



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

MEETING

Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020 Strategic Implementation Group meeting: 27 April 2022

Minutes from the meeting held 27 April 2022.

First published: 20 September 2022

Last updated: 20 September 2022

1. Welcome and Introduction

Welsh Government (WG) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on the 26 January were agreed.

3. Implementation Status Update

The group were provided with an update of the work of each of the task and finish groups under the following agenda items

4. Future of the Strategic Implementation Group and Task and Finish Groups

A discussion was held regarding the future of the Strategic Implementation Group and the associated Task and Finish Groups following commencement. It was agreed a governance structure would be needed until 5 years post commencement, in line with the statutory duty to report on the impact of the legislation. The structure would be discussed at the next meeting. It was agreed the Parenting Expert Action Group should close as the original tasks had been completed.

5. Communications update

WG provided an update on the communications activity around commencement.

There were around 20 strands of comms activity supporting the law change running alongside the advertising and engagement, including the following:

- A media event took place on Friday 18 of March, at Techniquet. This was attended by the Deputy Minister for Social Services, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, the NSPCC and 2 families. A press notice was issued
- A stakeholder letter writing campaign was conducted with letters sent to key sectors including, health, education, social services, third sector, Members of the Senedd, Welsh MPs, and key individuals in the Home Office, and Ministry of Justice. Letters were also sent to criminal law information sources
- Welsh Government social media was very active, and partner packs were issued to provide stakeholders with social media copy to share on their networks and encourage activity
- Poems were commissioned and published on 21 March from Bardd Plant Cymru and the Children's Laureate Wales, via Literature Wales.
Empowering children and young people through poetry - Literature Wales Grymuso plant a phobl ifanc Cymru trwy farddoniaeth - Literature Wales (lennyddiaethcymru.org)
- Three social media videos were produced with the First Minister, Deputy Minister and the former Children's Commissioner for Wales. A video was also released on 21 April at the one-month post commencement mark
- The newsletter was sent out to the 3,000 plus subscribers to celebrate the day, followed by the final regular newsletter with a roundup of commencement activity, and
- Extensive media coverage was achieved Wales wide and UK-wide including the main broadsheets and tabloids. The Deputy Minister was interviewed for news programmes. The legislation featured on radio phone ins and on magazine style programmes such as Loose Women.

6. Update on raising awareness strategy for

children and young people about the Children Wales Act

An update on the commissioned work was provided. The project to raise awareness amongst children and young people was to be embedded in the wider context of children's rights and should complement existing activities and programmes, including those delivered through schools.

7. Update from the Data Collection and Monitoring Task and Finish Group

The agreed proposals for collecting data by the police and social services in Wales were being implemented. Arrangements for the collection of baseline data for 2021-22 continued.

8. Update from the Training, Operations, Guidance and Diversion Task & Finish Group

The following guidance documents had been updated:

- **Healthy Child Wales Programme** had been updated and published. [Healthy child Wales quality assurance framework | GOV.WALES](#)
- **Keeping Learners Safe**, which contains guidance for local authorities and governing bodies on arrangements for safeguarding children in education, had been updated and published. [Keeping Learners Safe \(gov.wales\)](#)
- The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had updated the '**Charging Standard**' to reflect the change in the law. This guidance sets out how prosecutors and police should approach charging decisions in cases

involving offences against the person. Guidance on '**Child Abuse (non-sexual) - prosecution guidance**' has also been updated. These have been published on the CPS website:

- [Offences against the Person, incorporating the Charging Standard | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Child Abuse \(non-sexual\) - prosecution guidance | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)

An update on the approach to providing parenting support in conjunction with an Out of Court Disposal was provided. Extensive work had been undertaken between the police and local authorities to put in place a process for referrals.

9. Any other business

Date of next meeting: 14 July 2022