

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Outdoor Education

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.)

30 September 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

9 October 2025

Date Annual Return Submitted

04/11/2025

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]

7 November 2024

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.

Meeting 20 March 2025

2 MSP, 2 Parliament, 15 Members and 4 Guest Attendees

Liz Smith MSP provided a brief update on the Outdoor Residential (Scotland) Bill, explaining that the date for the vote for the Bill is to be held on 27 March 2025.

Liz then introduced the main topic for the meeting – the impact of attending a Residential Outdoor Learning Centre – the ‘lived experience’.

Liz Smith MSP led a wide-ranging discussion with the group reflecting on the contributions of the speakers, the power of their testimonies and the importance of sharing the level of impact that Residential Outdoor Learning Centres has had for each speaker and their lives. In addition to this, the group discussed the possible wider impact or implications, such as contributing to decision-making and policy making. There was also a small discussion on the Visitor Levy and the possible impact that this could have on Outdoor Residential Centres. Presentations were delivered by:

- Nick March of AHOEC set the scene for the guest speakers, who had come along to share their experiences of attending a Residential Outdoor Learning Centre and the impact that this had on their lives. These impacts can be variable and therefore very hard to measure which is a long-term challenge to residential outdoor learning. However listening to the first-hand stories of individuals who have been on a residential in their younger days, allows us to hear how this has impacted their lives.
- Naimah Kader – The youngest speaker, gave the first presentation on how she is already living a life heavily influenced by her earlier residential experiences.
- John Bailey – led the next presentation and shared the impact and the story of his time at a residential and how it affected his life.
- Jamie Long – presented the impact and the story of his time at a residential and how it shaped his life since that time.
- Liz Mackenzie – Once of the city (Edinburgh), speaking from London, gave the final presentation, with another completely different story of the impact of attending a residential.

Meeting 9 October 2025

3 MSP, 2 Parliament, 13 Members and 6 Guest Attendees

Liz Smith led a discussion on High Dependency ASN in Outdoor Education (Residentials), with a view to gaining a greater understanding of the barriers and strengths or opportunities of delivering this universal provision.

Presentations were carried out by:

- Debbie McCulloch: Principal Teacher – Beatley School, West Lothian, gave the first presentation on the barriers experienced in managing an ASN Residential.
- Gemma Hendry: Able2Adventure – Organisational Manager, Third Sector Support and Solutions for ASN Residentials, led the next presentation on supporting and meeting the needs of different types of Additional Support Needs at residential centres.
- Nick March: Head of Centre - Lagganlia Outdoor Centre, spoke about his role in enabling and supporting a school with High Dependency ASN to attend a residential at Lagganlia.
- Sarah Murphy: Active Schools Coordinator, City of Edinburgh Council, the final presenter who gave an impact report, highlighting the many skills and opportunities gained from attending a residential with Oaklands ASN School to Lagganlia Outdoor Centre.

AGM 9 October 2025

3 MSP, 2 Parliament, 13 Members and 6 Guest Attendees

This was a short meeting primarily to ensure proper process in re-electing office bearers. Liz Smith MSP gave a brief update on recent committee sessions pertaining to the progress of the Outdoor Residential Education (Scotland) Bill.

AHOEC then chaired the AGM.

During the AGM Liz Smith MSP was re-elected as the Group's convenor (Proposer: Hazel Wiseman - Member, Seconder: Beatrice Wishart MSP) Beatrice Wishart MSP was elected as the group's vice convenor (Proposer: Neil Baird - Member, Seconder: Jamie Miller - Member). The Association of

Head of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) were appointed to continue in the secretariat role (Proposer: Liz Smith MSP, Seconder: Beatrice Wishart MSP).

MSP Members of The Group

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

Liz Smith MSP (Scottish Conservatives)
Brian Whittle MSP (Scottish Conservatives)
Rachael Hamilton MSP (Scottish Conservatives)
Daniel Johnson MSP (Scottish Labour)
Beatrice Wishart MSP (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
Fulton MacGregor MSP (Scottish National 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	
Organisations	Hazel Wiseman, Ocean Youth Trust Andrew Bradshaw, City of Edinburgh Council Freda Fallon, Outward Bound Martin Davidson, Outward Bound Unknown, Strathclyde University Roger Scrutton, Edinburgh University Professor Peter Higgins, Edinburgh University Jackie, Outlet Play Reasource Jamie Miller, Scottish Outdoor Education Centres Richard Gerrish, Scottish Outdoor Education Centres Jane Campbell Morrison, Scottish Adventure Activities Forum Kevin Marsh, Craikhope Outdoor Centre

	<p>Lee Musson, Rock UK Ian McCall, Paths for All Neil Wightwick, Blairvadach Outdoor Centre Neil Baird, Scouts Scotland Nick March, AHOEC Scotland Patricia Johnston, AHOEC Scotland Rachel Luxton, SU Scotland Paul Bayton, SU Scotland Stuart, Mountaineering Scotland Peter Wilson, Ardentinn Outdoor Centre Phil Thompson, Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre Rob Bushby, Wilderness Scotland Neil Wightwick, Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Education Ali Dreyer, Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Education Peter Moir, Duke of Edinburgh & Youth Link Tara Lillis, The Teachers Union S Caulfield, The Donaldson Trust Bill Stephen, Midlothian Council Tracey Burns, The Aims Project Gill Law, The Aims Project</p>
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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	Liz Smith MSP
Deputy Convener	Beatrice Wishart MSP
Secretary	The Association of Head of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) – Nick March
Treasurer	None

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.

- Secretariat support from AHOEC.
- Occasional visits to outdoor education settings which may include transport, meals and/or light refreshments.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (Please tick all boxes that apply)

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on <X>, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties	X
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	X
Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM	X
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	X
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings	X
Provided minutes of all meetings	X

Signed	
Date	4/11/2025