

College Sector of The Future
MSP Cross Party Reference Group - Terms of Reference
Meeting: 24 June 2026
Publication Date: 4 August 2026

Aim:

To bring Members of the Scottish Parliament together in a Cross Party Reference Group to the College Sector of The Future workstream. The workstream will create a co-designed set of solutions for the future of the college sector.

Objectives:

- Strengthen trust through openness and transparency.
- Provide additional assurance that the voices of Members of the Scottish Parliament are heard in the process of CSoTF.
- Promote collaboration between Members of the Scottish Parliament and other stakeholders at a national, regional and local level by having national representatives who are fully sighted on the workstream process.
- Help to raise awareness the CSoTF workstream within the Scottish Parliament, and with party political colleagues.

The aim and objectives will be achieved by convening a Cross-Party MSP Reference Group that meets a minimum of three times throughout the workstream to:

1. **Test the problem statement and success criteria.** Discuss whether the programme's problem framing and success measures reflect Members understanding of the college sector today, and ambitions for the future.
2. **Stress-test emerging options.** Provide realistic insight on likely impacts (positive and negative) for themes as they emerge.
3. **Surface risks and propose mitigations.** Consider unintended consequences and propose solutions / mitigations, focusing on what would make options workable in practice.

Membership:

Membership is invited from the following political parties:

- The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.
- The Scottish Labour Party.
- The Scottish Liberal Democrat Party.
- The Scottish Green Party.
- Reform UK.

The same representatives attending throughout the course of the workstream would be the ideal, diaries allowing, however a substitute members are able to join as and when required.

Timing

Three meetings (with an agenda and papers circulated one week before) held in:

- June – to introduce and inform the Group about the evolution of the workstream to date, and gain input, feedback and reflections which will be shared and taken into account by the Work Co-ordination Group.
- September / October – to inform the Group about progress across the workstream, including emerging themes, ideas and risks emerging, and gain input, feedback and reflections which will be shared and taken into account by the Work Co-ordination Group.
- December – to inform the Group about the options being appraised for the future of the sector and gain input, feedback and reflections, which will be shared and taken into account by the Work Co-ordination Group.

Minuting and information sharing

A minute of each meeting will be circulated to Members of the Group for agreement. Agreed minutes will be published on the dedicated web pages for CSoTF hosted on the Colleges Scotland website in a timely way throughout the workstream.

Resourcing:

Co-ordination of the Cross Party Reference Group will be managed by Colleges Scotland.

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