

Out of Court Disposals Task and Finish Group
Welsh Government, Cathays Park Cardiff, 19 December 2019
Summary of Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welsh Government (WG) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of 25 September 2019 were agreed. WG provided an update from the last meeting.

3. Update on the Bill & task and finish groups

WG provided an update on the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill and on progress of the other task and finish groups. WG informed the group that they are publishing a regular newsletter, which provides updates on the Bill, and the link to sign up would be sent to members of the group.

4. Existing infrastructure for Out of Court Disposals and Diversion Schemes in Wales

The group discussed an overview of diversion schemes operational in each of the four police forces in Wales, which had been put together based on discussions in the group's earlier meetings. More detailed information about the diversion process in the North Wales and Dyfed Powys Police areas was also discussed. It was agreed that WG officials would visit each of the police force areas to obtain more information about the diversion schemes and processes before further discussion at the next meeting.

5. Underlying Principles for a diversion scheme

WG gave a presentation on 'Underlying Principles for a diversion scheme'. The group were generally supportive of the broad intention of the principles. It was agreed the principles should be discussed further as part of the WG officials' visits to individual police forces to discuss diversion schemes.

6. Discussion on Options for Diversion Schemes

Police Liaison Unit led a discussion on possible options for a diversion scheme. This included detailed discussion of potential advantages and disadvantages of different options, building on work carried out in earlier meetings to identify these. The six options considered were:

- Option 1 - Use existing parenting interventions run by a national provider or a number of providers across the country;
- Option 2 - Develop a bespoke diversion scheme similar to the model of Checkpoint or the Women's Pathfinder;
- Option 3 - Refer into an existing diversion scheme such as the Women's Pathfinder or Checkpoint

- Option 4 - Refer to an existing family support scheme such as Families First
- Option 5 - Develop a bespoke course which could include some element of positive parenting education and behaviour management;
- Option 6 - Combine option 3 and 5.

7. Parenting Programmes

At the September meeting the WG were asked to look at existing parenting programmes and consider whether any of these would be suitable to develop as a bespoke parenting course as part of a diversion scheme.

WG presented details of parenting programmes taken from the Welsh Government's [Parenting Support Guidance](#). WG provided a brief background on parenting programmes. The group agreed that any parenting course would need to cover the parenting support needs of parents with children of all ages.

The development of any parenting intervention should also consider the differing needs of parents.

8. Closing Remarks and AOB

The next meeting dates are **19 March 2020** and **15 June 2020**, venues to be confirmed.