

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

22.2.2021

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

9 March 2021

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]

15/01/20

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.

The group held meetings on 29th January 2020, 18th June 2020 and 11th November 2020.

29th January meeting. Three MSPs were present: Gillian Martin MSP, Fulton MacGregor MSP, Bob Doris MSP. Apologies were received from Finlay Carson MSP.

9 members were present and apologies were received from 9 more.
One civil servant was in attendance.

Fulton MacGregor MSP took the chair.

New Members and Changes

Douglas Guest has replaced Shelagh Young for Home Start Scotland. Together Scotland is joining as a corresponding member.

Presentation and discussion

Presentation by Juliet Harris, Director, Together Scotland Together is an alliance of Scottish children's charities that works to improve the awareness, understanding and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Juliet gave a compelling account of the imperatives and implications of incorporating the UNCRC into Scots Law ahead of the Bill to be introduced into the Scottish Parliament.

18th June 2019 meeting [via Zoom]

Two MSPs was present: MSP Fulton MacGregor MSP (Convener), Jeremy Balfour MSP.

11 members were present. Apologies were received from 4 members.

Two civil servants were in attendance.

Fulton MacGregor MSP took the chair.

New members and changes

The group has been joined by Anne Wilson from Children's Health Scotland.

Presentation: Experience of Shared Parenting Law in Belgium J

Judge Marie-France Carlier is a Judge at Namur Family Court (division of Namur and Dinant) in Belgium where the law changed in 2006 to require judges to consider equal 'joint physical custody' if proposed by one parent. She is also one of the founders of the Interdisciplinary Family-Youth Commission, which meets monthly to build bridges between family-related stakeholders and to continually improve the Consensus model through suggestions relayed by the Bar or by other members of the Commission. One of the amendments proposed by Liam McArthur (Lib Dem), effectively inserts the wording of the Belgian law into the Children (Scotland) Bill. Judge Carlier spoke to the paper (attached) that she had circulated ahead of the meeting and took questions afterwards.

The Children (Scotland) Bill. Round table discussion

The group discussed the arguments for – and the likely prospects of success – of a number of amendments that are down for the Stage 2 debate:

A right for one parent to have a motion for 'approximately' equal shared parenting considered in court. This would not pre-empt a judge's decision which would still be based on the best interests of the child; Removing the labels "residence" and "contact" from court orders; More emphasis on mediation and alternative methods of dispute resolution to avoid adversarial court hearings; Regulation of Contact Centres; Standards for Child Welfare Reporters – should the lawyer monopoly be broken; Appointment of

specialist Family Sheriffs throughout Scotland

11th November 2020 meeting [via Zoom]

Two MSPs were present: Fulton MacGregor MSP, Jeremy Balfour MSP. Apologies were received from Gillian Martin MSP and Finlay Carson MSP.

14 members were present.

Fulton MacGregor MSP took the chair.

New members and changes

Nicola Crombie Dawson from Men in Childcare has joined the group

Presentation: Young People and Family Separation in Scotland

Erin Campbell, MYSP, for Midlothian North and Depute Convenor for Equality and Human Rights explained how she gathered the views and experiences of young people for their perspective on family separation and relationships with parents. A pdf of her report, Young People and Family Separation in Scotland was circulated to members.

Presentation: Paternal mental health in Scotland

Chris Mieзитis of Fathers Network Scotland presented his report, *Paternal Perinatal Mental Health: A Call to Action* including current facts, figures and perinatal service practice in Scotland, and the wider context of male mental health. His Powerpoint slides and executive summary were circulated to members.

Presentation: Insights into the challenges and opportunities of father inclusion within Health Visitor practice

Kate Magumise (Health visitor) and Morag Rush (Health visitor/practice teacher) in Fife shared their health visitor team's experiences of working with dads whilst applying the principles of GIRFEC. They discussed the systemic and attitudinal challenges faced by health visitors when engaging with dads and suggested opportunities to build on best practice and proposed solutions to the challenges faced.

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)

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	Amanda Ward Ellen Forson Eoin Keane Mrs Frances Byatt-Smith Miranda Gray
Organisations	Shared Parenting Scotland (formerly Families Need fathers Scotland), Scottish Youth Parliament Fathers Network Scotland Relationships Scotland Family Mediation West Parent Network Scotland Men in Childcare Midlothian Surestart Childrens Health 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>Dads Rock</p> <p>Corresponding members Fatherhood Institute Together Scotland Scottish Womens Aid</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, Shared Parenting 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. Not activated during 2020,.

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Fulton MacGregor MSP
Parliamentary address	
Telephone number	