

**Cross Party Group on Volunteering Meeting/AGM
Minute
Wednesday 25th November 2020, 12.00-1.30pm
Via Zoom
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:

*See Appendix 1

Apologies

MSP members of the Group

Pauline McNeil MSP – Scottish Labour Party
Johann Lamont MSP – Scottish Labour Party
Fulton MacGregor MSP – Scottish National 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

The Convenor, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP welcomed everyone to the first Cross Party Group on Volunteering meeting in a year! This as we all know has been due to COVID-19 and the issues and pressures asked of everyone during this unprecedented time. The convenor commented on how thankful he was at such a great turn out of members and was looking forward to reengaging in the CPG discussions.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 5th November 2019

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5th November 2019 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Jennifer Reston – Aberlour, seconded by Jonathan Christie – The Wood Foundation.

3. Minutes of previous AGM meeting held on 4th June 2019

The minutes of the last AGM meeting held on 4th June 2019 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, seconded by Margaret Starkie – Volunteer Scotland.

4. Election of office bearers

Margaret Starkie thanked the Convenor and Vice Convenor for their continued support to the CPG on Volunteering.

It was agreed that Alex Cole Hamilton MSP would stand again as Convenor; proposed by Kim Atkinson – Scottish Sports Association, seconded by Margaret Starkie – Volunteer Scotland.

It was also agreed that Jeremy Balfour MSP would continue as Vice Convenor; proposed by Emma Cormack – The Health Agency, seconded by Jennifer Reston – Aberlour.

The Convener thanked the Secretariat Margaret Starkie – Volunteer Scotland for her continued work to support the CPG in the last year and the year going forward.

5. Introduction & welcome to Catrina Steenberg and Fiona Zapirain, Scottish Government's Third Sector Unit

The Convener welcomed Catrina Steenberg and Fiona Zapirain from Scottish Government. Fiona started off by highlighting that her and Catrina were the new Team Leaders along side Ruth Hutton as Policy Officer within Ms Campbell, Cabinet Secretary of Communities, Social Security and Equalities of Scotland Directorate. Working within the division of Public Service Reform, Public Bodies and Third Sector. This division is now led by Deputy Director Catrina McLean.

The division is very cross-cutting, and both Catrina and Fiona welcomed this opportunity to discuss the future. Catrina discussed as part of their roles her and Fiona will be taking forward the development of the Volunteering for All Framework Action plan, of which an initial meeting has taken place with over 70 attendees wanted to support the development and implementing of the action plan. This is a coproduction piece of work, engaging from across the sector with commitment from the 2019 Programme for Government. If others would like to get involved or find out more, please contact Margaret Starkie who will pass on contact details.

6. How has volunteering been affected by Covid-19

Matthew Linning, Volunteer Scotland presented research undertaken by Volunteer Scotland on how formal volunteering has been affected by Covid-19.

*Presentation available on request

Sources: Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey - June 2020; Scottish Household Survey 2018

- Volunteering participation: before and during COVID-19 (March – June 2020) – Pre-covid 45%, during covid 74%
- Volunteering activities during Covid: befriending or keeping in touch with someone who is at risk or lonely – 68%. Food Shopping 57%. Collecting pensions benefits 7%. Helping to staff telephone/befriending services 4%
- What are the affects you are most concerned about for your community right now? Mental Health 86%, Loneliness 83%
- Challenges facing formal volunteering; Service cuts, Funding cuts, Reduced membership, Sustainability threatened, Mental & physical health, Loneliness, beneficiaries & volunteers, longer hours, fewer volunteers to help, higher needs, workload and burnout, volunteers 'on hold', massive supply of volunteers with little demand, health and wellbeing issues, retention of volunteers
- Training support most cited: Mental health training (most frequently cited issue for volunteers/coordinators), Befriending (including telephone support), Digital e.g. how to interact with volunteers who aren't IT literate, Managing issues of inclusion, How to communicate with volunteers during COVID-19 and keep them engaged, Not just vol. coordinators and volunteers – also trustees – all on-line
- Capitalising on the inter-relationships within volunteering; Dynamic factors to be considered: Formal VIOs and mutual aid groups learning from each other. Synergies between informal volunteers and mutual aid volunteers. Understanding the relationship between, and motivations of, formal and informal volunteers.

- COVID-19 has dropped a very large boulder into a very still pond. The challenge is to capitalize on the opportunities and mitigate the adverse impacts of COVID-19.....to achieve a healthier, happier and fairer society in the long term.

7. Scottish Volunteering Forum - Volunteering in 2020 and beyond

Sarah Latta, Chair of Scottish Volunteering Forum (SVF) introduced the Volunteering in 2020 and beyond key asks document that has been created by SVF based on discussions with its members on taking volunteering forward after COVID-19. It was written in August 2020 therefore some of the discussions have moved on but are still very relevant.

Key Ask themes;

- 'Volunteering for All' Outcomes Framework
- Spectrum of Volunteering
- Championing Inclusion
- Local Infrastructure
- Voice of Volunteering in Strategy and Policy

Sarah and any other members of the forum are happy to discuss this document further.

The publication can be download:

<https://scottishvolunteeringforum.wordpress.com/publications/>

8. Break-out session - Themed topics for CPG for next 12 months

Members were out into breakout groups and asked to discuss future topics CPG should discuss. An update will be given at the next meeting.

9. Any other Business

No AOB was discussed.

10. Date of next meeting

27th January 2021

Appendix 1:

Non-MSPs Members of the Group:

First Name	Last Name	Company
Claire	Penny	Volunteer centre borders
Fiona	Zapirain	Scottish Government
Jennifer	Reston	Aberlour
Pat	Scrutton	Intergenerational National Network
Catriona	MacLeod	CVS Inverclyde (TSI)
Cat	Campbell	Children1st
Marie	Oliver	VASA
Morven	MacLean	CHAS
Jonathan	Christie	The Wood Foundation
Tina	Cameron	Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan)
Stacey	Murray	Cancer Support Scotland
Jane	Tattum	HTSI
Susan	Davies	TSI Moray
Ian	McCall	Paths for All
John Ross	Brown	Volunteering Matters
Tracey	Groom	Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland
Helen	Fleming	Dyslexia Scotland
Paul	Wilson	Volunteer Edinburgh
Fiona	Harvey	CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland)
Hong	Zhang	PKAVS/TSI
Fiona	Reid	Bayfirth Research / Observatory for Sport in Scotland
Alice	McArdle	Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire
Sarah	Murray	Royal Voluntary Service
Dan	Paris	Museums Galleries Scotland
Emma	Hamilton	Scottish Drugs Forum
Louise	Orr	Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface
Sarah	Van Putten	Befriending Networks Ltd
Mike	Melvin	ACVO-third sector interface for Aberdeen
Jenni	Snell	YouthLink Scotland
Sarah	Latto	Shelter Scotland
Louise	McGinty	Quarriers
Louise	Bluett	Volunteer Centre East Lothian
Pat	Scrutton	Intergenerational National Network
Fiona	Inglis	Impact Funding Partners
Gail	Cassidy	Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire
Diane	Wilson	Impact Funding Partners
Wendy	Diack	Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland
Maxine	Dinnes	Leonard Cheshire
Kirstin	Worsley	The Breastfeeding Network
Emma	Cormack	The Health Agency
Bill	Weir	Impact Funding Partners

Tracey	Passway	NHS Tayside
Michelle	Cook	Chartered Institute of Fundraising Scotland
Gregor	Muir	Scottish Sports Association
Charlotte	O'Brien	Home-Start UK Scotland
Catrina	Steenberg	Scottish Government
Margaret	Starkie	Volunteer Scotland
George	Thomson	Volunteer Scotland
Matthew	Linning	Volunteer Scotland
Alan	Stevenson	Volunteer Scotland