities. A full account is contained within the Annual Return on the Scottish Parliament's CPG website :
<https://tinyurl.com/ydejkytx>

There was a full discussion of possible agenda items for the year ahead.

Presentation by Juliet Harris, Director, Together Scotland

Together is an alliance of Scottish children's charities that works to improve the awareness, understanding and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Juliet gave a compelling account of the imperatives and implications of incorporating the UNCRC into Scots Law.

Dates of next meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for April 20th 2020

There was no further business and meeting closed at 1950 hours.