

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Woman, Families and Justice
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.)
15 September 2021
Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)
15 September 2021
Date Annual Return Submitted
26 October 2022
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]
N/A
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.
CPG Women, Families & Justice meeting 15 September 2021 It was agreed to merge two existing cross-party groups, the CPG Women & Justice and CPG families affected by improvement. The purpose of the CPG Women & Justice was to focus on every aspect of women's experience of the justice system. The purpose of the

CPG Families affected by Imprisonment was to highlight the issues faced by families who are affected by a relative's imprisonment.

The focus of the new CPG Women, Families and Justice will focus on every aspect of women and families experiences of the justice system.

This first meeting was attended by 7 MSP's and 20 non-MSP's representing a wide variety of statutory and voluntary organisations and individuals with experience of working with women and those with lived experience. There were also five apologies submitted from non-MSP's.

Following the inaugural AGM discussion focused on the priorities and what work plan should be for the CPG for the forthcoming Parliamentary term 2021 - 2026. The CPG were advised that Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice informed the justice committee that he is looking for radical solutions to reduce the prison population.

The group heard and discussed the merits of a proposal to develop a new woman's commute court. This model was identified as a potential alternative to prosecution. Other areas of concern included the continued use of Prison for children and the use of present for woman with mental health and or learning disabilities as a place of safety, and the increased numbers of women in prison particularly those on remand.

New proposed legislation and policies were identified.

A workplan is to be prepared for discussion at the next CPD meeting.

CPG Women, Families & Justice meeting 8 December 2021

This meeting was attended by 9 MSP's, and 28 non MSP's. One MSP and 2 non MSP's submitted apologies. In addition, there were 2 invited guests. These 2 guests, from the Scottish Government Community Justice Division provided an overview of the Scottish Government's consultation on a proposed Bill on Bail and release from custody. The intention is to improve the use of Bail and to improve support and supervision arrangements for release from custody. This is clearly an area of interest to the CPG and a progress update will be presented to a future meeting. Two further presentations were provided outlining the opportunities and challenges for criminal justice social work and for the voluntary sector and providing services and support to women and their families involved in the criminal justice system.

There was insufficient time to discuss the CPG plan and this was ruled over to the next meeting of TPG

An Agency update was provided from a the Scottish Prison Service in relation to the development of the new custodial state for women.

CPG Women, Families & Justice 9 March 2022

This virtual meeting of the CPG was scheduled to commence at 6:00pm. It had to be cancelled that evening as Scottish Parliamentary business continued until 7:30 pm.

Agenda items for this meeting were carried forward to the next meeting.

CPG Women, Families & Justice 8 June 2022

Due to significant IT issues on the evening the virtual meeting only a limited number of members were able to join the meeting.

Due to the IT issues The only MSP who was able to gain access to the meeting was the convener Rona Mackay. 15 non MSP's attended Apologies were received in advance from

1 MSP and 2 non MSP's.

Discussion took place on the CPG work plan. This included work led by Wendy Sinclair Gibbons in relation to the imprisonment of children and the progress made in addressing this issue. Discussion also took place in relation to the need to examine the use of community based disposals by sentencers and the continued increase in the number of women on remand been placed in prison. Sue Brooks, SPS, advised that unless the current numbers of women in custody decrease they will be insufficient accommodation available within the new custodial estate for women.

It was planned that ash Regan Ash Regan Community Safety Minister was to speak at this CPG on the new Justice Strategy and the recently established Women's Justice Leadership Panel. Unfortunately due to the aforementioned IT issues Ash Regan was unable to join the meeting. Arrangements were made for Asheghan to attend the next meeting for CPG.

Two further presentations were made at the CCG. The first presentation was provided by Wendy Sinclair Giebens Chief Inspector of Prisons Scotland and Prof Nancy Louie's, Chief Exec Families Outside who were 2 of the 3 co-authors of the Report for the deaths in custody review. The primary recommendation of the report was that a separate independent investigation should be undertaken into each death in prison custody. This should be carried out by who independent body.

The second presentation was provided by the SPS on the development of the new custodial estate for women. The two new Community Custody Unit are almost complete. The Bella Centre in Dundee is expected to be operational by August 22 and the Liliac centre in Glasgow operational by October 22. The new female prison at Cornton Vale, named HMP Stirling and is expected to become operational in summer 23.

MSP Members of The Group

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

Rona Mackay – SNP

Miles Briggs – Scottish Conservative

Katy Clark – Scottish Labour

Michelle Thompson – SNP

Collette Stevenson – SNP

Audrey Nicoll – SNP

Maggie Chapman – Scottish Green 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

Anne Pinkman

Carol Dearie

Karen Mabon

Audrey Mitchell

Janice Wilson

Briege Nugent

Elyse Brown

Jan Anderson

Maggie Melon

Yvonne Robson

Observer – Community Justice Division Scottish Government

Organisations

Scottish Prison Service

CJVSF (Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum)

Social Work Scotland

Families Outside

HM Inspector of Prisons Scotland

Mental Welfare Commission

Shine

University of Strathclyde School of Social Work and Social Policy

SCCJR (Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research)

Resilience Learning Partnership

Phoenix Futures Scotland

Angus Community Justice Partnership

SASW (Scottish Association of Social Work)

Tomorrows Woman

218 Centre – Turning Point Scotland

	Soroptimists International Scotland Sacro Apex Scotland Circle Scotland Stirling University St. Marys, Kenmure Public Health, Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Engender Prison Reform Trust Justice for Women Community Justice Glasgow Community Justice 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	Rona Mackay MSP
Deputy Convener	Cullette Stevenson MSP
Secretary	Anne Pinkman
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.

None

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