



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR CHILDREN

Annual Report 2024-25

Background

About the All Party-Parliamentary Group for Children

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children (APPGC) is a group of cross-party Peers and MPs, whose work is co-ordinated by the National Children's Bureau (NCB). The APPGC was founded by Baroness Faithfull, a former President of NCB, and NCB has provided the Secretariat for the group since 1984. Since its creation, the APPGC has been at the forefront of ensuring that children's voices reach the highest levels of government, and that their needs are considered in policymaking.

Officers

Role	Name	Party
Chair & Registered Contact	Munira Wilson MP	Liberal Democrat
Co-Chair	Jess Asato MP	Labour
Officer	Baroness Verma	Conservative
Officer	Baroness Tyler of Enfield	Liberal Democrat

Contact Details

Registered Contact:

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Public Enquiry Point:

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Secretariat: [National Children's Bureau](#) acts as the group's secretariat.

Group's Website: [All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children \(APPGC\)](#)

Link to register: [House of Commons - Register Of All-Party Parliamentary Groups as at 2 January 2025: Children](#)

Members

Name	Party
Dr Rupa Huq MP	Labour
David Simmonds MP	Conservative
Rebecca Smith MP	Conservative
Debbie Abrahams MP	Labour
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP	Labour
Sharon Hodgson MP	Labour
Ian Byrne MP	Labour
Maya Ellis MP	Labour
Aphra Brandreth MP	Conservative
Gill German MP	Labour
David Baines MP	Labour
Sarah Russell MP	Labour
Jodie Gosling MP	Labour
Caroline Voaden MP	Liberal Democrat
Josh MacAlister MP	Labour
Dr Al Pinkerton MP	Liberal Democrat
Jess Brown-Fuller MP	Liberal Democrat
Darren Paffey MP	Labour
Alison Bennett MP	Liberal Democrat
Marie Goldman MP	Liberal Democrat
Antonia Bance MP	Labour
Dr Ellie Chowns MP	Green Party
Dave Robertson MP	Labour
Lord Russell of Liverpool	Crossbench
Baroness Butler-Sloss	Crossbench
Lord Hampton	Crossbench
Baroness Benjamin	Liberal Democrat
Baroness Hamwee	Liberal Democrat
Baroness Watkins of Tavistock	Crossbench
Baroness Hughes	Labour
Baroness Lister of Burtersett	Labour
Lord Hunt of Kings Heath	Labour
Baroness Walmsley	Liberal Democrat
Baroness Morris of Yardley	Labour
Baroness Cass	Crossbench
Baroness Longfield	Labour
Lord Carlile of Berriew	Crossbench

Overview of Activities

October 2024: Annual General Meeting

On Monday 21 October 2024, the APPGC met for the first time this Parliament to elect new officers and to consider its priorities for government at the Annual General Meeting.

With a room of fifteen Parliamentarians, there was resounding support for the APPGC to continue its work taking the voices of children and young people to the heart of government.

Jess Asato, Labour MP for Lowestoft, who was elected to Parliament for the first time in July 2024 and sits on the Education Committee, was appointed as co-chair of the group alongside Munira Wilson, Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham, the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Education. Conservative peer Baroness Verma and Liberal Democrat peer (and former APPGC co-chair) Baroness Tyler were elected as officers.

The group discussed its priorities for this new Parliament, including ensuring that wellbeing is at the heart of the forthcoming Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, and that child health is also a key consideration both in this Bill and in the government's ten-year health plan.

The group also committed to continuing its work to keep child poverty on the agenda, ensuring that any measures introduced include all children, and working with other APPGs to bring attention to issues such as the early years, children's social care, children's nutrition and the SEND system.



Anna Feuchtwang, CEO of NCB, far left, with members of the APPGC, including new co-chairs Munira Wilson (fourth from left) and Jess Asato (fifth from left).

Find out more here: [All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children elects new co-chairs](#)

November 2024: Child Poverty Event

At the October 2024 AGM, the APPGC reaffirmed its commitment to keeping child poverty at the top of the political agenda. The issue was the focus of the APPGC's second meeting of the year, where parliamentarians and senior civil servants had the chance to hear more about the government's Child Poverty Strategy and push them to go further and faster.

Attendees heard from Jess Asato MP, Co-Chair of the APPGC, Minister for Employment, Alison McGovern MP, and the head of the Child Poverty Unit, Alex Fitzpatrick, who stressed that the government would tackle poverty affecting "children now and in future generations".

We are proud that the APPGC brought the voices of children to the MPs, Peers and civil servants in the room. Ms Asato shared powerful messages from children affected by poverty: "There's so much shame to it. We knew from the age of like six to seven that if someone asked if we were eating, we said yes. If someone asks why the fridge was empty, we said, oh, mummy's doing the shopping tomorrow."

Such a complex issue will take time to solve, and the APPGC appreciate what the Minister for Employment called an "anti-poverty lens" approach to viewing the government's work as a whole. The group also confirmed without the voices and

meaningful input of children and families who are experts-by-experience, the Government cannot succeed.

Find out more here: [CYP Now - Ending child poverty can only happen with input from children and families.](#)

January 2025: Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill Event

Leaders from across the children's sector, particularly those part of the NCB family, spoke with MPs and Peers, including the Minister for Children and Families, Janet Daby MP, about how the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill can be further strengthened.

Following the meeting, APPGC members, in particular co-chair Munira Wilson, tabled several key amendments at Committee stage, sparking significant debate and securing government concessions, particularly on a single unique identifier and other measures to strengthen children's wellbeing, education, and care.



April 2025: Meeting to discuss priorities for the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill in the House of Lords

NCB convened a meeting of the APPGC to discuss the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill before it entered the House of Lords for its second reading on 1 May 2025.

This meeting constituted a key moment for the children's sector to present to APPGC members our priorities for babies, children and young people at this crucial point in time.

Family Rights Group spoke about Family Group Decision Making, and NCB presented on our single unique identifier and data and information sharing proposals. Action for Children, covered early intervention and NSPCC discussed both children's voice and rights, and equal protection.

This was followed by a cross-party discussion with APPGC members on all topics and proposed amendments, which explored how Peers can help continue to clarify and strengthen emerging legislation.

Taking children and young people's voices to the heart of government is central to the work of NCB, and this APPGC meeting provided another opportunity for us to do so. The APPGC heard from Lawrence and Kieran, two members of our Social Care Advisory Board, on the importance of involving children and young people in decision-making. They reminded the room that: 'Our lived experiences offer insights that can't be replicated through theory alone, and when those insights shape strategy and policy, real change happens.'

The APPGC members and NCB worked closely with our wider coalition partners, including the Children's Charities Coalition, and the Children and Young People's Health Policy Influencing Group (HPIG), as well as NCB family members the Schools Wellbeing Partnership and the Anti-Bullying Alliance, to scrutinise legislation and advocate for the robust systematic changes that are needed.

APPG for Children members present asked NCB to collate and organise the Bill briefings from across the sector in an accessible format to support parliamentarians scrutinising the Bill throughout its passage in the Lords. This work was commended in Hansard by Lord Hampton.



Laura Anderson, Policy and Public Affairs Officer at NCB, at the APPGC meeting alongside our two co-chairs, Jess Asato MP and Munira Wilson MP.

As the Bill progresses the APPGC members continued to scrutinise and strengthen the Bill, ensuring the development of policies that bring about the best for babies, children and young people. Notably Baroness Tyler, Lord Hampton and Baroness Lister alongside many other APPGC members in the Lords tabled amendments and raised issues at Committee stage in line with APPGC and partner priorities – again securing extensive concessions from Government including around a single unique identifier and children's social care.

Find out more here: [NCB convenes APPG for Children meeting to highlight priorities for Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#)