

**Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act
Training, Operations, Guidance and Diversion (TOG&D)**

Task and Finish Group Meeting

Tuesday 14 June 2022

Summary of meeting

1. Welcome

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Minutes and actions

The minutes of the last meeting of 4 April 2022 were agreed.

3. Future of the TOG&D task and finish group

As the Children Wales Act had now come into force the group considered the future of the TOG&D task and finish group. These discussions were part of a review of governance arrangements and the structure and membership of the task and finish groups which were set up to prepare for commencement.

It was agreed this meeting should be the last meeting of the TOG&D as it has fulfilled its terms of reference and completed the following tasks assigned to it:

- To assess processes, procedures, and guidance to account for the law change.
- To consider options for using out of court disposals and the development of diversion arrangements

The Welsh Government Act implementation team thanked members of the group for all their hard work and support in preparing for commencement, including publication of the [Practice Guide](#) and setting up the [out of court parenting support scheme](#). These achievements were particularly highlighted by the Deputy Minister for Social Services in her [Oral Statement](#) to the Senedd on 22 March. It was acknowledged that members had supported the implementation of the Act in addition to busy work schedules. This was appreciated.

4. Out of court parenting support scheme

The process for the out of court parenting support scheme appeared to be working well and no major issues were identified by members of the group.

A team of CPS lawyers have been specifically trained to deal with referrals in relation to the Children Wales Act.

5. Lessons Learned

Having started the post-commencement phase, Welsh Government were considering lessons learned during the process of developing and delivering the implementation of the Act up to commencement.

Members of the group:

- stated that the amount of energy and resources contributed by both Welsh Government and members of the TOG&D had been critically important to the success of the implementation project;
- commented on the true partnership working which had taken place both across Wales and different agencies and sectors. Without this progress might have been slower;
- noted the challenge of join-up and potential overlaps across separate task and finish groups; and
- noted the TOG&D had been a welcome arena for sharing issues and practice, and the investment and consistency of people from the Welsh Government and other agencies on the group had been useful.