

Joint Meeting of the: Education Lifelong Learning and Skills (ELLS); Health and Social Services (HSS); Social Justice and Regeneration (SJR); and Equality of Opportunity Committees (EOO)

Minutes JC(2)-01-07

Meeting date: Thursday 8 March 2007

Meeting time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Meeting venue: Committee Rooms 1 & 2, National Assembly for Wales

| Assembly Member | Constituency | Committees |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Peter Black (Chair) | South Wales West | ELLS |
| Gwenda Thomas | Neath | EOO (Chair) |
| Rhodri Glyn Thomas | Carmarthen East | HSS (Chair) |
| Lorraine Barrett | Cardiff South and Penarth | SJR and EOO |
| Mick Bates | Montgomeryshire | SJR |
| Christine Chapman | Cynon Valley | ELLS |
| Jeff Cuthbert | Caerphilly | ELLS |
| Jane Davidson | Pontypridd | Minister for ELLS |
| William Graham | South Wales East | ELLS |
| John Griffiths | Newport East | HSS and EOO |
| Mark Isherwood | North Wales | SJR and EOO |
| Irene James | Islwyn | ELLS |
| Helen Mary Jones | Mid and West Wales | HSS and EOO |
| Laura Anne Jones | South West Central | SJR and EOO |

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|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Sandy Mewies | Delyn | SJR |
| Jenny Randerson | Cardiff Central | HSS and EOO |
| Janet Ryder | North Wales | ELLS |
| Karen Sinclair | Clwyd South | HSS |
| Leanne Wood | South West Central | SJR and EOO |

Officials in Attendance

| Name | Job title |
|-----------------|--|
| David Middleton | Head of Children's Framework Team, Welsh Assembly Government |

Others in Attendance

| Name | Representing |
|--------------|--|
| Maria Battle | Acting Children's Commissioner for Wales |
| Rhian Davies | Assistant Commissioner |
| Sara Reid | Assistant Commissioner |

Committee Service

| Name | Job title |
|--------------|--|
| Steve George | Committee Clerk, Education Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee |
| Ruth Hatton | Deputy Committee Clerk, Education Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee |

The meeting was chaired by Peter Black.

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, Quorum and Declarations of Interest

1.1 Apologies had been received from:

Janice Gregory AM, Chair of Social Justice and Regeneration Committee;
Brian Gibbons AM, Minister for Health and Social Services
Edwina Hart AM, Minister Social Justice and Regeneration Committee;
Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Assembly Business, Equalities and Children;
Huw Lewis AM, Social Justice and Regeneration Committee and Equality of Opportunity Committee;
Trish Law AM, Social Justice and Regeneration Committee; and
Catherine Thomas, Equal Opportunities Committee;

1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

Items 2, 3 and 4: Annual Report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales

2.1 The Chair welcomed Maria Battle and Sara Reid and invited them to introduce the Annual Report for 2005-06.

2.2 A verbatim transcript of the meeting will be available.

Action:

The Joint Committee Chair to write asking that in future the Children's Commissioner's Annual Report should be scrutinised annually by a 'Committee of the whole House';

The Joint Committee Chair to write asking that, in the third Assembly, a 'Children's Committee' should be established to consider on a regular basis the full range of issues that can affect children.

All Committees, individually, to include scrutiny arrangements of the Children's Commissioner's Annual Report in the legacy papers for successor Committees in the third Assembly.