

# Meet Your Elected Members



**Providing a voice for you....**

We look to our Elected Members to represent the values, views, and priorities of childminders across Scotland.

## Barbara Dennistoun, Convener South Lanarkshire

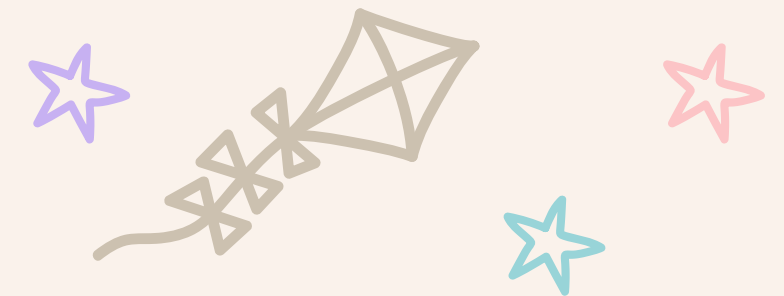
Barbara was registered as a childminder in March 2002, and in 2018 she also became a partner provider with South Lanarkshire Council to deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) to children and families in her community.

For 10 years, Barbara had 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 ongoing 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. Barbara took over as Convener in 2022, she is enjoying her role leading the Scottish Executive Board and providing ongoing support to both the Elected Members and the staff team.

Barbara will be continuing as Convener for a further year, this was approved at the August SEB meeting.



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## Susan Mooney, Vice Convener Orkney Islands

Susan is a childminder from Orkney and has been childminding since 1992 and has more than 32 years of experience in the profession.

Over the 30+ years she has been a childminder there have been massive changes not all for the benefit of us or the families. She provides services to various ages of children from nine weeks to 13 years, and runs her service as an extended family - and she has even gone on holiday with them.

Susan has previously served on the Board as an Elected Member and a co-opted member and brings a wealth of experience to the Board.

Susan enjoys being part of the team that promotes and keeps childminders up to date with the government's policies, which can be both a challenge and a privilege. Susan is keen to continue to be involved with SCMA and further develop its strategy and vision for the future.

# Managing our Finances



Following external recruitment during 2025 the Scottish Executive Board was pleased to appoint a skilled individual with financial expertise to act as Treasurer for our Board of Trustees.

The Treasurer is responsible for overseeing financial matters on behalf of our Board and ensuring that the organisation has robust financial processes to ensure it meets its legal and constitutional requirements.

## John Addie, Treasurer

John is an experienced financial and risk management professional with over 30 years in UK banking, specialising in financial oversight, governance, and risk control.

As a former Risk Manager at Lloyds Banking Group, he provided independent assurance on financial processes, identified and mitigated risks, and ensured compliance with governance frameworks - skills directly relevant to the Treasurer role at SCMA.

John's expertise in financial analysis, credit assessment, and stakeholder engagement enables him to oversee financial matters effectively and support informed decision-making.

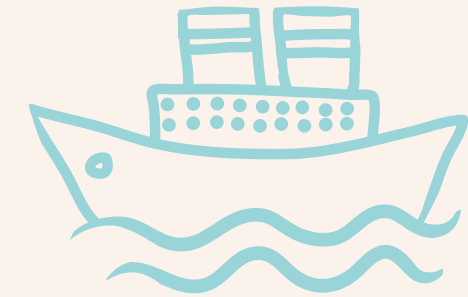
John is also committed to SCMA's mission and has seen first-hand the support that SCMA provides in promoting and representing childminding in Scotland. He is eager to contribute his skills to ensure the organisation's financial sustainability and John welcomes the opportunity to support SCMA in this vital role.

## Karen Baxter Aberdeen

Karen has been childminding since 2015 and has completed her Community Childminding training with SCMA and has been a funded ELC partner provider for five years. Karen has also completed her SVQ III during 2023, which was a great achievement.

Karen has provided support to a number of children and their families and has supported them through various challenges that they have faced.

Karen believes in the 10 years she has been a childminder she has gained knowledge and experience that would enable her to contribute in a positive manner to childminding and the work of SCMA. Karen also engages in a number of local childminding events and has a good working relationship with other childminders.



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## Natalie Dickson 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 joined the Board in 2022 and was 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.



## Lyn Howie West Lothian



Lyn has been a childminder since November 2007 and runs a large childminding setting with a number of assistants. Lyn's childminding setting is a funded partner with the local authority. Lyn has a wealth of experience in many roles within childminding: lone working, partnership working and now managing multiple assistants.

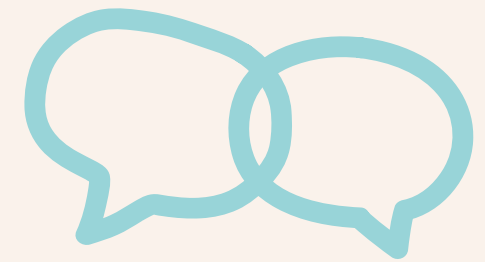
She enjoys supporting and developing children as well as supporting and encouraging other childminders to enhance their own careers. Her experience and knowledge comes from a mixture of day to day life and gaining qualifications including a BA in Childhood Practice.

Lyn joined SEB in 2023, and she is interested in hearing about the experiences of other childminders across Scotland and working with others to offer ideas and support. She is keen to support necessary changes or enhancements to recruit more childminders to the workforce.

Childminders are professionals and valuable to our community, Lyn would like to continue to help support the childminding workforce and the work of SCMA.

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## Christina Johnston Orkney Islands



Christina has been a childminder since 2012, and she absolutely loves being a childminder and watching the wee ones grow and learn. Christina has completed lots of childminding-related training and learning courses during her childminding career.

Christina has thought about becoming an Elected Member for a number of years and has been encouraged to put herself forward by a friend as she believes she has a lot to offer childminding and SCMA in the future.

Christina believes childminders need to be heard and not forgotten about. Childminders provide a fantastic service for parents and children alike and she is passionate about promoting the work they and SCMA do for the childminding workforce in Scotland.

## Denise Murray

### North Ayrshire

Denise has been childminding since 2007, and strives to provide a professional, flexible and high-quality childcare service. She has built great relationships with all her parents and carers, by providing a service that always goes that little step further. She has built positive relationships and outcomes for the children and families in her childcare setting.

Denise has experience in caring for children with disabilities, medical needs and additional support needs. She holds an SVQ III in Early Years and Childcare Development and has an extensive training portfolio.

As Denise has been childminding for 19 years and is very involved in her community in Largs, she feels she could bring a voice, knowledge and experiences to the table. She would like to share and discuss her own experiences and support other childminders views and suggestions that they feel strongly about.

She would like to have the opportunity to share suggestions, opinions and discussions to represent herself, other childminders and SCMA members. Becoming a SCMA Board member will allow her experiences to be shared and discussed creating positive outcomes for everyone involved.



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## Linsey Philliban

### Falkirk

Linsey has been a childminder since 2014 providing both funded and unfunded placements, she has been a funded provider since it was introduced in her area. She is also involved in a blended model pilot with a local nursery and works with various agencies to provide support to children with complex additional support needs. Linsey has also worked alongside social services providing support to vulnerable families.

Linsey holds a qualification at SCQF Level 7 and also attends various training courses to support her Continuous Professional Learning and also reflects on her learning using SCMA's Learning Log.

Linsey believes SCMA is a valuable service and provides excellent support and resources to support childminders. and she believes it would be a privilege to be involved in helping to shape how childminders can be supported and to raise the profile and give a voice to the profession.

# Co-optees



## Margaret MacDougall Argyll and Bute

Margaret is a childminder from Argyll and Bute and was co-opted to the Board in 2016. She became a SCMA Elected Member in 2017. Margaret continues to enjoy her role within the Board and has continued as a co-optee since 2023.

Margaret has been childminding since 2008 and works with children from six months to 16 years old. Working alongside Argyll and Bute Council, Margaret also provides funded ELC places for eligible two year olds.

Margaret was keen to get involved with SCMA and further develop it's strategy and vision for the future.



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## Katy Pollock Argyll and Bute

Katy is a childminder from Argyll and Bute and was co-opted to the Board in 2016. She became a SCMA Elected Member in 2017. Katy loves supporting the work of SCMA and enjoys her role within the Board which is why she has continued as a co-optee since 2023.

Katy has been a childminder for 19 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 registered as a childminder and wants to continue to be involved with what the Association does for childminding across Scotland.





# New Elected Members



## Shannon Dewars Aberdeenshire

Shannon has been childminding since 2017, working in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council for more than five years, and a member of the Aberdeenshire Childminding Forum since 2025. She is currently taking part in the SCMA Time Off The Floor pilot as a Childminding Practitioner.

Shannon holds an SVQ Level 3 in Children and Young People and has completed all mandatory training required for her role as a registered childminder. She has undertaken a wide range of professional development courses over the years to enhance her knowledge and practice. She is currently entering her third year of the Graduate Apprenticeship BA (Hons) Early Learning and Childcare degree with the University of the Highlands and Islands. This ongoing study continues to strengthen her professional knowledge, leadership skills, and understanding of inclusive, person-centred practice.

Her experience as a childminder has centred on providing nurturing, child-led care that supports children’s learning, development, wellbeing, and confidence. She has built strong relationships with families, created inclusive learning environments, and adapted her practice to meet the individual needs of every child in her care. Shannon would love to use her experience, commitment to lifelong learning, and passion for childminding to make a positive contribution to the Board. She is committed to representing childminders’ voices, promoting high standards, working collaboratively, and helping shape a strong, sustainable future for our profession.

## Lucie Walton Aberdeenshire



Lucie has been a registered childminder for 4 years and is funded ELC provider. She has been involved in the SCMA Mentor Pilot for the past two years, supporting other childminders with advice, encouragement, sharing good practice and helping build confidence locally. She is actively involved in networking, organising childminder meet-ups and supporting professional relationships within the sector.

Lucie has completed her SVQ Social Services Children and Young People - SCQF Level 7 qualification along with other Continuous Professional Learning Courses linked to child development, outdoor learning, risk benefit, safeguarding and quality improvement. She is also currently working on her BA in Childhood and offers high-quality, nurturing, child-led care in a home-from-home setting. Her practice focuses strongly on outdoor learning, family partnership, inclusion, children’s voice, reflective practice and continuous improvement through learning journals, observations, planning and self-evaluation.

Lucie would like to become an Elected Member to represent childminders’ voices, support professional recognition and help strengthen the sector. Through mentoring and networking, she understands the challenges childminders face and would like to contribute positively to SCMA’s work, sharing practical experience from everyday childminding practice.





**Thank You!**

