



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

MEETING

# **Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020 Strategic Implementation Group meeting: 26 January 2022**

Minutes from the meeting held 26 January 2022.

**First published:** 12 September 2022

**Last updated:** 12 September 2022

# **1. Welcome and introductions**

Welsh Government (WG) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

## **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting on 20 October were agreed

## **3. Implementation status update**

The group were provided with an update of the work of each workstream under the following agenda items

## **4. Communications update**

WG provided an update on the current stage of the public information campaign, which commenced in January and would continue until March. This period of advertising prior to the law coming into force, would include: TV and radio advertising; out of home, digital and press advertising; a leaflet door drop to each household from 21 Feb; cinema advertising at half term; advertising in hospitals and in local print publications such as primary times. Advertising would also take place at the home 6 nations games on advertising hoardings and the advert would be played within the stadium.

Engagement activity had also continued:

- A presentation was provided at the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect event – 5 Nov 2021
- A presentation was made at an event to mark National Safeguarding Week,

including a video address by the First Minister and the Deputy Minister for Social Services – 15 Nov 2021

- The Deputy Minister for Social Services provided a video recording for the Global Forum for Children and Youth – 9 Dec 2021
- Universal Children’s Day was highlighted with a blog by the Deputy Minister, a press notice with Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, a digital campaign was launched and a social media video was released of a young person speaking from the First Minister’s podium – 20 Nov 2021
- Three short videos had been produced of professionals for social media
- The 'Discipline takes discipline'-focused PR campaign was launched in December
- Sector information sheets had been **published** on the Welsh Government website, and
- A revised partner pack would be distributed to stakeholders.

## **5. Update on raising awareness strategy for children and young people about the Children Wales Act**

An over view of the work commissioned to develop a - Raising Awareness Strategy for Children and Young People was provided. The project commenced in December and was likely to take 9 months. The programme of work had been identified within the Explanatory Memorandum of the legislation. This was endorsed by the then Children’s Commissioner for Wales.

## **6. Parenting update**

The group was provided with an update on the work of the Parenting Expert Action Group (PEAG):

- It was acknowledged that the pandemic had impacted on parenting provision provided by local authorities with face to face provision paused in line with health protection requirements, this had now resumed with local authorities providing a mix of face to face and virtual provision. While face to face provision was preferable for many families, for others virtual provision had enabled parenting support services to reach a wider range of parents with different circumstances.
- A full review of the **Parenting. Give it time** website, digital and printed resources had been undertaken.
- The redesigned website was launched in November and included material across the 0-18 age range.

## **7. Update from the Data Collection and Monitoring Task and Finish Group**

The agreed proposals for collecting data by the police and social services in Wales were being implemented. This will involve the collection of data for a period prior to commencement, as well as for some years after commencement.

The potential impact of the pandemic on the baseline data for both police and social services was considered. Behaviours may have been affected by the restrictions with the possibility of increased or fewer numbers of incidents of physical punishment taking place.

## **8. Update from the Training, Operations, Guidance and Diversion Task & Finish Group**

The group were provided with an update on the development of a Practice Guide in relation to the Children Wales Act, which would sit alongside the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. The Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board

had considered the document and planned to publish it on their website in February.

An update on the approach to providing parenting support in conjunction with an Out of Court Disposal was provided. Grant guidance had been issued to local authorities in November and they were putting arrangements in place.

## **9. Any other business**

**Date of next meeting:** 27 April 2022