# NAoS Neurological Manifesto subgroup DRAFT Terms of Reference

**Date: 28 August 2024**

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| 1. Rationale
 | The 2026 Holyrood election is an opportunity for NAoS members to collectively campaign for improvements in neurological services, support and the ongoing sustainability of the neurological third sector. Feedback from members highlights that having a unified, collective voice is a stronger influence when campaigning on national issues. Therefore, we wish to create a subgroup to co-ordinate a unified approach to the Holyrood elections and create an election manifesto for campaigning. We aim to develop an evidence-based neurological manifesto for MSPs and prospective candidates with recommendations and aims for the next for parliamentary period.  |

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| 1. Role and Remit
 | The role of the group is to develop a neurological manifesto and campaign strategy for the Holyrood elections in 2026. The central purpose of this subgroup is to:* Create a pan neurological manifesto to present to MSPs and prospective candidates, both in digital and print formats
* Create a unified campaign pressing for commitment from MSPs to support our manifesto
* Develop a comms strategy for members to be involved in the election campaign

The aim is to achieve endorsement from MSP candidates in the run up to the Scottish Parliamentary elections, and thereafter to use it as a talking point with newly elected MSPs as well as Scottish Government. The aim is to garner widespread cross-party support of our manifesto and the neurological community in the next parliament.  |

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| 1. Group membership
 | Membership is limited to a small number of representatives from the wider policy group. We’d like the group to be made up from at least one person representing each of the broader categories under which neurological conditions fall. The categories have been identified as:Acquired | CYP | fluctuating | life-limiting | life-long | movement disorders | neurodegenerative | wheelchair users |Where we have a gap in representation, the group can reach out to relevant NAoS members for their input. The group needs to cut across all NAoS members so that it can be endorsed and used by 100% of our members in the run up to the Holyrood election 2026. |

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| 1. Frequency of meetings
 | We aim to get the group established with its first meeting in September 2024. The group will meet regularly at first in order to agree the aims of the group and initiate a workplan. Then it will move to meeting every 6-8 weeks. Members can report to each other via email or through ad hoc meetings between the formal Holyrood Election subgroup meetings. Once members of the group have been established, they will agree which day of the week suits best for meetings. |

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| 1. Reporting
 | This group will report to the Policy Group, which meets every 8 weeks. A chairperson will be elected to this group and they will do the reporting to the Policy Group.  |

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| 1. Ways of working
 | Individuals within the subgroup will take on accountability for individual work strands, taking it to colleagues and other members of NAoS. We envisage a fair bit of the work will be in taking specific ideas out to their communities to test, and reporting on the feedback back to the group. The subgroup can then make decisions based on this wider feedback.The manifesto should use current real examples of experiences of neurological services across Scotland and will therefore require an element of co-production, which can be managed through our charity members. |

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| 1. Aims of the group
 | The aims of the group are to increase awareness of prevalence, severity, impact on carers and cost of neurological conditions in the political sphere and to campaign for MSPs and prospective candidates to support a neurological manifesto in the next Holyrood election. We will develop a communications strategy to help members participate in the campaign.  |

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| 1. Secretariat
 | Alice Struthers, NAoS Programme Director will be responsible for minuting the meetings. Mark Jackson (PSPA) will chair the subgroup and will be responsible for distributing the previous meeting minutes and any other papers required seven days in advance of each meeting, and for setting up the meetings. |