

**Cross Party Group on Volunteering AGM
Minute
Wednesday 30th October 2018, 2.00pm-3.30pm
Committee Room 1, Scottish Parliament
Convenor: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP**

Attendees

MSP members of the Group

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP – Scottish Liberal Democrat Party
Jeremy Balfour MSP - Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
Gordon Lindhurst MSP - Scottish National Party

Non-MSPs Members of the Group:

Margaret	Starkie	Volunteer Scotland Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland
Paul	Okroj Van	
Sarah	Putten	Befriending Networks Scottish Government Third Sector Unit
Helen	Webster	
Sarah	Latto	Shelter Scotland
Gordon	Brown	VC Borders
Natalie	Masterson	SVE CARDS (Community Alcohol Related Damage Service)
Lucy	Aitkinson	
Katrina	Sayer	Argyll TSI
Lidia	Dye	PKAVS
Rachel	Blair	Charity Retail Association Scottish Sports Association
Jack	Draper	Scottish Sports Association
Kim	Aitkinson	International Voluntary Service
Chris John	Pettigrew	
Ross	Brown	Volunteering Matters
Lucy	McTernan	Volunteering Matters Leonard Cheshire in Scotland
Tim	Martin	
Mike	Melvin	ACVO
Sue	Davis	TSI Moray
Natalie	Burnside	Volunteer Midlothian
Louise	McGinty	Quarriers
Janis	McCulloch	Scouts Scotland
John	Brown	VC Borders
Emma	Hamilton	Scottish Drugs Forum
Robert	McGeachy	Camphill Scotland
Fiona	Arnott- Barron	Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland
Will	McLean	CHAS
Gail	Cassidy	Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire

Matthew	Linning	Volunteer Scotland
Jennifer	Reston	Aberlour
Karen	Garrott	Stroke Association
Bill	Weir	Voluntary Action Fund
Catriona	McLeod	CVS Inverclyde
Maurice	Corry	MSP
Paul	Reddish	Project Scotland
Beverly	Gall	Rowan Alba
Gillian	Lithgow	Youthlink Scotland
Fiona	Scott	VC Borders
Claire	Stevens	VHS
Marion	Findlay	Volunteer Edinburgh

Apologies

MSP members of the Group

Pauline McNeil MSP – Scottish Labour Party
 Johann Lamont MSP – Scottish Labour Party
 Fulton MacGregor – Scottish National Party

Non-MSPs Members of the Group:

A considerable number of apologies were received for this meeting.

1. Welcome and introductions

The Convener, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP welcomed everyone to the first meeting the new parliamentary session of Cross Party Group on Volunteering.

2. Minutes of Previous AGM meeting held on 7th June 2018 (AGM)

The minutes of the last AGM meeting held on 7th June 2018 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Paul Okroj, CHSS, seconded by Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP.

3. Programme for Government – Delivering for Toady, Investing for Tomorrow

Volunteering is still given a focus with the government programme and still relates to Volunteering being the ‘Golden thread that runs through Scottish society’.

Page 93 states the Third sector is a crucial part of our society and economic infrastructure, playing a key part in the ongoing reform of our public services.

The convener at this point wanted to thank Angela Constance MSP for her contribution as Cabinet secretary to the work within the voluntary sector and welcomed Aileen Campbell MSP and Cabinet secretary for Communities and Local Government and that we hope the CPG on Volunteering will be able to build strong relationships with her.

How can CPG help the Government support the volunteering agenda?

Kim Aitkinson, Scottish Sports Association highlighted that volunteering isn’t high profile within the National Performance Indicators and that there is potential to address this through CPG.

Gordon Brown – VC Borders stated that there is a lot of activities happening within the sector e.g. TSI Framework, National Outcomes Framework, Disclosure review but how do these all connect? Helen Webster commented that the National Outcomes Framework will be the area to bring the connections together.

Another way of connecting the threads will be through joint CPG meetings and MSP engagement through constituencies, there is opportunities to involve MSP's in activities.

Gordon Lindhurst MSP stated hearing from CPG members on issues and what people are interested in is an invaluable support their work and what they achieve within their constituencies as an invaluable support to MSP's.

The Convener pointed out that MSP's have a USP to tap into people's back stories and how we market this, most MSP's will have got into public engagement via volunteering therefore know the importance it can bring to services and communities etc.

Gillian Lithgow asked how we can best use MSP's time and support, can MSP's provide guidance on this to ensure the support works for MSP's, organisations and individuals. Engaging with MSP's in their local communities, inviting them to events, asking them to draft motions and parliamentary questions are all ways to engage more effectively.

Paul Reddish – Project Scotland suggesting information to parliamentary assistants to promote.

Is there a potential role Volunteer Scotland can play in creating a webpage MSP's can sign up to find out about local events/activities for them to engage with?

Kim Aitkinson – Scottish Sports Association highlighted that there is no coordination amongst cross party groups to help engage with other MSP's and other networks across sectors.

The CPG on Volunteering will seek to hold at least one joint CPG meeting within each session.

Helen Webster, SG suggested the National Outcomes Framework will help shape joint areas of work and policies which will help make connections.

Paul Reddish – Project Scotland suggested the Youth VIP group will present at a CPG meeting within this session to discuss their recommendations from the work they did during the Year of Young People.

4. Scottish Volunteering Forum – Funding sub group

Sarah Latto – Shelter Scotland spoke about the work the Scottish Volunteering Forum has been doing within the Impact sub group and the Funding sub group.

The documents can be found on the Volunteer Scotland website

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/research-and-evaluation/impact-and-evaluation/>

These will be launched on 5th November 2018 – Volunteer Managers Day.

These documents will play a vital role in advising third sector organisations (mainly smaller charities) on how to seek funding and measure impact to get the best out their volunteers and services.

5. Volunteers' Week 2019 update

The subgroup has been newly formed and has grown from 4 to 10 members, we meet for the first-time next week and will continue to update the CPG on activities.

6. Scottish Government Volunteering Outcomes Framework

Helen Webster, Scottish Government provided an update on the Volunteering Outcomes Framework. This has derived from the Volunteering being the golden thread that runs through all government policies and engagement. This will provide a strategic context around participation and support other

activities. Helen's team have created a Strategic reference group to build momentum on volunteering in Scotland and help create and drive the framework forward.

There are four strands to the framework;

- Evidence and Analysis
- Communities of Interest
- Infrastructure and Innovation
- Communities and Engagement

These will support volunteering in Scotland for the next 10 years, ensuring key data and evidence will inform and drive performance nationally and locally and will allow for debate about programmes, investments and interventions all support the growth of Volunteering in Scotland and ensuring equality underpins everything we do.

7. Any other Business

Robert McGeachy – Camphill Scotland stated that Brexit will have a huge impact on volunteering and there will be private members bill.

8. Date of next meeting

30th January 2019