

**Cross Party Group on Volunteering Meeting  
Minute  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017, 1.00pm-2.30pm  
Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament  
Convenor: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP**

**Attendees**

**MSP members of the Group**

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP – Scottish Liberal Democrat Party  
Jeremy Balfour MSP - Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

**Non-MSPs Members of the Group:**

Paul Okroj – Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, Margaret Starkie – Volunteer Scotland, John Mullin – Volunteer Scotland, Gordon Brown – VC Borders, Susan Davies – TSI Moray, Lidia Dye – PKAVS Volunteering Hub, Claire McHarrie – Scottish Government, Alex James – Scouts Scotland, Bernadette Monaghan – Volunteer Glasgow, Sarah Van Putten – Befriending Networks, Paul Wilson – Volunteer Edinburgh, Keith Weston – Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, Robert McGeachy – Camphill Scotland, Neil Henery -Camphill Scotland, Dave Mitchell – Camphill Scotland, Victoria McRae – CVS Falkirk, Natalie Chistison Volunteer Midlothian, Joanne Stewart – Breast Cancer Care Scotland, Cat Campbell – Children 1<sup>st</sup>, Laura Feeney – St Andrew’s First Aid, Alison Steven – St Andrew’s First Aid, Gillian Lithgow – Youthlink Scotland, Natalie Masterson – Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise, Catriona MacLeod – Inverclyde Community Development Trust, Tina Cameron – Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire, Shelia McPherson, St Andrew’s First Aid, Sarah Latto – Shelter Scotland, Tracey Stewart – Rowan Alba Ltd, Beverly Gall – Rowan Alba Ltd, Rebekah Moore – Scottish Drugs Forum, Chris Pettigrew – International Voluntary Service, Will McLean – CHAS, Stephanie Whitefield – Scottish Government, Ian Sirrell – Scottish Government, Keith Wimbles – Voluntary Action Fund, Kathy McTernan – Volunteering Matters

**Apologies**

**MSP members of the Group**

Pauline McNeil MSP – Scottish Labour Party  
Fulton McGregor MSP – Scottish National Party  
Johann Lamont MSP – Scottish Labour Party  
Gordon Lindhurst MSP - Scottish National Party

**Non-MSPs Members of the Group:**

A considerable number of apologies were received for this meeting.

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Volunteering and invited introductions.

**2. Minutes of Previous meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **Actions from previous meeting:**

- The Secretariat will seek alternative date for a Parliamentary reception in light of the Volunteers Week event being cancelled. **New dates being sought for June 2018**
- Cross Party Group theme for 2017-2018 should be on Inclusion. **On-going within 2018**
- CPG – March 2018 – A presentation of the activities/campaign of the Year of Young People 2018. **On-going**
- The Convener and secretariat would encourage MSP's to engage with Volunteers within their constituencies and write to schools encouraging volunteering. **On-going**
- There is to be an effort made to hold more joint Cross Party Group meetings given that Volunteering has an impact across various topics/sectors. **On-going**
- Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) should be on a future agenda. **Agreed**
- When new reports/consultation opportunities arise the Secretariat will communicate to the members to encourage involvement and awareness. **On-going**
- More awareness should be given to what is being discussed at the various committees within Parliament to ensure Volunteering is a live topic for discussion and included in the agendas. **On-going**

All actions from the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> June were ratified.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Fulton MacGregor MSP has agreed out with the meeting he would become joint Vice-convener alongside Jeremy Balfour MSP - Convener  
Proposed: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP  
Seconded: John Mullin, Volunteer Scotland

It was agreed Fulton was appointed in absentia by the CPG members and the Convener.

### **4. Programme for Government**

The convener announced his delighted that for the first time Volunteering had a focus with the Programme for Government.

It was agreed an invitation will be sent to the Cabinet Secretary to join a CPG meeting next year.

### **5. CPG – Year Ahead**

The secretariat aim to engage with MSP's on lunchtime seminars with focus on issues that are current and are being discussed within various committees, Fiona Lamont MSP highlighted at a previous CPG meeting that is it important that CPG members engage with MSP's on various issues and should look to the Programme for Government to identify current topics which may be relevant to MSP's and members.

The members suggested topics such as Inclusion, inequalities – further action is required. These seminars will include invitations to MSP's, CPG members and volunteers.

The Secretariat will seek to have at least 1 joint CPG meeting in 2018, to raise the profile of volunteering suggestions on joint meetings were; Health and Inequalities, Disabilities, Children and young People, and Older People.

## 6. Year of Young People 2018

Stephanie Whitefield from Scottish Government gave a presentation on the Year of Young People 2015.

Themed Years are primarily tourism focussed and allow us to celebrate Scotland's best assets with the current TY being the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. However, 2018 the Year of Young People, is the first themed year to focus on people and is about creating opportunities for young people to have their voices heard, creating chances for young people to be more involved in civic society, having a say in decisions that directly affect them.

The Year still has a clear events and tourism strand – we are working closely with VisitScotland who are leading on delivering a varied Signature and Open programme of events to celebrate the Year and that will take place right across the country – the bulk of this will be announced in the coming weeks during a media launch for the Year. All of these events will be code-signed with young people.

Everything about the Year has been and will be co-designed with young people. They have been involved from the outset and developed our aim, objectives outcomes and themes for the Year that we are all working towards today (website).

### Volunteer opportunities

We are working with Young Scot (who are in partnership with Children in Scotland and the Scottish Youth Parliament who have now recruited **35 young people (volunteers)** **Communic18** who are the Co-design champions for the Year.

There are now also **over 500 Ambassadors (volunteers)** for the Year positioned across all 32 Local Authorities who will engage their local communities in activities that relate to the Year and help to promote this across social media channels. Young Scot used their expertise to ensure that every young person in Scotland felt able to be an Ambassador. The team worked with key partner organisations from the third and public sectors to ensure young people who face adversity in their lives, who are living with disabilities or long-term health conditions, who are from a protected group or have never volunteered for anything before were aware of the exciting opportunity of becoming a YoYP 2018 Ambassador. The accessibility of the programme has been of great importance which is why application materials were available in clear print, Gaelic, British Sign Language and Braille, as well as translations being produced for other languages/accessibility needs on request. In addition, we are creating an adapted Ambassador Programme in conjunction with HMYOI Polmont to ensure that Scotland's young offenders can engage with the Year too.

The launch of the Year will take place across the week of 13 November beginning and will be media focussed and is led by young people. The First Minister along with cabinet secretaries and Ministers will be involved – the announcement will include the Events programme that will shape the calendar of activity for the Year.

We are working closely with Policy Leads across the SG to develop and deliver activity across the Six themes (that were identified by young people to be important) .

Education, Participation, Health & Wellbeing, Equalities & Discrimination, Enterprise & Regeneration and Culture 2018 Year of young people was centre stage of the Programme for Government, which includes volunteering opportunities for young people to be engaged in policy decision making during 2018 and beyond.

Encourage everyone to get involved in the Year and not just those who already engagement young people in the planning of their activities but to help change perceptions of young people and encourage engagement across sectors. Feel free to download our toolkit if you have activity that aligns to the Year and you can use our logo and key messages etc

Website: <http://yoyp2018.scot/>

Newsletter and toolkit: <http://yoyp2018.scot/get-involved/>

Twitter and use our hashtag - #YOYP2018 <https://twitter.com/yoyp2018?lang=en>

## 7. St Andrew's Day Celebration

Ian Sirrell from Scottish Government gave a presentation on the 2017 St Andrew's campaign.

As part of the Winter Festivals programme the St Andrew's Day Campaign is to encourage Scots to celebrate shared values of inclusiveness and welcoming of friends and strangers alike.

On 30 November, we're asking everyone to follow in the footsteps of the man himself and collectively show they care - to quite literally **#BeLikeStAndrew** and undertake a little act of kindness that could have a big impact.

Whether you're a local authority, business, community group or organisation this guide has all the information you need to get involved and inspire your supporters, staff and volunteers to come together and show that they care.

The campaign will go live on Monday 13 November and we would love to have the support of the CPG members, the toolkit can be downloaded from <http://www.belikestandrewtoolkit.com> The convener suggested Ian uses the CPG members as a way of disseminating the message throughout Scotland.

## 8. Scottish Household Survey 2016 Results

The 2016 Scottish Household Survey (SHS) results were published on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

John Mullin highlighted that further information on the analysis of the survey results were available from Volunteer Scotland but initial analysis shows a loss of 25 million volunteering hours in the last year in Scotland. It was agreed the sample data was limited but this still needed to be addressed. Alex stated that the CPG should take responsibility to assist in increasing volunteering participation, looking at what the barriers are and demonstrating how inclusive volunteering can be.

John Mullin highlighted Volunteer Scotland were researching the loss of hours and will be shared with members in due course.

John Mullin and Volunteer Scotland are working with the Improvement Service to enhance volunteering through various sectors.

It was agreed there is still work to be done on identifying the barriers to Volunteering and what needs to be done to address the barriers, is for example PVG a barrier to Volunteering? Or is volunteering not flexible enough to fit into current lifestyles?

Jeremy Balfour MSP highlighted that there is more volunteering taking place than we know as the SHS only records formal volunteering, he suggested the CPG should look at how informal volunteering can be included in the data, there is also the issue that individuals may not see themselves as volunteers, how can this be addressed?

The convener suggested engaging further with corporate organisations to provide a flexible approach to volunteering and allow staff time, but not in the traditional 1 day off to paint a wall volunteering!

It was suggested a future CPG meeting should look to have a panel of corporate organisations such as SSE, RBS; Standard Life to discuss their employer supported volunteering schemes.

Natalie Masterson, SVE stated that there is an issue with the analysis of procurement of volunteering which is having an effect on the decline of volunteering hours – not all employers recognise the value of volunteering and want something with accreditation.

It was agreed that the next meeting should focus on the 'kite marks' available for volunteering such as Investing in Volunteers (IiV) and Investing in Volunteers for Employers (IiVE) this would link well into the discussions with Corporate organisations.

## **9. Brexit – Impact on Volunteering**

Robert McGeachy, Neil Henery and David Mitchell presented on Camphill Scotland and the recent parliament motions.

Information can be found on the Camphill Scotland website

<https://www.camphillscotland.org.uk/>

Joanna Cherry MP, Dr Philippa Whitford MP and Martyn Day MP have tabled Amendment NC44 to the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill. The amendment is also supported by Pete Wishart MP and by 52 organisations across the UK. We are hoping to secure further support for Amendment NC44 from health and social care organisations, including third sector organisations, across the 4 Nations. Amendment NC44 would require the UK Government to make arrangements for an independent evaluation of the impact of the Act and Brexit upon the health and social care sector across the 4 Nations to be made after consulting the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers and the relevant Northern Ireland department, service providers, those requiring health and social care services, and others.

We believe this amendment is necessary to determine the full impact of the legislation and Brexit upon the health and social care sector across the 4 Nations, including the care and support for children and young people, and for people with disabilities, long term conditions and other support needs. This, in turn, will help to ensure that the strategic planning and decision making of Governments, local authorities, the third sector, the health and social care sector and other key agencies across the UK, in relation to the impact of Brexit on the health and social care sector in their respective nations, is fully informed and shaped by robust evidence.

Robert asked CPG members if they would like to support Amendment NC44 to the Brexit legislation. This amendment would require the UK Government to make arrangement for an independent evaluation of the impact of Brexit upon the health and social care sector. I enclose a copy of the briefing paper in support of the amendment.

Members can contact Robert direct if any further information is required.

## 10. Any other business

Sarah Van Putten – Befriending Network asked members to support Befriending week which started on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. Support can be given through social media to create an awareness of the week/campaign and the difference befriending can make in society.

Claire McHarrie – Scottish Government highlighted that discussion have taken place with various organisations regarding a National Volunteering Framework, which will be outcomes focused with a coordinated approach to engaging Volunteering in Scotland and to embed it within the National and local levels of Government.

A group has been established with key partners to draft the outcomes and an evidence and analysis sub group will also be formed with the understanding a framework will be published early 2018. Further updates will be given at CPG.

Paul Okroj – Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland informed the meeting that the Clear Pathway Project which looks at safeguarding volunteers within Health settings is coming to an end and will be published soon; this will be shared with CPG members.

Date of next meeting is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, 1.00-2.30pm, Committee Room 5.

## ACTIONS

- Convener/secretariat to invite the Cabinet Secretary to a future CPG meeting.
- Convener/secretariat will write to all MSP's to request topics for lunchtime seminars based on issues raised within committees – it is aimed to have 2 seminars in 2018.
- The Secretariat to arrange a joint CPG based on suggestions from members.
- The Secretariat to arrange to have a panel of corporate organisations such as SSE, RBS; Standard Life to discuss their employer supported volunteering schemes at a future meeting.
- liV/liVE presentation to be agreed for next CPG meeting.