Cross-Party Group Registration Form

Please read Section 6 of the Code of Conduct before completing this form.

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Unpaid Carers
Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics 1. Please state the purpose of the Group. The purpose is to provide a dedicated, politically neutral forum for Members of the Scottish Parliament, unpaid carers, young carers, organisations and other interested individuals to consider the needs, rights and contributions of unpaid carers across Scotland. The Group brings together parliamentary, lived experience, policy, research and practice perspectives. It aims to support informed discussion, strengthen understanding and encourage constructive action on issues affecting unpaid carers and the services and organisations that support them. 2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest. The purpose of the Group is to: • Keep the experiences, rights and priorities of unpaid carers and young carers visible within the Scottish Parliament. • Provide a forum for unpaid carers, young carers, organisations, practitioners, researchers and policymakers to share evidence, experience and learning. • Consider what is working well in practice and where further action or improvement may be needed. • Examine the implementation and impact of legislation, policy and public service reform on unpaid carers. • Support cross party understanding and constructive discussion of practical solutions. • Promote accountability for national commitments affecting unpaid carers, while maintaining the Group's political neutrality. • Contributes to better informed decision making and improved outcomes for unpaid carers, young carers and families across Scotland.

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3. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established.

Currently, the CPG does not overlap with any established Cross-Party Group

4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

- The Group's work programme will be shaped collectively by members. Key priorities include:
- The implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, including identification, Adult Carer Support Plans, Young Carer Statements, information and advice, and access to support.
- The development and implementation of the right to breaks, including access to meaningful short breaks and the impact on health and wellbeing.
- Poverty and financial security, including social security, the additional costs of caring, access to financial advice and barriers to education and employment
- Health and social care reform, including community based care, hospital discharge and the involvement of unpaid carers in decisions affecting the person they support.
- The role, sustainability and funding of local carer organisations as essential partners in prevention and community support.
- Recognition, identification and support for young carers and young adult carers in schools, further and higher education, transitions and employment.
- The influence of unpaid carers in local and national decision making, including the use of lived experience and evidence to assess delivery and outcomes.

MSP Members of the Group

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group. In doing so please note:

- Section 6 of the Code of Conduct requires there be 5 members from the parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The SPPA Committee agreed a waiver for this session that requires 5 MSP members from 5 parties represented on the Bureau;

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• MSPs can be on no more than 10 CPGs of which fulfil no more than 3 office-bearer positions; • If the group fails to comply with MSP membership requirements, the Convener must ensure this is resolved within 90 days.

MSP	**Party**
Carol Mochan MSP	Scottish Labour
Helen McDade MSP	Reform UK
David Smith MSP	Reform UK
Cara McKee MSP	Scottish Greens
Alan Brown MSP	Scottish National Party
Sanne Dijkstra-Downie MSP	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Miles Briggs MSP	Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

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	Clare Steel, George Fairfull-Smith, Christine F Farquhar, Louise Harker, Cllr Nairn Angus-McDonald, Marie McWaters, Janice Dunn, Moria Mark, Gabrielle, Tom Wightman, Lindsey Currie, Diarmuid McDonnell
Organisations	Firsthand Lothian, East Ayrshire Carers Centre, Carers Trust Scotland, Carers Scotland, Coalition of Carers in Scotland , Carers Trust, Fife Young Carers, Unity Enterprise, Dundee Carers Centre, MECOPP, Shared Care Scotland, Lanarkshire Carers, Crossroads North Argyll, Carers centre

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	managers network for Scotland, Central Carers Association (Falkirk and Clackmannan), Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre, Edinburgh Young Carers, Family Fund, North Argyll Carers Centre, Education Scotland, Pasda, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs, Dochas Carers Centre, Leuchie, Young Scot, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre, Forces Children Scotland, Carers of East Lothian

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.

Please note:

- No more than 3 named contacts per CPG - the Convener, the Secretary and one other individual who can provide information to the Standards Clerks about the activities of the Group. The Convener of a Group must confirm the name of this individual.

Convener	Carol Mochan MSP
Deputy Convener	Helen McDade MSP
Secretary	Karen Maloney, Carers Trust Scotland
Named Contact	Evie Milligan

Financial Benefits or Other Benefits

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This

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includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.
Carers Trust Scotland – staff time approx. £2000 per year (attendance at 3 meetings a year and 3-day administration for each meeting) Carers Trust Scotland Hospitality costs on average £60 per meeting Total value of financial benefits approx. £2180 per year
Subscription Charged by the Group Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.
No subscription is charged.
Statement on Compliance with the Code of Conduct. Must be read and signed by the Convener.
Please read the following: • The Convener of a Group is primarily responsible for ensuring that the Group complies with the Code of Conduct; • The Convener is solely responsible for providing Standards Clerks with: ○ The names of new MSP members of the CPG and changes to office-bearers; ○ Named contact details; ○ The registration form; ○ All minutes of meetings within 30 days of the meeting being held; **(Substantially verbatim minutes will not be accepted and will be returned)** ○ The AGM return (to be submitted within 30 days of the AGM to be held within 11 – 13 months of the initial meeting). • Groups are required to have five MSPs from five of the parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau;

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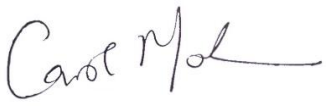
• CPGs must hold at least two formal meetings per year (not on the same day), where two MSPs members of the Group are present; • CPGs must provide Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings; • If a CPG meeting is cancelled or rearranged, notification must be provided to the Standards clerks by no later than the day after the meeting was originally scheduled to take place; • If a Group fails to comply fully with the Code for more than one year in a row, the Committee will withdraw recognition from that Group. I declare that I have read the above and that the Cross-Party Group on Unpaid Carers is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed (Convener)	
Date	12/10/2026

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