

Meet your current and new **SCMA Elected Members...**

Liz Stewart, Convener

City of Edinburgh

Liz has been a childminder for over 20 years and established Murrayburn Childminding Group 15 years ago. Liz also runs St David Toddlers Group and has done so for the last six 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. 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.

Liz will continue as SCMA Convener for a further year to provide continuity and stability to the Board, whilst we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donna Dawson, Treasurer

Moray

Donna was co-opted in 2018 and took over the Treasurer role in 2019.

Donna was a childminder for nearly 25 years and brings a wealth of experience to her role as an Elected Member. She has previously sat on the Scottish Executive Board a few times during her career and has thoroughly enjoyed developing childminding in Scotland as an Elected Member.

Donna was also involved in the setting up of a local partnership way back in 1999.

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



Claire Duff

West Lothian

Claire has been childminding for 13 years and has a wide range of experience from children with learning difficulties to allergies.

Claire re-joined the Board in 2019 and thinks it is important to support the promotion of childminders and have a voice in policy making.

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 13 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."

Lindsay Officer

Aberdeenshire

Lindsay has been a childminder to a wide range of families from different backgrounds and children from age one to 12. She has kept up to date with theories in childcare and the legislative background, and has also experienced the highs (watching children learn new skills) and the lows (saying goodbye).

Lindsay is passionate about promoting childminding as a career, and about ensuring childminders are recognised for their valuable role as educators and important figures in young people's lives. Lindsay knows that SCMA are equally passionate about this and she wants to assist as much as she can.

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 14 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 new three-year strategy, which Suzanne says is very exciting to be part of.

Johanne Wood

Fife

After 30 years in childcare, Johanne has experienced many changes within the sector, but nothing that has made her consider changing careers. Johanne loves her job and counts herself as very fortunate to be doing something she loves.

Having previously been an Elected Member and enjoyed her time, Johanne returned to the Scottish Executive Board last year. With all the new changes and challenges facing childminders with the new funded hours that are planned, Johanne is looking forward to helping the organisation and childminders stay strong and positive.

Meet your three new proposed Elected Members



Barbara Dennistoun

 (proposed new Elected Member)

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 was the Convener for three years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she has felt isolated and because she enjoyed it so much last time, she was keen to return to being an Elected Member.

Julianne Merchant (proposed new Elected Member)

Aberdeenshire

Julianne became a childminder in 2010, and is also a partner provider with Aberdeenshire Council to deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) to children and families in her community.

Working closely as a member of the council's childminding forum and a committee member for early education, she is also passionate about supporting families with Autism and deafness, and is pro-active in promoting awareness.

Julianne operates a large childminding setting with five assistants, and cares for children from two months through to 12 years old. She is keen to be an Elected Member to share her knowledge and experience from a larger setting, to ensure inclusivity and consideration when there are changes to policy and guidance.

Currently studying for a BA in Childhood Practice at Aberdeen University, which she hopes to complete in 2022, Julianne also holds a qualification at SCQF Level 7 in Social Services Children and Young People, and has completed many other training courses on a variety of topics relating to working with children and families.

Kylie Todd (proposed new Elected Member)

Midlothian

Kylie established her childminding setting in November 2010, and has had some fantastic experiences from working with the children in her care - she has also worked through some difficult times too.

Kylie holds a SVQ III in Children and Young People.

She is keen to help promote how unique childminding is - and all the great experiences and learning opportunities that children can gain from spending time with a childminder. Within her local area, Kylie is already working hard to promote childminding to parents, as well as the blended childcare opportunities that can benefit families.