

Cross-Party Group Annual Report

Cross Party Group Details

Cross Party Group Title:

Children in Our Care

Group membership and office holders

Name of Group Chair:

Jane Dodds MS

Names of other Members of the Senedd:

Heledd Fychan MS

Mike Hedges MS

Mark Isherwood MS

Sarah Murphy MS

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

Jenny Rathbone MS

Sioned Williams MS

Name of Secretary and Organisation:

Helen-Mary Jones, Voices from Care Cymru

Names of other external members and organisations represented:

Professor Samantha Baron, Chief Executive BASW

Steven Crane-Jenkins, BASW Cymru

Linda Hawkins, Virtual School Headteacher, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Rachel Thomas, Children's Commissioner for Wales

Jennifer Goss, Cabinet Support Officer for Cllr Ashley Lister, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cardiff Council

Councillor Ash Lister, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cardiff Council

Sharon Lovell, NYAS and National Youth Advocacy Services Cymru

Elizabeth Bryan, Fostering Network

Bethan Price, Social Care Wales

Sarah Durrant, TGP Cymru

Lisa Roberts, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

Sarah Williamson, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

Tom Davies, Children's Society

Caroline Walters, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

Cecile Gwilym, NSPCC

Naila Noori, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

Amy Bainton, Barnardo's Cymru

Sarah Thomas, Fostering Network

Natalie Williams, Fostering Network

Davina Carey-Evans, Family Fund

Brian Elliot, Starfish

Steven Crane-Jenkins, BASW

Deborah Smith, Kinship

Leo Holmes, Early Years Wales

Rebekah Burns, Adoption UK

Other meetings of the Group since the last AGM

Meeting 1

Date of Meeting:

21.02.2024

Attendees:

Jane Dodds MS; Helen Mary Jones, Voices From Care Cymru; Phoebe Jenkins MSS Jane Dodds Office; Sioned Williams MS; Julie Morgan MS Deputy Minister for Social Service; Sarah Murphy MS; Jonathan Griffiths Transformation Delivery Group; Alistair Davey Enabling People. Social Services and Integration Directorate Welsh Government; Ryland Doyle MSS, Mike Hedges; Sian Thomas Senedd Researcher; Rachel Thomas Children's Commissioner Office; Niamh Salkeld MSS Plaid Cymru; Ann Bell Adoption UK; Sharon Lovell NYAS; Sarah Thomas Fostering Network; Tom Davies Children's Society; Brendan Roberts Voices from Care Cymru; Cecile Gwilym NSPCC

Summary of the issues discussed:

Updates on/from: Transformation Delivery Group, National Practice Framework and (then) Deputy Minister for Social Services. Discussion on Each and Every Child in Scotland and the consultation on the Children 2004 Missing Education Database (Wales) Regulations.

Meeting 2

Date of Meeting:

17.05.2024

Attendees:

Jane Dodds MS; Ieuan Parry MSS Jane Dodds Office; Sarah Thomas Fostering Network; Sian Thomas Senedd Research; Bryan Elliot Starfish; Caroline Walters Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists; Tom Davies The Children's Society; Abigail Rees Barnardo's Cymru; Sarah Durrant TGP Cymru; Rebekah Burns Adoption UK; Sioned Williams MS; Mark Isherwood MS; Linda Hawkins Virtual School Headteacher RCT; Sioned Ellis TFN, Policy Officer for Scotland

Summary of the issues discussed:

Presentation from the Fostering Network on Language Frameworks in the UK, followed by a discussion on language and toolkits.

Meeting 3

Date of Meeting:

15.07.2024

Attendees:

Jane Dodds MS; Sean O Neil Children in Wales; Helen-Mary Jones Voices from Care Cymru; Ieuan Parry MSS Jane Dodds MS, Tomos R-Y MSS Jane Dodds MS; Phoebe Jenkins MSS Jane Dodds MS; Elizabeth Bryan Fostering Network; Colette Smethurst Safe Families; Jayne Drummond Home Start Cymru; Ruth Mullineux NSPCC; Suzanne Griffiths Adopt Cymru; Sarah Williams RCPCH; Lisa Roberts RCPCH; Hugh Russel Children in Wales; Joanna Robinson Wales National Adviser Violence against Women; Sharon Lovell NYAS; Joanne Beynon Safe Families; David Godger Early Years Wales; Sarah Williamson RCPCH; Gail Gibbons Youth Endowment Fund; Daljit Kaur Morris NYAS; Sian Thomas Senedd Researcher; Isata Kanneh Access to Justice; Tamzin Covell The Fostering Network; Cath Lewis Guide Dogs Cymru; Dafydd Huw RCPH; Natalie Williams Fostering Network; Liam Maguire Home Start Cymru; Cllr Ash Lister Cardiff County Council; Yasmin Khan Welsh Government; Janine Bennett Llamau; Rachel Thomas Children's Commissioner for Wales; Sarah Thomas Fostering Network; Caroline Walters RCSLT; Rhian Smith Step Up Step Down; Prof Samantha Baron BASW; Sarah Witcombe-Hayes NSPCC; Cherrie Bija Faith in Families; Neil Davies Home for Good; Hannah Williams Social Care Wales; Manel Tippet BPS; Tina Foster TGP Cymru; Amy Bainton Barnardo's Cymru; Rhian Croke ChamberlainSwansea.

Summary of the issues discussed:

A joint workshop with Children and Families on a new Children's Act for Wales. Working with both CPGs that Jane chairs to come up with initial ideas on what both groups would consider to be essential legislation and/or guidance that would create a new Children's Act for Wales. Both groups to work on this together to be able to present ideas to all political parties ahead of 2026 election.

Meeting 4

Date of Meeting:

09.10.2024

Attendees:

Jane Dodds MS; Helen-Marie Jones Voices from Care Cymru; Sioned Williams MS; Phoebe Jenkins MSS Jane Dodds MS; Sian Thomas Senedd Research; Cecile Gwilym NSPCC; Caroline Walters RCSLT; Sarah Durrant TGP Cymru; Sharon Lovell NYAS; Elizabeth Bryan The Fostering Network; and others.

Summary of the issues discussed:

AGM and a discussion on a forward work programme for the CPG for 24-25.

Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities the Group have met during the previous year.

[names of lobbyists/organisations/charities should be included as follows, e.g.]

Name of Organisation:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of Group:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of Organisation:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of Group:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Annual Financial Statement

Cross Party Group Title:

Children in Our Care CPG

Date:

22/10/24

Name of Chair:

Jane Dodds MS

Name of Secretary and Organisation:

Helen-Mary Jones, Voices from Care Cymru

Title	Description	Amount
Group's Expenses	None	£0.00
Costs of all goods	No goods bought	£0.00
Benefits received by the group or individuals members from external bodies	No benefits received.	£0.00
Any financial support or other support.	No financial support was received.	£0.00
Total		£0.00

Services provided to the Group, such as hospitality.

All hospitality paid for [include the name of the group/organisation].

Date	Name and description of provider	Costs
		£0.00
Total		£0.00