

Meet your current and new SCMA Elected Members...

Barbara Dennistoun, Convener Elect South Lanarkshire

Barbara was registered as a childminder in March 2002, and in 2018 she also became a partner provider with South Lanarkshire Council to deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) to children and families in her community.

For 10 years, Barbara has also been a foster carer alongside her childminding career, where she has gained further experience of working with children and their families, with a focus on understanding their needs and sensitivities.

Holding an SVQ Level 3 in Children's Learning, Care and Development, Barbara also takes part in on-going job-relevant training with SCMA and her local authority.

She has previously served on the Scottish Executive Board, and then during the COVID-19 pandemic she felt quite isolated and returned to the Board in 2021. And this year, because she enjoyed it so much last time, she is delighted to return to her previous role as Convener for SCMA.

Pauline McInally, Treasurer Elect North Lanarkshire

Pauline has been a childminder for 33 years, and is involved in Community Childminding and providing funded ELC to families in the area.

Over the years, a great many children and families have come through Pauline's doors, and she is now childminding a child whose parent used to attend her service when they were young.

Pauline was an Elected Member previously, as she wanted to see what happens behind the scenes at SCMA, and more recently served as Vice President. Once again, she is returning to the role of Treasurer, and keen to work together to promote childminding in Scotland.

Providing **A Voice** for you...
Meet your Elected Members



Kay Finke

Inverclyde

Kay has been childminding since 2009 after giving up her previous job that she did not enjoy. Now working for herself and being there for her own children is something that really makes Kay happy - she loves looking after little people, helping them grow and supporting them through challenges.

Working so closely with local families and fellow childminders in the area, Kay has made some really great friends. Kay became a SCMA Elected Member to help shape the future of childminding in Scotland, especially when it comes to working alongside the Scottish Government and their expansion plans for Early Learning and Childcare.

The importance of SCMA and the support it has given to the childminding network in Inverclyde is something that Kay has recognised, and wants to highlight further and become a part of.

Margaret MacDougall

Argyll and Bute

Margaret is a childminder from Argyll and Bute and was co-opted to the Scottish Executive Board in 2016. She became a SCMA Elected Member in 2017.

Margaret has been childminding for 14 years and works with children from six months to 16 years old. Working alongside Argyll and Bute Council, Margaret also provides funded Early Learning and Childcare places for eligible two year olds.

Margaret was keen to get involved with SCMA and further develop it's Vision: "Quality childminding... building confident children within a family childcare experience."

Katy Pollock

Argyll and Bute

Katy is a childminder from Argyll and Bute and was co-opted to the Scottish Executive Board in 2016. She became a SCMA Elected Member in 2017.

Katy has been a childminder for 15 years, and alongside her three children of her own, she has cared for lots of other children. Katy loves being involved in their early years, seeing their daily achievements and knowing that parents trust her with their precious little ones.

Katy has been a member of SCMA since she became registered and wanted to be more involved with what the Association does for childminding across Scotland.

Suzanne Scott

Stirling

Welcoming families and children into Suzanne's setting and watching them grow and develop through the years is very humbling to her. Suzanne feels that as a business owner it is so important to embrace challenges and always strive to ensure that she is giving "the best" care and support to each child within her setting.

In past careers Suzanne has been involved at Board level and she thinks now is an exciting time to be involved with SCMA as an Elected Member. SCMA is entering a phase of "shaping" following the launch of our three-year strategy, which Suzanne says is very exciting to be part of.

Liz Stewart

City of Edinburgh

Liz has been a childminder for over 20 years and established Murrayburn Childminding Group 16 years ago. Liz also runs St David Toddlers Group and has done so for the last seven years.

Liz feels that she has the best job you can have, she has learnt so much about various countries and cultures from the children she has looked after over the years and many still keep in touch. Some children she has looked after bring their own children to her, which makes her feel old!

SCMA has helped Liz along the way by keeping her informed and updated with legislative changes. Liz had been a previous Elected Member a few years ago and was also Convener from 2009-2012, and then again from 2018-2022.

Liz loves being part of the Scottish Executive Board and is ready to help and share new adventures for SCMA members by being part of the exciting changes that are going on in the childcare sector.

**Meet your six new proposed
Elected Members**



Natalie Dickson (proposed new Elected Member)

Scottish Borders

Natalie has been a childminder since 2015 and is also a Community Childminder with the Supported Childminding Scheme and provides funded ELC to families in the area.

Holding a HNC in Early Education and Childcare, Natalie has also completed many additional training courses relating to childminding practice, ultimately to improve her knowledge and maintain her 12-hour requirement of Continuing Professional Learning (CPL).

She really enjoys her job and is very passionate about making a difference and being someone that people can rely on and turn to. As her experience grows, she has found working with different children and their families very rewarding - especially when she sees children developing and the joy and happiness within them, and that's what matters most.

Natalie is keen to be an Elected Member as she understands the issues that professional childminders continue to face. Being part of the collective voice to work together, move forward and influence policy at the highest levels, is very important to her. She is proud to be a childminder and part of SCMA.

Fiona Duncan-Kerr (proposed new Elected Member)

Scottish Borders

Fiona has been childminding since 2009 and is also a Community Childminder with the Supported Childminding Scheme and provides funded ELC to families in the local area.

Holding a BA in Early Childhood Studies and SVQ III in Playwork, Fiona has also completed a wide range of additional learning and training courses, to enhance, broaden and build on her knowledge.

As soon as the opportunity to be a Community Childminding came around, Fiona was very keen to be involved, as she knew how valuable it could be to families, given her experience as a single parent. She was also involved in petitioning Scottish Borders Council in enabling childminders to be partner providers to deliver funded ELC, and she has now had a constant succession of families in her service.

Pauline Dunn (proposed new Elected Member)

West Lothian

Pauline has been a childminder since 2009, and she absolutely loves it! She became a funded ELC partner provider in early 2022, and a family with an eligible two-year-old joined her service in February.

She holds an SVQ and has achieved many other training and learning course over the years. Fiona also helps to run a parent and toddler group in the area, which is mostly consists of childminders.

Her own children are a little older now, and she feels that she has more free time to contribute to serving as an Elected Member with SCMA. She is looking forward to being involved, and regularly finds the information interesting.

Heather Paterson (proposed new Elected Member)

North Lanarkshire

Heather has been a childminder since 2011, and received a Grade 6 (excellent) at her last inspection. She is very passionate about outdoor play and child-led practice, and provides funded ELC for families alongside North Lanarkshire Council.

She has completed the SVQ III Children and Young People, and many other CPL courses and Open Badges with SCMA, plus any other learning opportunities that she can find. Heather thoroughly enjoys expanding on her learning, helping to improve her practice and stay up-to-date with current guidelines and best practice.

Passionate about good quality outdoor play, she has adapted her garden to allow her minded children to spend 95% of our time outdoors. She has also built a nature play area in my local allotment site, which is attached to her garden, called Muddy Boots - this allows children to have access all the time, and she runs play sessions for other childminders and local families there.

As an Elected Member, Heather feels that she would play an influential role amongst childminders in her area, and provide a voice on the issues that really matter to us. She aims to reinstate confidence and support for SCMA, and strongly believes that we are stronger as a team.

Kirsty Ross (proposed new Elected Member)

South Lanarkshire

Kirsty has been a childminder since 2009, and provides funded ELC for families as a partner provider with South Lanarkshire Council.

Kirsty holds a SVQ III and has always received a Grade 5 or above at inspections, and provides a high standard of care. She is very passionate about childminding; keen to be involved, make a difference and works closely with other childminders in the area.

With the number of childminders declining over the last few years, she would like to help promote childminding more, and make SCMA more aware of the difficulties that childminders face. She is looking forward to making her voice heard and working towards our collective ambitions.

Becca Smith (proposed new Elected Member)

Western Isles

Becca became a childminder in 2016, and has completed a wide range of additional learning and training courses, to enhance, broaden and build on her knowledge.

Loving every aspect of her job, Becca believes passionately in child-led play and for children to experience outdoor play everyday in all weathers! She finds her role very fulfilling - providing parents with the opportunity to return to work as there are limited childcare options on the Island.

As the only childminder based on the Isle of Benbecula, Becca feels that becoming an Elected Member will be a great way to gain support and knowledge from other childminders from far and wide.