

Co-Convenor of the CPG on Children and Young People

Information Sheet

What is a Cross Party Group?

A Cross Party Group is a group based at the Scottish Parliament that focuses on a particular issue. There are lots of different Cross Party Groups at the Scottish Parliament including one which discusses issues that affect children and young people.

Cross Party Groups are made up of a range of people who are interested in the topic. They can be politicians, other individuals or organisations that work with children, young people and families.

Each Cross Party Group has MSPs who are co-convenors of the group. They take it in turns to chair the meeting, choose the topics and decide on what the group should do about particular issues. This means they make a lot of the decisions about the group. The co-convenors of the Cross Party Group on children and young people are;

- Iain Gray, Scottish Labour
- Fulton MacGregor, Scottish National Party
- Alex Cole Hamilton, Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Alison Johnstone, Scottish Greens
- Brian Whittle, Scottish Conservatives

All Cross Party Groups also have what is called a secretariat. This is an organisation or person who organises the group's meetings. Children in Scotland and YouthLink Scotland do this for the Cross Party Group on Children and Young People.

What is the opportunity for me to be involved?

At the meeting in June 2019 people at the CPG agreed that we could make some changes to make the group more accessible to children and young people.

One thing we agreed to do was to trial having a group of children and young people become young co-convenors for the group.

We are looking for a group of up to 4 children and young people aged 8-25 to take on this role.

What will I have to do?

At the moment you just need to let us know if you would be interested in taking part. To do this, please send the following information to

cross@childrenscotland.org.uk, along with the attached consent form, please also copy in the member of staff who will be supporting you.

- their name
- date of birth
- where they live (local authority only)

Please also provide answers to the following 3 questions;

- Why do you want to be involved?
- What makes you you?
- Tell us about an issue that you think is important for children and young people and why?

We will then decide who we think should take on the role of co-convenor. We want to have a group of children and young people with a range of ages, from different parts of Scotland and with different experiences. We can't have a selection day for this but we will let you know whether you are successful through the organisation you work with.

If you are selected to take on the role you will need to be able to come to at least 1 meeting of the CPG. You will have the chance to come to all 5 meetings across the year. We will send you information before all the meetings to make sure you are prepared and understand what will be talked about.

You will take your turn to co-chair one meeting a year with one of our MSP co-convenors. We will provide all the information you need to help you do this and you will be supported by someone from your organisation to do this.

You will help to choose meeting topics based on suggestions from members of the CPG and the secretariat.

You will also need to look at some of the papers we prepare for the group and let us know if these are clear and understandable.

What help will I get to be involved?

You will get support to carry out your role as young co-convenor through the organisation that you currently work with. Children in Scotland and YouthLink Scotland will also provide you with information before each meeting to help you understand the topic.

We will also make sure that all adults who attend the meetings know that they need to speak in a way that is understandable for everyone.

We cover all your travel costs to and from meetings of the Cross Party Group.

Who will I be working with?

You will work alongside:

- up to 3 other children and young people who will also be involved as young co-convenors to help choose topics and make decisions about the group.
- the MSP co-convenors of the group to choose topics, chair meetings and make decision about the group.
- the organisations and people that come to meetings to discuss the topics we are talking about.
- Children in Scotland and YouthLink Scotland to help make some decisions about the group.

You will receive support for all of this from Children in Scotland, YouthLink Scotland and the organisation who asked you to be involved.

What if I change my mind?

Your participation is totally voluntary and you can stop at any time if you no longer want to or are able to be involved.

What if I have any questions?

If you have questions please get in touch with Chris Ross, cross@childreninscotland.org.uk & Sarah Paterson, spaterson@youthlinkscotland.org

You can either get in touch directly or ask the organisation who spoke to you about this to contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you.