

Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill
Strategic Implementation Group
Monday 3 February 2020, Principality Stadium, Cardiff
Summary of the Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welsh Government (WG) welcomed everyone to the meeting. New members were welcomed, and additional members will be invited, as appropriate, as implementation work progresses.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (23/09/2019)

The minutes of the meeting in September 2019 were agreed.

3. Update on the Progress of the legislation

The Bill has passed Stage 4; Royal Assent is the next step at which point it will become an Act of the Senedd. The Bill team will focus on the implementation work.

4. Implementation Status Update

WG provided an update on the implementation programme for the legislation, including the work of the task and finish groups.

The following themes were discussed:

- Importance of timeframes and resources being in place for all aspects of implementation
- Availability of consistent levels of parenting support across Wales: the Parenting Expert Action Group (PEAG) is considering the results of the mapping exercise. The PEAG is also considering the further development of the Parenting. Give it Time campaign including information and advice for parents, and extending the age range.
- Taking account of the specific requirements of a range of family backgrounds and cultures when developing the approach to raising awareness and delivering advice and support. It was confirmed that, as part of the awareness raising strategy, Welsh Government has engaged a specialist agency to work with BAME and targeted audiences to scope information and support requirements. The SIG members were asked to let the Bill team know if there are specific groups they think Welsh Government should consider.
- Ensure safe practice in relation to restraint and removal of the defence of reasonable punishment are aligned, and that there is no confusion around the impact of the removal of the defence.

5. Communications Update

WG provided an update on the communications plan and a presentation was given on the proposed creative ideas which may be developed for the public awareness raising campaign. The group considered the effectiveness of each idea; with views considered alongside feedback from the Expert Stakeholder Group. Importantly, a series of focus groups will take place across Wales, including with BAME audiences.

6. Baseline data proposals - Data Collection and Monitoring (DCM) Task and Finish Group

WG informed the group of the finalised metrics that would be implemented for the baseline data collection for social services, and presented options for baseline data collection for the police. The Police indicated that the preferred option was to use a similar methodology to that used for the data provided in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (retrospective analysis of data), but refined with automated searches.

7. Post Implementation review

Welsh Government has considered the broad parameters of the post implementation review.

WG explained that during Stage 2 scrutiny of the Bill, there were a series of Non-Government amendments that sought to add detail on what should be included in a post implementation review report on the face of the Bill. These amendments were not agreed. The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services wrote to the group to seek their views on the potential content of a post implementation review report. The letter asks the Chair to seek advice on the practicality of including the detailed options highlighted during Stage 2 in the report.

Members agreed the most sensible approach would be for the DCM task and finish group to consider this request with a view to report back to the DMHSS by early autumn enabling the DMHSS to respond to the Children Young People and Education Committee.

8. Closing discussion & AOB

The issue of raising awareness among visitors to Wales was discussed. The meeting dates until April 2022 were confirmed.