

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Skills
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date 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.)
28 th June 2011
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
20th June 2013
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.
<p><u>26th June 2012</u> - Members were invited to attend a joint meeting with members of the CPG on Skills. This was not noted as a formal meeting of the CPG on skills and attendance not officially recorded, however 27 members included along with John Park MSP. Group discussions covered issues relating to how to support graduates to be 'work ready'.</p> <p><u>4th October 2012:</u> (MSP = 2, Non-MSP = 28). The Group received a presentation from IIP and Scottish Enterprise on leadership and management skills - how empowered leadership can help put a business into action / positive impact on the economy. This highlighted interesting challenges about lack of role models for women and changing cultural issues and the need for using the correct measures of output.</p> <p><u>6th December 2012:</u> (MSP = 2, Non-MSP = 23). The Group was informed at this meeting that one of the co-convenors, John Park had stood down from Parliament. Best wishes were sent to him for his new role outside of politics, and nominations for a new co-convenor were invited ahead of the next meeting. The Group also received an update from Loch Lomond and Trossachs Partnership. We revisited this inspirational case study of how to make improvements that benefit everyone in the community. The team shared their concept for pulling all stakeholders together to create an Academy - showing how this approach might be applied to supporting other rural communities with the skills and opportunities needed. The discussion</p>

highlighted some other cases where technology is helping overcome challenges in delivering training and skills.

Workplan Item: The Group enjoyed a very healthy debate about the issues affecting funding; how to access; understand how funding fits with employer needs; the overlap, or lack of it, between funded initiatives; direction of funds to required programmes, amongst others. It was agreed to revisit this item at a future meeting. The Group also reviewed progress against the workplan and agreed matters to progress at the forthcoming meetings.

7th February 2013: (MSP =4, Non-MSP = 31). The meeting incorporated an extraordinary meeting to elect the new Co-Convenor. Margaret McCulloch MSP was nominated and elected unanimously. Workplan item: Return on investment. NHS Education team shared with the Group how they have been introducing measures to review the return on investment in a meaningful way and provided case studies of how they, despite limited resources, are creating a network of colleagues to ensure this approach is rolled out across their organisation.

There was also a very useful update from SQA about the Curriculum for Excellence which brought into focus the question of whether higher education and employers are ready for this new type of student /employee.

23rd May 2013 (MSP = 2, Non-MSP = 24). This meeting incorporated the AGM, including the further expansion of the Group's membership and the election of office bearers. As the current Secretary was standing down a new Secretary was elected and welcomed to the Group. There was no formal presentation to provide more time to members to discuss items to be included to the workplan for the next 12 months. Issues such as the Richard review were raised, and a useful tool support employer understanding of the framework from SCQF was circulated.

Throughout the year the Group had been supported with lunch and refreshments and also provided information about the work their organisations are undertaking in the skills arena. Special thanks was made to the following members for their additional contributions: SCQF, Lifeskills, SQA, Pearson

In addition to these meetings, the CPG on skills also provided feedback and guidance to CRER regarding equality and diversity in modern apprenticeships – a letter was prepared and sent to the Convenor of the Equal Opportunities Committee raising the matter further.

The office bearers also contributed to the work of the Clerks to improve and enhance the operation of cross party groups.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names of all MSP members of the Group. Note that only names need to be provided, no party designation or other information is required.

Marco Biagi
Gavin Brown
Rhoda Grant

Liam McArthur

Margaret McCulloch

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

Gordon Reid

Organisations

A4e Scotland Ltd
A&M Community Training
Aplus Training
Application Recruitment
Association of Accounting Technicians
Barnardo's Scotland
Big Lottery Fund
Bio Reliance
British Retail Consortium
Castle Douglas Community IT Centre
Chartered Banker Institute
Chartered Management Institute
City & Guilds
Close the Gap
Cogent SSC
Construction Skills Scotland
Creative Scotland
Economic Development Association [Scotland]
Education Scotland
Employment Enterprise
Federation of Small Business Scotland
Fife Council – Enterprise & Protection Services
GCU
ICS Ltd
Improve
Independent Roof Training Association
Institute of Physics
Investors in People
IRISS
ITC
JHP
Lantra
Learning Link Scotland
Lifeskills Centres
Loch Lomond & Trossachs Community Partnership
NFU
NHS Education for Scotland
NSCC
OPITO

	Pearson Education ProSkills Queen Margaret University Rathbone Scotland Remploy ScotlandIS Scottish Building Scottish Countrywide Alliance SCQF SEMTA Scottish Enterprise SECTT Scottish Investment Operations Scottish Land & Estates Scottish Qualifications Authority [Awarding] Scottish Qualifications Authority [Accreditation] Scottish Renewables Forum Scottish Retail Consortium Scottish Training Federation Scottish Youth Parliament Skills Development Scotland Select Skills for Logistics STUC- Skills and Learning Team The Open University in Scotland The Scotch Whisky Association Unite the Union Universities Scotland University of Abertay Working Links The Institute of the Motor Industry
--	--

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-Convener	Gavin Brown MSP, Margaret McCulloch MSP
Deputy Convener	n/a
Secretary	Ryan Reed
Treasurer	n/a

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.

Shona Matthews, of the Chartered Banker Institute, Secretary to the CPG on Skills until 31st May 2013.

Estimated time spent supporting the work of the CPG = 25 hrs p/a, approx. value of £600.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

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

n/a

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Gavin Brown MSP
Parliamentary address	Room 2.13, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6931