

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

8th Meeting 2022 (Session 6), Thursday 17 March 2022

Cross-Party Group Applications

Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions on Cross-Party Groups (CPGs) set out in section 6 of the Code of Conduct (the Code), proposals for the establishment of CPGs in the Scottish Parliament must be submitted to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (the Committee) for its approval.
2. There is one proposed Groups for the Committee's consideration.

Proposed CPG on Care Leavers

3. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached as an Annexe to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

4. Paragraph 18 of Section 6 of the Code states "...one of the proposed Group's MSP office bearers (usually the Convener) will be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee to explain the justification for the proposed Group." Paul O'Kane MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

5. Paragraph 19 Section 6 of the Code states "the Committee will pay particular attention to a proposed Group's purpose. If the Committee considers that a proposed Group is not in the public interest but is intended, for example, to further particular commercial interests, the proposed Group will not be accorded recognition. The Committee will also consider whether the purpose of a proposed Group overlaps the remit of an existing Group. If there is any overlap proposed Groups are asked to provide justification as to why their aims could not effectively be achieved within an existing Group".
6. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—
 - To inform MSPs of the many social, emotional wellbeing and financial challenges which care leavers face via a forum where parliamentarians can

learn from the experiences of care leavers and those who support them; to work collaboratively with other relevant Cross-Party Groups and identify how the work of the Parliament and Government can provide solutions to the challenges raised by Care leavers..

7. On the registration form the Group has stated that—

- “The group should be established regardless of any overlap because there is currently no CPG focussing directly on the experiences of care leavers or care-experienced young people - we believe that given this group's status as under-represented, the CPG should be established to change this. There may be areas of crossover within the work plan with other CPGs, for instance the CPG on poverty, as this is such an all-encompassing policy area. In such situations, we would seek to work collaboratively with the CPG which shares our goals.”

Membership

8. Paragraph 8 of Section 6 of the Code requires group membership to include at least five MSPs, with at least one MSP from each of the parties or groups represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The Committee has previously agreed that there should be a general waiver of this Rule in the current Session and Groups are now required to have five MSPs from the majority of parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The proposed Group meets this requirement.

9. The MSP membership (by party) of the proposed Group is as follows—

- 2 Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 2 Scottish Labour Party
- 4 Scottish National Party

10. Paragraph 9 of Section 6 of the Code entitles groups to contain members from outwith the Parliament. The proposed Group has listed one non-MSP member in the individual category and three in non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

11. Paragraph 10 of Section 6 of the Code requires one MSP to be Convener of the Group and there to be at least one other MSP office bearer. The proposed Group meets this requirement: Paul O’Kane MSP is the Convener of the proposed Group and Fulton MacGregor MSP is the Deputy-Convener.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

12. The registration form indicates that the Group will received no financial benefits

13. The registration form also indicates that members of the proposed Group will not be charged a subscription.

Next Steps

14. At agenda item 2 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on Care Leavers with Paul O’Kane MSP.

15. At agenda item 3 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Group.

Sam Currie
Support Manager
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
March 2022

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Care Leavers
PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To inform MSPs of the many social, emotional wellbeing and financial challenges which care leavers face via a forum where parliamentarians can learn from the experiences of care leavers and those who support them; to work collaboratively with other relevant Cross-Party Groups and identify how the work of the Parliament and Government can provide solutions to the challenges raised by Care leavers. 2. The CPG on care leavers will provide the first-ever forum in the Scottish Parliament where MSPs can hear directly from care leavers and those who support them. This is in the public interest as care leavers are a consistently under-represented and under-privileged group who will benefit from having a forum to communicate directly with decision-makers to inform them of the challenges they face and the solutions they propose, which MSPs might not otherwise be made aware of. 3. The group should be established regardless of any overlap because there is currently no CPG focussing directly on the experiences of care leavers or care-experienced young people - we believe that given this group's status as under-represented, the CPG should be established to change this. There may be areas of crossover within the work plan with other CPGs, for instance the CPG on poverty, as this is such an all-encompassing policy area. In such situations, we would seek to work collaboratively with the CPG which shares our goals. 4. Our work plan will be set by our members and informed by care leavers. However, we expect topics of interest to include: a minimum income guarantee for care leavers, securing the financial wellbeing of care leavers, mechanisms by which care leavers can be better represented in Parliament, and keeping the Promise.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Paul O’Kane MSP,
 Fulton McGregor MSP,
 Karen Adam MSP,
 Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP,
 Collette Stevenson MSP,
 Paul McLennan MSP,
 Miles Briggs MSP,
 Alexander Burnett MSP

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	Angela Dulley
Organisations	Staf; Aberlour; CELCIS with Who Cares? Scotland, The Promise Scotland.

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	Paul O’Kane
Deputy Convener	Fulton McGregor
Secretary	Staf
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.

NA

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.

NA

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Paul O'Kane MSP
Parliamentary address	M1.09
Telephone number	0141 887 5111

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Signed	
Date	10/03/2022