

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Volunteering

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.)

26th October 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

10 December 2025

Date Annual Return Submitted

11 December 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]

31st October 2024

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.

Thursday 23rd January 2025

Chaired by Foysol Choudhury MSP and attended by Jeremy Balfour MSP. Attended by 49 representatives from non-MSP member organisations.

At this online only meeting, we started by hearing a report on the 2023 Scottish Household Survey from Debbie Maltman of Volunteer Scotland. We then heard from Sarah Boath from Community Health Exchange who discussed health inequalities and community empowerment. We then heard from Martin Christie of Dunnikier Park Community Gold, and from David McDonald of Creative Lives. The session ended with questions and reflections.

Thursday 20th March 2025

Chaired by Foysol Choudhury MSP and attended by Paul O’Kane MSP. Attended by 35 representatives from non-MSP member organisations.

At this online only meeting, we started by hearing an update from Sarah Latto of Volunteer Scotland regarding PVG Fees. The Scottish Government had recently announced their decision not to proceed with proposed introduction of PVG fee discounts for Qualifying Voluntary Organisations in place of the existing fee waiver. We then heard from Jason Henderson of SCVO who gave a presentation on SCVO’s campaign for the introduction of Fair Funding settlements for third-sector organisations. We then heard from Glenn Liddall from People Know How who shared his experience of running a VIO. We then heard from Sarah Latto who delivered a presentation on volunteering participation rates, before closing with a question and reflections section with attendees.

Thursday 5th June 2025

Chaired by Jeremy Balfour MSP and attended by Miles Briggs MSP. Attended by 40 representatives from non-MSP member organisations.

At this hybrid meeting held in Scottish Parliament Committee Room 2, we started with a presentation from Bethany Sikes from Volunteer Scotland, who spoke about a new piece of Volunteer Scotland research on the Social Value of volunteering, which found that volunteering brought combined £2.3 billion in economic and social

value to Scotland per year. We also had guest speakers from Georgia Artus, Director of Vintage Vibes, and Natalja Zukova, one of their volunteers, as well as Rachel Farmer, Volunteering Adviser with RNLI, as well as Sophie Cheney, Arbroath Crew Member. These guests delivered presentations which demonstrated that volunteering provided wellbeing opportunities for both the beneficiaries and the volunteers themselves.

Thursday 12th November 2025

Chaired by Jeremy Balfour MSP and attended by Foysol Choudhury MSP. Attended by 36 representatives from non-MSP member organisations.

At this online only meeting on the topic of An Inclusive Future for Volunteering, we started by hearing from Volunteer Scotland's Debbie Maltman who provided an overview of the 2024 Scottish Household Survey results. We also heard from Charlotte Jones from RNIB, and Daniel Bustillos-Arell, who each delivered presentations sharing their experience of accommodating volunteers with reasonable adjustments, and the challenges that create barriers to entry for disabled and deprived communities. Ewan Macleod from Volunteer Scotland finished by previewing the No Volunteers, No Community campaign.

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Chaired by Jeremy Balfour MSP and attended by Foysol Choudhury MSP. Attended by 5 representatives from non-MSP member organisations.

This online only meeting was held to conduct AGM business.

MSP Members of The Group

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

Jeremy Balfour MSP, Co-Convener: Independent

Foysol Choudhury MSP, Co-Convener: Independent

Miles Briggs MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist

Fulton Macgregor MSP – Scottish National Party

Paul O’Kane MSP – Scottish Labour

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP – Scottish Liberal Democrats

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	<p>Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action ACVO - third sector interface for Aberdeen Befriending Networks British Red Cross CentreStage Charity Retail Association CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland) Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland Community Transport Association CrossReach Cruse Scotland CVS Falkirk CVS Inverclyde Dyslexia Scotland Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity Evangelical Alliance Scotland Firsthand Lothian Healthcare Improvement Scotland Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) Housing Options Scotland LifeCare maidsafe foundation Marie Curie NHS Tayside Paths for All Rowan Alba Royal Voluntary Service Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) Scottish Government</p>

	Scottish Sports Association Stroke Association SVE The Ayrshire Community Trust tsiMORAY VASLan Vintage Vibes - Partnership between LifeCare and Space Voluntary Action Shetland Voluntary Health Scotland Volunteer Centre East Lothian Volunteer Centre Western Isles Volunteer Edinburgh Volunteer Glasgow Volunteer Midlothian Youth VIP (Volunteering Matters / Project Scotland) YouthLink Scotland
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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	Jeremy Balfour MSP: Co-Convener Foysol Choudhury MSP: Co-Convener
Deputy Convener	N/A
Secretary	Ewan Macleod, Volunteer Scotland
Treasurer	N/A

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.

N/A

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT
(Please tick all boxes that apply)

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on <X>, 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



Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months



Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM



Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM




Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings



Provided minutes of all meetings



Signed	
Date	11 December 2025