

Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Shared Parenting

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 11th November 2020

Meeting via Zoom 17.30 – 1900 hours

Present: Fulton MacGregor MSP, Jeremy Balfour MSP
Adrienne Burgess Fatherhood Institute; Eileen Brownlie, Relationships Scotland;
Erin Campbell, (Scottish Youth Parliament); Thomas Lynch, Dads Rock;
Pete Cloke, Circle; Kenny Spence, Men in Childcare, Nicola Crombie Dawson, Men in
Childcare; Megan Farr, CYPCS; Cheryl Lee Brown, Midlothian Sure Start; Chris
Miezitis, Fathers Network Scotland; Eoin Keane; Kirsty Nicholls; Adam Wilson; June
Loudoun, Grandparents Apart
In attendance: Morag Rush, Fife Health Visitor; Kate Magumise, Fife Health Visitor

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Gillian Martin MSP and Finlay Carson MSP.

2 New members and changes

Nicola Crombie Dawson from Men in Childcare has joined the group

3 Minutes of June 2020 Zoom meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the June meeting were approved with no matters arising.

4 Presentation: Young People and Family Separation in Scotland

Erin Campbell, MYSP, for Midlothian North and Depute Convenor for Equality and Human Rights. She explained how she gathered the views and experiences of young people for their perspective on family separation and relationships with parents. A pdf of her report, *Young People and Family Separation in Scotland* is attached to these minutes.

5 Presentation: Paternal mental health in Scotland

Chris Miezitis of Fathers Network Scotland presented his report, *Paternal Perinatal Mental Health: A Call to Action* including current facts, figures and perinatal service practice in Scotland, and the wider context of male mental health. His Powerpoint slides and executive summary are attached to these minutes

6 Presentation: Insights into the challenges and opportunities of father inclusion within Health Visitor practice

Kate Magumise (Health visitor) and Morag Rush (Health visitor/practice teacher) in Fife shared their health visitor team's experiences of working with dads whilst applying the principles of GIRFEC. They discussed the systemic and attitudinal challenges faced by health visitors when engaging with dads and suggested opportunities to build on best practice and proposed solutions to the challenges faced.

7 Dates of next meeting

The present parliament will go into purdah in mid March 2021. There was discussion of whether we should try and fit in one more meeting with a consensus for late February/early March. The Convener and secretariat would identify a suitable date.

8 AOB

There was no further business.