neurological alliance of scotland

Meet the Trustees and NAoS Freelancers



Keith Park - Chair

Keith is Interim Director for Scotland at the MS Society. He has been advocating for people affected by MS for over 10 years in a variety of roles.

In his time as Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns Manager at the MS Society, he has led campaigns to increase MS Nurse provision, improve access to new treatments such as HSCT and to make the eligibility criteria used to decide Adult Disability Payment fairer by scrapping the 20 metre and 50% rules.

In the past few years Keith has provided leadership and support to the NAoS policy Group. He also chaired the Mental Health Sub-Group and co-authored the Recommendations for better mental health support for those with neurological conditions.

Keith also has vast experience in the Health and Social Care field having worked in both prior to joining the MS Society.



David Mulligan - Vice Chair

David is CEO of Funding Neuro, a Glasgow-based charity that funds neurological trials with a particular interest in Parkinson's Disease, MND, DIPG and Glioblastoma.

David is a Chartered Accountant with a corporate banking background and has worked across the UK and Europe. David is keen to see more research and trials in the UK and Scotland in particular because too many times great research doesn't get to where it does the most good: the patient.

Outside of work, David likes walking, cycling and watching rugby and motorsport.



Iain McWhirter - Treasurer

Iain was appointed as CEO at Revive MS Support in April 2022. Revive is based in Glasgow and provides services and support to people affected by multiple sclerosis to help them manage the physical, emotional, and financial impacts associated with the condition.

Prior to that, Iain was Head of Fundraising at MND Scotland for 15 years, leading significant growth in income and awareness, with a spell as Interim CEO in 2021.

Iain is currently a Trustee of the Neurological Alliance of Scotland, and also Treasurer for BOOM! Community Arts, a charity delivering community arts projects in North Glasgow that Iain helped establish in 2017.



Alison McKean

Alison is the Director of Policy and Research at Alzheimer Scotland, with over 25 years of dedicated experience in the field of dementia. Beginning her career as an occupational therapist with NHS Dumfries and Galloway.

Alison has since led a range of innovative projects at Alzheimer Scotland. This includes implementing a national rehabilitation programme as Allied Health Professional Post-Diagnostic Lead and delivering a global initiative for Brain Health Scotland focused on the early detection of Alzheimer's disease.

Alison is deeply committed to ensuring that people with lived experience are at the heart of her work. She brings extensive experience in leadership, improvement and navigating complex systems. Alison serves on the Executive Committee of the Scottish Dementia Research Consortium, is a graduate of the Scottish Quality and Safety Fellowship and recently completed an MSc in Advancing Practice (Occupational Therapy).



James Jopling

James has worked almost exclusively in the third sector for the past 28 years, both in Scotland and across the UK. He started his charity career as a volunteer at Oxfam in 1994 and has since worked in organisations such as Cancer Research UK, Breast Cancer Now, Shelter, British Heart Foundation and Samaritans.

Most recently, James was appointed to the position of Director for Scotland at Parkinson's UK in April 2022. He has also been a trustee at HomeStart North Edinburgh and Leith, Social Bite, Scottish Refugee Council and Health in Mind.



Gillian Mathewson

Gillian is the Founder and Chair of Trustees of PANS+ Scotland. She has a wide range of experience from Project Management, Software Engineering, and being a Principal Teacher of Maths.

Coming from an education background, she brings a strong understanding of the Scottish education system, and child-centred practice, but as a parent with lived experience of fighting for support across health, education and other public services, she also knows first-hand, the gap between policy and lived experience. She is determined to ensure that the voices of those affected by neurological conditions, including PANS, are heard in Scotland.



Roisin Eadie

With over 20 years in journalism (Greenock Telegraph, Scottish Mirror, Daily Record, Sunday Mail) followed by over a decade in communications work, Roisin is driven by a passion to tell people's stories and give them a voice, with a focus on those who are under-represented in terms of policymaking, services and funding, or are misunderstood and overlooked by the wider public.

In her current role as Communications Lead with Scottish Huntington's Association, Roisin led the charity's re-brand, contributed to the development of its five-year Standing Tall strategy, and continues to raise awareness about the disease and the work of Scottish Huntington's Association through media and other awareness raising work.

Prior to joining Scottish Huntington's Association, Roisin was Head of Communications at Mary's Meals UK, a global school feeding charity, and Head of Communications and Public Affairs at Glasgow Caledonian University.



Donald MacPhee

Donald was diagnosed with Dystonia in 1983 and subsequently set up the Dystonia Society's first ever Scottish self help group and national committee. He later became the Scottish Director and co-founded the Glasgow Alliance of Neurological Groups (GANG).

Donald has worked in strategic and operational roles for various charities and public sector agencies such as the Wise Group, Kilmarnock College, Unity Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland and latterly Glasgow City Council (GCC). He retired from GCC in June 2024 but continues as a Board member of two Gaelic community organisations and was appointed by the Scottish Government to the Board of Bòrd na Gàidhlig in 2023.

Donald has contributed to BBC Radio nan Gàidheal programmes for nearly 20 years and in 2022 presented an hour-long documentary about his dystonia journey on BBC ALBA. He's also a Spanish speaker and a lifelong sports fan, in particular of football.



Nicky Cowsill

Nicky has lived in the Western Isles for over 20 years and was diagnosed with MS in 2013. Nicky is co-founder of the charity Neuro Hebrides, supporting people affected by neurological conditions across the Western Isles. She volunteers as part of the coordinating team planning activities and supporting members on a one-to-one basis.

Nicky represents Neuro Hebrides on the Digital Citizen's Panel with the Health & Social Care Alliance Scotland and has also been part of the working groups for the development and rollout of the MyNeuroSurvey 2024.

Since her diagnosis, Nicky completed a BSc in Sustainable Development with the University of Highlands and Islands with a particular focus on the impacts of climate change on people living with disabilities in island communities.



Steve Portelly

Steve is a patient with two Neurological diagnoses and another two related Neurodevelopmental diagnoses. Steve's father worked as a GP, his mother was a medical secretary (until she was diagnosed with MS), his grandfather was a public health doctor in the Army & grandmother was an Army nurse. These family connections have given Steve an insight into the medical world (with no desire to work in it!).

Steve is now happily retired having worked in the Oil & Gas industry all his working life - private sector - doing a number of roles, progressing to the position of Project Manager. With many qualifications from the "University Of Life", Steve now spends his time trying to help others & giving back something (as much as his conditions and disabilities allow).

Supporting the trustees



Alice Struthers

Alice joined NAoS as Programme Co-ordinator in August 2020 and became Programme Director in March 2021. Alice is responsible for implementing the NAoS 2024-2027 strategy and for putting the interests of our members directly to the Scottish Government. As such Alice sits on various stakeholder groups and brings Scottish Ministers and other key policy makers to our regular policy group and members' meetings.

Alice has spent a significant proportion of her career in healthcare, having worked in pharmaceutical and medical device market research on and off for 20 years as well as spending time working as a researcher to a Shadow Health Minister at Westminster.



Kerry Kalloway

Kerry joined NAoS as Membership and Engagement Officer in November 2026, supporting the organisation's work to engage with its members and strengthen communication across Scotland's neurological community.

Kerry brings experience across the third sector, education, health and creative industries. Prior to joining NAoS, she worked as an Organisational Development and Learning Adviser with NHS Dumfries and Galloway, where her work included organisational culture, leadership and management development, staff engagement and digital learning.