

**Children (Abolition of the Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill  
Data Collection and Monitoring Task and Finish Group Meeting  
Swalec Stadium, Cardiff, Tuesday 9 July 2019  
Summary of Meeting**

**1. Welcome**

Welsh Government (WG) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**2. Overview and update on the Bill**

WG updated the group on the progress of the Bill.

**3. Terms of Reference (ToR)**

Members of the group were asked to consider the draft ToR. The purpose of the group is to identify the potential impacts of the legislation on public services, and create work streams within those organisations to develop an approach to monitor these impacts. It was agreed members would consider the detail of the draft ToRs and provide feedback on any revisions so that the final ToR could be agreed at the next meeting.

**4. Welsh Government Update on impact assessment work to date**

WG updated the Group on work that had been undertaken to date with police and CPS data for the Regulatory Impact Assessment and work being undertaken with some social services teams to try to establish baseline estimates for current numbers of referrals relating of reasonable physical punishment.

There was a discussion on establishing baseline estimates for current numbers of referrals relating to physical punishment and various methods with which to establish the numbers of referrals and the issues associated with these. Based on learning from the initial work, potential issues which required further consideration had been identified. One issue was the potential double or multiple counting of an incident, because it would be recorded against the child involved in the incident and any other children within the context of the incident e.g. siblings, team members etc. The group was asked to consider this, and any other potential issues they identified, and feed back to the group.

**5. Identifying key organisations and the potential impact of the legislation**

Social Services and police were both identified as key organisations for data collection and an approach to collecting data for a robust baseline would be needed, as well as continuing to collect data for monitoring purposes should the Bill pass and the law change.

There was a discussion on the challenges for each of the main sectors with regard to collecting data including social services, health, justice, police and education. The discussion covered current data collection, systems used by the different services, differences in definitions and methods for collection. It was agreed that all members would consider these issues and feedback on processes and potential solutions for the issues raised. WG would contact organisations not represented at the meeting

for a discussion on these issues, consider wider representation for the group as well as potential solutions for system data collection.