

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Shared Parenting
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session 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.)
17.1.2018
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
29/01/20
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
27/02/20
DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]
15/01/19
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>The group held meetings on 15th January 2019 (AGM), 12th June 2019, 4th September 2019 and 6th November 2019.</p> <p>15th January meeting and AGM. Three MSPs were present: Gillian Martin</p>

MSP, Fulton MacGregor MSP, Jeremy Balfour MSP. Apologies were received from Jeremy Balfour MSP, Finlay Carson MSP and Andy Wightman MSP.

11 members were present and apologies were received from 3 more. Two civil servants were in attendance.

AGM. Gillian Martin took the chair. She announced she is standing down as convenor. Fulton MacGregor was elected as convenor. Gillian Martin and Jeremy Balfour were elected as co-vice conveners.

Ian Maxwell presented a financial report showing voluntary donations from members totalling £155.00 leaving a balance of £58.37 held by FNF Scotland.

Presentation

Felicity Shedden from Family Law In Partnership in England gave a presentation on 'Parenting Coordinators'. She described 'Parenting Coordination' which is an innovative child-centred intervention to support and guide parents in implementing their parenting agreements or court orders in medium and high-conflict cases. The work involves skills from family law, mediation, mental health, parenting education, social work and child protection fields. At the moment a court order is made the parents involved are likely still to be in the 'adversarial mode' engendered by the court process but are left just to get on with it. Parent Coordinators in other jurisdictions, including some courts in England, help defuse the day to day small issues that arise and avoid returning to court with what are in the bigger picture minor details.

12th June 2019 meeting

One MSP was present: Fulton MacGregor MSP

Apologies were received from Jeremy Balfour MSP and Gillian Martin MSP

6 members were present as well as 5 members of MSP staff observing. Apologies were received from 8 members.

New members: Connect - formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council – and Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland joined.

Presentation Parental Leave - What can the Scottish Parliament do?

Professor Alison Koslowski, spoke on “Parental Leave and Beyond: Recent International Developments, Current Issues and Future Directions” which is also the title of the book she recently co-edited, published by Bristol University Press. We are far behind other countries in Scotland and have a lot to do. Despite limits on devolved powers, Scottish Parliament can promote efforts of individual companies and councils – e.g. North Lanarkshire Council offering 4 weeks paternal leave. Culture change is key.

Presentation How Are You Dad? Understanding Paternal Mental Health

Chris Mieзитis of Fathers Network Scotland talked about the national How Are You Dad? pilot, evaluation, findings and recommendations.

In perinatal mental health 20% of mothers and 10-15% of fathers suffer from post natal depression and up to 40% of new dads suffer perinatal anxiety/stress. If fathers can be supported this also help mothers. Suicide is the greatest cause of death in men <50.

Women are asked to discuss their mental health but men are not asked about this despite above risks. Early intervention is key in the mental health strategy. There is 99% attendance by men during ante-natal period but only half of them are asked about their health (smoking, drink etc.) 100% of mothers are asked about their mental health but only 60% of fathers.

4th September meeting

One MSP was present: Fulton MacGregor MSP.

Apologies were received from Jeremy Balfour MSP, Andy Wightman MSP.

11 members were present and two civil servants in attendance. Apologies were received from 4 members.

Children (Scotland) Bill The long awaited family law bill has been laid at Holyrood this week.

Simon Stockwell and Hannah Frodsham from the Scottish Government Family Law Team outlined the content and the expected timeline for the bill's progress through Holyrood.

The Group had a preliminary discussion at the meeting on what the Bill includes and what further detailed themes it may address in future meetings and whether the group may wish to make a submission to the Bill committee in its own name.

Presentation: Relationships Scotland Child Contact Services.

Eileen Brownlie, Head of Practice for Child Contact Centres, Relationships Scotland delivered a powerpoint about the role of contact centres in supporting parents who, for a variety of reasons, need a neutral venue for spending time with their children such as a long break in contact or for an assessment of their interaction with their children where a court has ordered a 'supervised contact. Contact centres can also provide 'supported contact' and 'handover' facility for agreed or ordered contact.

4th November meeting.

Two MSPs were present: Fulton MacGregor MSP and Gillian Martin MSP.

Apologies were received from Jeremy Balfour MSP.

13 members were present. Apologies were received from 7 more.

Two civil servants were in attendance.

New member: Early Years Scotland joined.

Presentation: Raising Awareness of Parental Alienation by Jan James of the Good Egg Safety CIC.

Jan heads up this internationally awarded Community Interest Company specialising in behavioural change campaigns in safety and health. Child protection features strongly in their campaigning, and the organisation has extended its remit to raise awareness of the long-term psychological harm to children and target parents caused through parental alienation. Her presentation included Scottish results from a UK survey.

Children (Scotland) Bill: further consideration of the Bill and its implications for shared parenting.

Hannah Frodsham outlined the progress on the bill so far including the likely dates of Justice Committee hearings. Scottish Government officials are appearing before the committee on 26th November.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Gillian Martin (SNP),
Finlay Carson (Con),
Bob Doris (SNP),
Andy Wightman (Green),
Jeremy Balfour (Con),
Fulton McGregor (SNP)

Other MSPs who have attended a meeting:

Willie Coffey (SNP),
Joan McAlpine (SNP),
Rona MacKay (SNP),

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.

<p>Individuals</p>	<p>Amanda Ward Ellen Forson Eoin Keane Mrs Frances Byatt-Smith Miranda Gray</p>
<p>Organisations</p>	<p>Families Need Fathers Scotland, Scottish Youth Parliament Fathers Network Scotland Relationships Scotland Family Mediation West Parent Network Scotland Men in Childcare Midlothian Surestart One Parent Families Scotland The Spark Families Outside Circle Scotland Parenting Across Scotland Engender Home Start Men and Boys Initiative Issy Shillinglaw Grandparents Rights Grandparents Apart Connect CYPCS Early Years Scotland</p>

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.

Convener	Fulton MacGregor MSP
Deputy Convener	Gillian Martin MSP, Jeremy Balfour MSP
Secretary	John Forsyth, FNF Scotland
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.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

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

Voluntary levy on members to cover incidental speaker costs and contribute towards photocopying.

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS	
Name	Fulton MacGregor MSP
Parliamentary address	Fulton.macgregor.msp@parliament.scot
Telephone number	01313485797