

Meeting of the Cross Party Group for
Looked After Children

WEDNESDAY 7th MAY 2014

12.00-1.30

AM's Present:

David Melding AM– Chairperson

Craig Lawton - Suzy Davies AM Support Staff

In attendance:

Rhian Williams, PA/Administrative Secretary, Voices From Care – Minute taker

Apologies received from:

Mark Isherwood AM

Deborah Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Voices From Care

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

DM opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2014 were noted and would be approved at the next meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER FOR WALES LIFE AFTER CARE REPORT

A short discussion took place around the recent Children's Commissioner's Life After Care From 'Lost After Care' to 'When I am Ready' report; which details evidence from case work received by the Commissioner's Office in relation to the support available to children and young people who have been looked after in foster and residential care.

It was noted there was a need to have advice and support prior to leaving care which mirrors what young people would receive if living within a family.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RW raised the question on DJ's behalf of the patchy attendance to recent Cross Party Group meetings and holding a re-launch. DM informed that there were approximately 100 Cross Party Group's covering a variety of issues and one of the consequences of this could be low attendance, adding that unfortunately, his time was limited due to time constraints in his role as Deputy Presiding Officer and suggested maybe consider joining the All Party Group on Children.

DM stated that he was not particularly concerned about the low attendance as it was not particularly unique with a lot of groups experiencing a similar problem and proposed holding an event; similar to that held in the Pierhead, to enthuse people, rather than re-launching the group.

ACTION: RW TO LIASE WITH S. SHARPE TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH DM AND DJ TO DISCUSS THE CROSS PARTY GROUP ON LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN.

It was agreed the next business meeting would be held in the autumn.

ACTION: RW TO LIASE WITH S. SHARPE FOR DATE OF AUTUMN MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed.