

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.)

17/01/2018

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

08/11/2022

Date Annual Return Submitted

07/05/2025

Date of Preceding AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

14/9/2021

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 met on **7th June 2022**.

MSPs Fulton MacGregor and Jeremy Balfour were present.

Nine members of the group were present, and two Scottish Government civil servants in attendance. Invited speakers were Cara Cooper and Rod Finan (GIRFEC), and Claire Ross (New Ways For Families).

Agenda Item 1

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD: Cara Cooper and Rod Finan from the GIRFEC team presented an overview of the development of GIRFEC, including information on its links to other policy areas; the recent consultation activities and planned next steps.

Agenda Item 2

NEW WAYS FOR FAMILIES: Claire Ross, Training Manager, Shared Parenting Scotland. Shared Parenting Scotland is piloting a coaching programme called New Ways For Families that empowers parents with the skills and insight to find their own way to put their children ahead of their urge to battle each other.

Agenda Item 3

PARENTING APART: Rosanne Cubitt, Head of Practice for Family Mediation and Relationship Counselling at Relationships Scotland, explained the Parenting Apart sessions run by Relationships Scotland and its distinctive approach to encouraging parents to gain perspective on issues that arise in separated parenting.

A further meeting took place on **8th November 2022**.

MSPs Fulton MacGregor and Jeremy Balfour were present.

Nine members of the group were present. Three members of the Scottish Government civil service and an MSP staff member were in attendance. Two guests were invited to make presentations: Gary Clapton, Senior Lecturer in Social Work at the University of Edinburgh, and Professor Alison Koslowski.

Agenda Item 1.

The Invisible Man. Gary Clapton is a former children and family social worker and a senior lecturer in social work, with a particular interest in representation and lack of representation in social work and public health imagery. He published his report “Where’s Dad?” for Fathers Network Scotland 10 years ago and talked at the meeting about progress since then.

Agenda Item 2.

How Scotland could benefit from new EU legislation on family leave and work-life balance. Professor Alison Koslowski is lead Editor of the International Review on Leave Policies and Research, which reviews parenting leave policies across 49 European countries. She explained how new legislation has improved parental leave rights for mothers and fathers, and how far behind the UK has fallen/how much an independent Scotland would have to catch up.

MSP Members of The Group

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

Fulton MacGregor MSP (SNP)

Jeremy Balfour MSP (Con)

Michael Marra MSP (Lab)

Finlay Carson MSP (Con)

Bob Doris MSP (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	
Organisations	Shared Parenting Scotland, Scottish Youth Parliament, Fathers Network Scotland, Relationships Scotland, Family Mediation West, Parent Network

	Scotland, Men in Childcare, Midlothian SureStart, Children's Health Scotland, The Spark,, Families Outside, Circle Scotland, Parenting Across Scotland, Engender, Home Start, Grandparents Apart, Connect, CYPCS, Early Years Scotland, Dads Rock,
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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	Jeremy Balfour MSP
Secretary	Shared Parenting Scotland
Treasurer	-

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 includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

There were no expenses and no revenue.

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Shared Parenting, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties		X
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months		X
Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM		X
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM		
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings		X
Provided minutes of all meetings		X
Signed	Fulton MacGregor	
Date	07/05/2025	