

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Shared Parenting

PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Please state the purpose of the Group.
2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.
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.
4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

1. The Group will identify, examine and promote policy and practice that supports parents in sharing parenting responsibilities. It will consider how gender stereotypes can be tackled in the pursuit of a better understanding of what we need to do to ensure the best possible childhood and most promising adult life for Scotland's children. It will provide a forum for MSPs, stakeholders and other interested parties to engage directly in dialogue to inform policy developments and practice which impact on parents sharing responsibilities for the role and support networking on this topic.

2. Gender stereotyping is an issue that impacts upon many aspects of life including economic, social and family spheres. In the family arena traditional gender assumptions around child raising is one aspect of this, but an important one, as such assumptions influence early years' perceptions, career choices and economic opportunities. In addition, where both parents are involved in their children's upbringing, there is clear evidence of positive educational and social development. **As such, shared parenting is a key mechanism for closing the attainment gap and tackling inequalities.**

The CPG on Shared Parenting will benefit society and the public interest by working to inform the Scottish Government's forthcoming review of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. It will identify issues and areas where policy and practice could be initiated or reformed, by gathering the latest research from Scotland and elsewhere and hearing from speakers and researchers in the key areas that will inform the issues.

3. No overlap but positive links through our MSP members to other CPGs involved in tackling gender stereotyping – for example Women in Enterprise CPG.

4. Broadly 2 topics per meeting a mixture of presentations and discussion on the following (and more): Survey the shared parenting landscape – issues and definitions of terms; invite Scottish Government officials to talk about what they are doing in this and related policy areas, including the new parenting plan which

should be launched soon and the Children (Scotland) Act consultation; invite a judge/retired judge/the Judicial Institute to talk about how judges are trained; how parenthood is taught/learned; impact of changes to the Benefits system; hear from young people who have experienced shared parenting; consider shared parenting situations where there isn't conflict as role models of best practice; consider the role of mothers and fathers and breaking gender stereotypes around caring; how schools engage with parents; impact of gender stereotypes on economic and child development; review international experiences including Scandinavia, where shared parenting is the norm.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Finlay Carson MSP	(Con)
Bob Doris MSP	(SNP)
Kate Forbes MSP	(SNP)
Gillian Martin MSP	(SNP)
Ivan McKee MSP	(SNP)
Adam Tomkins MSP	(Con)
Andy Wightman MSP	(Green)

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	Fiona Robertson Amanda Ward Ellen Forson
Organisations	(to date) Families Need Fathers Scotland Dads Rock Fathers Network Scotland Relationships Scotland Family Mediation West of Scotland Parent Network Scotland Men in Childcare Midlothian Surestart One Parent Families Scotland The Spark Families Outside Circle Scotland Fatherhood Institute (corresponding)

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.

Co-conveners	Ivan McKee MSP Gillian Martin MSP Adam Tomkins MSP
Deputy Convener	
Secretary	John Forsyth/Ian Maxwell Families Need Fathers
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.	
None	
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.	
None	
CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS	
Name	Ivan McKee
Parliamentary address	Room M4.14
Telephone number	0131 348 6950

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Shared Parenting is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed	
Date	