

PUBLICATION

Children (Abolition of the Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act Training, Operations, Guidance and Diversion Task and Finish Group Meeting: 3 March 2021

Minutes from the meeting held 3 March 2021.

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Summary of meeting

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1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting. This group has merged from the Out of Court Disposal and Diversion Scheme (OOCD&DS) Task and Finish Group and the Operations Guidance & Training (OG&T) Task and Finish Group.

2. Minutes of previous meetings of the OOCD&DS Task and Finish Group and the OG&T Task and Finish Group

The minutes of the last meeting of the OOCD&DS Task and Finish Group Meeting 2 December 2020 were agreed. The minutes of the last meeting of the OG&T Task and Finish Group Meeting 9 December 2020 were agreed.

3. Discussion on safeguarding process

The group were provided with information from the Welsh Government on current safeguarding and criminal justice procedures.

The group considered the 'first' and 'middle' part of the safeguarding process, from first point of contact through to consideration of a referral or report by police, social services and other relevant professionals. The Group noted that as the defence of reasonable punishment applies to the existing offences of common assault and battery safeguarding processes would not change and professionals would continue to follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (WSP). This view had been confirmed through wider engagement with stakeholders represented on the group.

4. Diversion Options

The group explored the suitability of different approaches for diversionary support. This would be explored further in future meetings.

5. Next steps

The next meeting date tbc.

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