

Saving Futures: Cross Party Group on Child Sexual Abuse
Minutes of meeting 15th December 2022
Location: Virtual

Attendees

Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan MS	Debbie Woodroff, New Pathways
Jayne Bryant MS (Chair)	Felicity Rushton, Police
Elinor Puzey, NSPCC Cymru	Amy Bainton, Barnardo's
Claire Sharp, Children in Wales	Katie Stott
Claire Short, Stop it Now! Wales	Naomi Evans, Police
Sarah Cooper Social Services & Integration – Welsh Government	Amy Jones
Ross Walmsley, NSPCC Cymru	Berni Durham-Jones
Sarah Walton-Jones, Stop it Now! Wales	Fay Maxted, Survivors Trust
Cecile Gwilym, NSPCC Cymru	Natasha Hankey, Police
Philip Walker, Survivors Trust	Paula Hardy, Police
Daisy Williams, Stop it Now! Wales	Kirsty Rees, Senedd support staff
Gillian Jones, Stop it Now! Wales	Sarah Keefe, Police
Nici Evans, Centre of Expertise on CSA	Hannah Evans-Price, Police
Linda Grace (Guest)	Catrin Simpson (Cardiff and Vale UHB - Child Health)
Saul Cooke-Black, NSPCC Cymru	Joanna Williams (NHS Wales Health Collaborative)
Helen Gordon, Gwent	Frances Frost
May Baxter-Thornton (Guest)	Faith McCready, Police

Minutes

Jayne Bryant MS welcomed attendees to the meeting and explained this session will focus on the legacy of the first Welsh Government action plan on child sexual abuse and consider recommendations for the next stage of work in Wales.

Key points from speakers

Julie Morgan MS, Deputy Minister for Social Services – *Welsh Government reflections on the first action plan*

- An opportunity to reflect on all the work achieved in Wales because of the first national action plan for CSA. Thanks to the CPG for influencing the first action plan.
- Thanks to the safeguarding boards and to all the charities involved in the public engagement work. Particular thanks offered to Dr Sam Clutton, who led the work on the first national action plan.
- Priority of the first action plan was under the three pillars of prevention, protection and support.
- Proud of the progress made and that this continued through the pandemic.

- As a result of the first action plan we have many more resources available and the public are better informed about CSA.
- Work has taken place to empower children themselves to spot online grooming or exploitation and be able to seek help.
- Data auditing is ongoing and this will inform planning of future services.
- While it is Important to celebrate the delivery of the action plan, we need a far-reaching new action plan. Work will be informed by the final delivery report and the IICSA recommendations published in October 2022. There are recommendations specifically within that final report for Welsh Government which are being considered.
- As part of the consultation process we will be speaking and consulting with people including young people.
- The work laid out in the first plan will continue in anticipation of the new plan.
- Many thanks to the CYP and adult survivors of CSA who have helped inform our work.

Elinor Puzey, NSPCC Cymru – *launch of the CPGs legacy report into the first action plan*

Legacy report is informed by the cross-party group meetings and a professional round-table in Spring 2022.

Key recommendations from the report include that:

- Training should be built into pre-qualifying courses.
- Data collection should be improved and holistic.
- CSA policy work should intersect with other violence prevention and equalities work.
- Online harms must be recognised as a significant and dynamic risk.
- Peer on peer sexual abuse must be tackled as a priority.
- Prevention work must be central, including interventions for young people using harmful behaviours
- Funding of response and support services must be sustainable.

Themes which have emerged from the legacy report include:

- Understanding of the impact of CSA on some cohorts of children is patchy – we would like to see an understanding of external biases which can prevent some children from seeking help. Services working with marginalised children should be resourced to support disclosures of CSA.
- Training should be mandatory. Findings suggest there is still a feeling of inconsistency amongst professionals when it comes to referring. The Ask and Act framework should include a mandatory session on CSA.
- We are concerned about a disconnect between leadership and those working on the ground because of inaccuracy in data collection. We want to see a more holistic approach to data which includes helpline and service data as well as child protection plans.
- Peer-on-peer sexual abuse has become normalised. We welcome work by Welsh Government to develop a stand alone plan to tackle this. But we want to see this speak to the broader work of CSA.
- The risk of online harms is ever changing, again future CSA work must be flexible to these risks.

Claire Sharp, Children in Wales - *Stakeholder engagement – ‘what should the next phase of CSA work in Wales look like?’*

- Children in Wales have been tasked with understanding what has worked well and what hasn't and is seeking views from people across sectors.
- Interested to know what emerging areas of concern might be for the sector
- Children in Wales will be holding focus groups in January and February. Please contact Claire on claire.sharp@childreninwales.org.uk

Comments from the floor:

May Baxter Thornton spoke to the importance of engaging with adult survivors to inform the consultation process, but ensuring this is remunerated.

Claire Short suggests Claire meet with the CPG secretariat as part of the process.

Jayne thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.