

# Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

## 23rd Meeting 2022 (Session 6), Thursday 8 December 2022

### Cross-Party Group on Prevention and Healing of Adverse Childhood Experiences – review of recognition

#### Introduction

1. Cross Party Groups provide an opportunity for MSPs to engage with external stakeholders on a particular subject. CPGs are not formal parliamentary business.
2. Section 6 of the Code of Conduct sets out the [rules on CPGs](#). It states that CPGs are “formed and led by MSPs”.
3. The Committee has a role in according recognition to Groups and the Convener of every new Group must come to a committee meeting to discuss their application for recognition. Similarly, the Committee also has a role in removing recognition from Groups that cannot comply with the Code of Conduct. Section 6, paragraph 47 states, “Failure to comply with the Code could lead to a Group’s recognition being withdrawn or to sanctions being imposed on individual MSPs.”

#### Compliance with the Code

4. The Clerks were made aware of the resignation of the Convener and Deputy-Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Prevention and Healing of Adverse Childhood Experiences in the summer of 2022. This meant the CPG was no longer compliant with Section 6, paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct which states that—

*10. One of the MSP members of the Group must be elected as Convener; the Group must also have at least one other MSP office bearer.*

5. The Convener wrote to the remaining CPG Members on 9 November 2022 to establish the status of the CPG. All remaining MSP Members replied to advise that they were no longer members or office bearers of this CPG, therefore leaving the CPG without any MSP members.

## **Decision**

**6. It is recommended that this Group should have its recognition withdrawn as it is no longer compliant with the Code of Conduct for MSPs.**

**Clerks**

**1 December 2022**