

**Cross Party Group on Volunteering AGM  
Minute  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 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 & Stroke Scotland
Margaret	Starkie	Volunteer Scotland
George	Thomson	Volunteer Scotland
David	Maxwell	Volunteer Glasgow
Janis	McCulloch	Scouts Scotland
Louise	McGinty	Quarriers
Helen	Fleming	Dyslexia Scotland
Gordon	Brown	VC Borders
Mike	Melvin	Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations
Victoria	McRae	CVS Falkirk
Jack	Sanderson	Voluntary Arts Scotland
Gail	Cassidy	Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire
Joanne	Stewart	Breast Cancer Care Scotland
Fiona	Inglis	Voluntary Action Fund
Morven	MacLean	CHAS
Shelagh	Young	Home start UK
Emma	Murton	Guide Dogs
Alison	Steven	St Andrew's First Aid
Natalie	Masterson	Stirling Voluntary Enterprise
Catriona	MacLeod	CVS Inverclyde
Claire	Stevens	Voluntary Health Scotland
Erin	Fulton	Planning Aid for Scotland
Alice	McArdle	Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire
Tina	Cameron	Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire
Ian	McCall	Paths for all
Beverly	Gall	Rowan Alba Limited
Anna	Nugent	MacMillian Cancer Support
Pat	Scrutton	Intergenerational National Network
Katrina	Sayer	Argyll TSI
Claire	Ross	Citizen Advice Scotland
Martha	Rodger	The Machan Trust
Jennifer	Reston	Aberlour
Alexandra	Herdman	Senior Researcher Office of Graham Simpson MSP
Kirsty	MacDonald	Volunteer Centre Western Isles
Gail	Phillips	Lead Scotland
Lucy	Ayre	Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland
David	MacKenzie	National Autistic Society
Douglas	Guest	Home-start
Zara	Todd	Project Scotland
Matthew	Linning	Volunteer Scotland
Rosie	Abernethy	Volunteer Scotland
Sarah	Van Putten	Befriending Network

## **Apologies**

### **MSP members of the Group**

Pauline McNeil MSP – Scottish Labour Party

Johann Lamont MSP – Scottish Labour Party

Fulton MacGregor – Scottish National Party

Gordon Lindhurst MSP – Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

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

A considerable number of apologies were received for this meeting.

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Convener, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Cross Party Group on Volunteering.

#### **2. Volunteer's Week celebrations – Hearing from Volunteers**

As this meeting marks the end of Volunteer Week celebrations it was agreed a fitting tribute would be to hear from volunteers who are at the heart of supporting organisations, individuals and groups with their generosity of giving their time to volunteer, this is the Cross-Party Group on Volunteering saying thanks to volunteers for the contribution they make throughout Scotland.

### **Calum – National Autistic Society**

Calum is 18. He is autistic and was diagnosed when he was 10. He decided to volunteer for The National Autistic Society Scotland because of support he had received from the charity. He wanted to give something back and to help others like himself. Calum initially volunteered as a collection tin co-ordinator. This may seem like a simple task but approaching businesses and asking them to display a tin can be very daunting – particularly for someone who is autistic. Calum displayed a massive amount of courage and confidence in taking this task on. Shops are inundated with collection tins, so many declined, but Calum persevered and was delighted when his local hairdressers agreed to display one of our tins. Following this initial contact, Calum developed and strengthened his relationship with the business by offering to serve tea and coffee to its clients in return for a small donation. Calum said, "This was hard work as I was constantly on my feet and exhausted at the end of the day, but it was well worth the effort and I was pleased with the amount of money raised." We were impressed by Calum's efficiency, confidence and enthusiasm, and he raised £75.

He had really caught the fundraising bug, and there was no stopping him. He wished to do something more and suggested a bucket collection in his local cinema at Easter 2016. He secured slots at the Empire Cinema in Clydebank, co-ordinated volunteers, and attended himself. Calum has done a great job of fostering this relationship, and management at the cinema invited Calum back to collect during their next blockbuster screenings. Since then he has arranged further collections at the Cinema. The total raised from Cinema Collections is now at a staggering £2000. As Calum's confidence grew he wished to try a collection elsewhere and arrange for a public collection, securing permission from the local council for a collection in Helensburgh Town Centre. On a cold February morning he and his team of six volunteers braved the elements and raised £200 in under two hours!

In addition to helping raise funds for The National Autistic Society Scotland, Calum has also helped to raise awareness and understanding of autism. He represented our charity at a cheque presentation at a local nursery school – Calum was keen to take on this challenge and speak with children about autism and the work of our charity. That he was able to stand up in front of people to give thanks and accept the cheque shows how much confidence he has developed since taking on his fundraising role.

Calum is an inspiration to other young autistic people and has overcome several challenges to achieve his goal of giving something back to our charity and helping autistic people living in Scotland. He is an asset to our fundraising team. His determination, enthusiasm and commitment is incredible,

and for a young man to devote his spare time to helping others is to be commended. Calum has taken all of this on whilst still at school. In addition to fundraising, Calum volunteered with our media and campaigns team immediately following the Scottish Parliament Election this year. He played a vital role in helping us to build relationships with all 129 MSPs – spotting a typo in the welcome letter we intended to send them! – ensuring we were able to follow up on requests from new MSPs for meetings and information at a time when our small external affairs team was very busy.

### **Huw – YMSP – Scottish Youth Parliament**

Huw Sherrard has been involved in representing the young people of Clackmannanshire since early 2017, volunteering to ensure that their concerns and opinions were heard by decision makers, as well as campaigning on issues that young people in his area cared deeply about.

He is a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Clackmannanshire, as well as the Vice Chair of the Clackmannanshire Youth Council, and has volunteered almost 100 hours in both these roles since last October alone."

### **Kayleigh and Ann - Learning Disability Volunteers NHS Scotland**

Kayleigh and Ann have enjoyed volunteering for a while which has helped them with their own development and confidence as previously they would not have been able to come along to a meeting like this. This emphasises the difference volunteering can make not just to the volunteer but the beneficiary too.

### **Willie & Anne – InS:PIRE Peer Support Volunteers (ICU)**

Willie and Anne are a husband and wife team who started volunteering after Willie had spent time in hospital as a patient and saw the fantastic impact volunteers made to him and his wife during his long stay at hospital and to get over the trauma of being ill. They underwent 5 weeks of training and now volunteer weekly. Anne trained as a volunteer carer within the ICU and helps patients and families deal with what they are going through while in hospital, this has also helped with her own mental health. They both reiterated how important this journey has been for them both and the feeling of seeing the difference they make.

### **Grace – Active Stirling**

In my last year of school, I selected sports leaders as a subject. Through the year I was involved in CPD training within all sports at a basic level and introduced to the wider Active Stirling team where I then signed up to become a volunteer at holidays programmes and the community dance programme. Within a year I was working as a paid coach.

The classes I was given worked around my college then university timetable. After graduation I was mentored by my coaching manager, and then successfully gained the post as a coach and volunteer coordinator and now an Active Schools coordinator. I have been able to develop and support all volunteers, coaches and apprentices throughout their journey with the experience I have, starting as a volunteer.

### **Val – Lead Scotland**

Val retired early and had every intention of committing to some voluntary work; she was a volunteer years ago with a project in Dunfermline which helped disabled youngsters prepare for an independent life. Val wasn't sure who to volunteer with and saw Lead's advertisement for volunteers in the local paper. Val looked at the website and felt that befriending was something she could identify with and would like to do something to assist people who felt isolated/lonely and encourage them to join in social activities and become more confident in themselves.

### **3. Minutes of Previous AGM meeting**

The minutes of the last AGM meeting held on 28th June 2018 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Jeremy Balfour MSP, seconded by Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP.

### **4. Election of Office Bearers (Convener/Vice Convener/Secretariat)**

Paul Okroj thanked the Convener and Vice Convener for their continued support throughout the year including out with CPG meetings.

It was agreed that Alex Cole Hamilton MSP would stand again as Convener; this was seconded by Shelagh Young, Home-start

The Convener thanked the Secretariat, Paul Okroj – Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland and Margaret Starkie – Volunteer Scotland for all their hard work and support in the last year and for creating one of the most functional and largest Cross-Party Group meetings. The Convener proposed they continue in the role of secretariat, both agreed. This was seconded by Morven McLean - CHAS.

### **5. Reflection on CPG Meetings over the year**

The Convener highlighted that this was the most successful and best attended by members and cross-party representation than other Cross-Party Groups. The group has helped increase the profile of Volunteering within Government and has created strong relationships with its members and across parliament and government especially in responding to consultations and assisting in the development of the National Volunteer Outcome Framework with Scottish Government.

2018-2019 will see the implementation of the Outcomes Framework of which the CPG on volunteering will support. The groups aim for the coming year is to continue to grow in its strategic direction making sure volunteering is the heart of what we do.

### **6. Agree minutes of the previous meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by Paul Okroj – Chest Heart & Stroke and seconded by Alex Cole-Hamilton – Convener.

### **7. Understanding Volunteer Impact Measurement Practices Across Scotland – Morven McLean (CHAS), Matthew Linning (Volunteer Scotland)**

The SVF Impact Measurement Sub-Group was established towards the end of last year, the aim of the group is to raise the profile of impact measurement, provide guidance and support to help VIOs to measure impact.

The more we demonstrate the impact of volunteering on organisational performance, government policy and wider society, the easier it will be to secure funding for volunteering. Also measuring impact will enable VIOs to improve performance which will benefit the services VIOs provide as well as the volunteers supporting services.

The more we demonstrate the impact of volunteering on volunteers, the more likely it will be that current volunteers continue to volunteer regularly and that non-volunteers start volunteering.

The recommendations are listed at the back of the report, which can be found on Volunteer Scotland's website;

[https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1335434/understanding\\_volunteering\\_impact\\_measurement\\_practices\\_across\\_scotland\\_final\\_report\\_.pdf](https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1335434/understanding_volunteering_impact_measurement_practices_across_scotland_final_report_.pdf)

Many people said that an online toolkit would be helpful, as would a peer support network, to learn from others and exchange ideas around impact measurement. Watch this space – the sub-group will be discussing how to take that work forward at the next sub-group meeting.

Morven is working with Sarah Latto, Chair of the Funding sub-group to look at overlap of themes and we are identifying opportunities to speak to funders as well as Trust and Foundation Managers within VIOs, through networks like the IoF and Scottish Funders Forum.

In the mean-time you can help – on a practical level, if you're measuring impact, showcase it – to your Board, staff, volunteers, and on social media and in the press. VIOs need to prioritise impact measurement – talk to your senior teams and your funders as well as your wider networks. Help us to raise the profile of impact measurement of volunteering. Organisations need to value and appreciate impact measurement and allocate the necessary resources. We can all play a role in making this change happen. Collectively we can raise the profile of this – we hope that the national framework will further support our ambition to have every VIO measuring impact and sharing the results.

## **8. Any other Business**

Papers received for noting;

Shared governance – Volunteer Scotland

PVG Consultation – Volunteer Scotland

Voluntary Health Scotland – Clear Pathways project

The convener thanked all who attended especially all the volunteers for taking time out of their day to share their stories.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

Dates of meetings held in session 2018-2019 to be confirmed and circulated by secretariat.