



PLANT YNG NGHYMURU  
CHILDREN IN WALES

## **MINUTES of Cross Party Group for Children & Families 25 May 2023, 12.30pm to 1.30pm**

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Jane Dodds MS welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Julie Morgan MS (Deputy Minister for Social Services); Lynne Neagle MS (Deputy Minister for Mental Health & Wellbeing); Jenny Rathbone MS, Heledd Fychan MS and Sioned Williams MS. Full list of attendees and apologies attached.

### **2. The First 1000 days – Amy McNaughton, Public Health Wales**

Amy introduced herself as the Head of the First 1000 Days Programme at Public Health Wales and how it focusses on pregnancy to age 2. She presented her PowerPoint slides (attached).

Julie Morgan MS responded:

- Agree with all points raised
- Very committed to these issues and more resources are crucial
- Inequality is crucial and need to reach families who are struggling. Can do this via:
  - Flying Start – specialist health visitors
  - Speech & Language Services across Wales
  - ACE Hub at Public Health Wales – this looks to research/redress some of the inequalities
  - Traumatic Stress Wales – Trauma-informed Framework being developed

### **3. The First 1001 days - Dr Orion Owen, Association of Infant Mental Health**

Orion presented her PowerPoint slides (attached). One of the main issues of concern is the lack of proper training for all midwives and health visitors.

Lynne Neagle MS responded:

- Very passionate about infant mental health and the parent/infant relationship and keen to progress this agenda
- Gwent Attachment Team and Cardiff Teams have done much work in these areas
- Currently working to develop a new Mental Health Strategy for Wales and both issues will be addressed
- A new Workforce Plan is being developed by HEIW and Social Care Wales and additional resources will be set-aside to train Ministers

- Totally support the Trauma-informed Framework mentioned earlier by Julie and we will work together on this

Jenny Rathbone MS responded:

- The role of the midwife and health visitor is imperative. What work is being done with prospective parents?

Sioned Williams MS responded:

- There is a total lack of consistency in midwifery care – a person would never see the same midwife twice
- Their current training needs are not being met and this concerns me

Orion confirmed that HEIW is working with the Parent Infant Network Cymru to develop training for health and social care workers in Wales. Current training uses the medical model, however, this does not fit with the infant/parent requirements.

Amy also seconded the importance of the role of the midwife and confirmed that a Parenting Information offer is being developed, together with Every Child offer.

Jane Dodds MS responded:

- Do we have enough midwives in Wales?
- Are women/parents able to speak the language of their choice with their midwife/midwives?
- Workforce issues are really challenging and different teams work differently across the country
- A meeting is confirmed with Julie Richards of the Royal College of Midwives and MSs and group members are welcome to attend

#### **4. The work of the Early Years Action Group (co-ordinated by Children in Wales)**

Sarah Witcombe-Hayes briefly outlined several key points from the PowerPoint developed with Anna Westall (attached) due to a lack of time for the full presentation.

She confirmed that the Early Years Action Group are fully in agreement with the points raised today and would be willing to work closely with MSs to take the agenda forward.

Jane thanked all speakers and comments.

## 5. Actions for future meetings

- Invite a rep from the ACE Hub to the meeting focused on ACEs on 29 November 2023
- Sarah Witcombe-Hayes to forward to the secretariat a link to the Scottish guidance just released: [Voice of the Infant: best practice guidelines and infant pledge - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/cgp/2023/06/voice-of-the-infant-best-practice-guidelines-and-infant-pledge/)
- A potential cross party group meeting with the Royal College of Midwives to be explored
- Becky Saunders of What Works for Early Intervention and Children's Social Care agreed to forward a link to the UNICEF toolkit: [Understanding and supporting mental health in infancy and early childhood – a toolkit to support local action in the UK. - UNICEF UK](https://www.unicef.org/uk/toolkit/understanding-and-supporting-mental-health-in-infancy-and-early-childhood)
- Consider how this CPG could help shape the new Mental Health Strategy
- Engaging with midwives – breakfast meeting is being held on 28 June 2023 from 8-9am at Ty Hywel. Everyone welcome

## 6. Date of next meeting

27 September 2023, 10.30am to 11.30am. Online only (tbc). Theme: Joint CPG with Women's Health on Midwifery in Wales

29 November 2023, 10.30am to 11.30am, hybrid meeting – room at Ty Hywel and online. Theme: ACEs

## Attendees & Apologies List

Date: 25 May 2023; 12.30pm – 1.30pm	
Name	Organisation
Jane Dodds MS	Senedd Cymru
Rhys Taylor	Senedd Cymru
Julie Morgan MS	Senedd Cymru
Lynne Neagle MS	Senedd Cymru
Jenny Rathbone MS	Senedd Cymru
Heledd Fychan	Senedd Cymru
Sioned Williams	Senedd Cymru
Sean O'Neill	Children in Wales
Louise O'Neill	Children in Wales
Dr Orion Owen (online)	Association of Infant Mental Health
Amy McNaughton (online)	Public Health Wales
Anna Westall (online)	Children in Wales
Sarah Witcombe-Hayes (online)	NSPCC Cymru
Becky Saunders	What Works for Early Intervention and Children's Social Care
David Goodger	Early Years Wales
Mike Greenaway (online)	Play Wales
Sue Faulkner	
Catrin Glyn (online)	Carers Trust
Debra Eckley (online)	Mudiad Meithrin
Niamh Salkeld (online)	Senedd Research
Cath Lewis	Guide Dogs Cymru
Catrin Glyn (online)	Carers Trust Cymru
Katie Palmer	Cardiff & Vale UHB
Katherine Lowther	RCPsych in Wales
Sian Thomas	Senedd Cymru Research
Rhian Smith (online)	The Fostering Network

### **Apologies**

Llyr Gruffydd, MS  
 Peredur Owen Griffiths, MS  
 Jessica Laimann, Wen Wales  
 Julie Wallace, Aneurin Bevan UHB  
 Hannah Williams, Social Care Wales  
 Sharon Lovell, NYAS Cymru  
 Cherrie Bija, Faith in Families  
 Melissa Wood, Barnardo's Cymru  
 Mark Carter, Barnardo's Cymru