

CROSS PARTY GROUP ON LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
MARCH 2015



LLEISIAU O OFAL VOICES FROM CARE



David Melding (Chair) Foreword

The Cross Party Group on Looked After Children aims to use the scrutiny mechanism available in the National Assembly to help drive up the standards of services provided to children in care and care leavers.

During the year the group looked at Children's Commissioner for Wales Life After Care Report and Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham.

As Chair of the Cross Party Group I am grateful to all the AMs who have supported our work. We have also benefited from the expertise of several guest speakers who have given their time most generously. But without the outstanding support of the Group's secretariat, Voices from Care, none of this valuable work would have been possible.

Cross Party Group on Looked After Children

The group meets to consider different issues of importance for looked after children in Wales and consider policy implications.

The meetings also provide opportunities for representatives from relevant organisations to meet with Assembly Members to discuss issues of concern for looked after children in Wales.

Membership and Secretariat

The membership and secretariat, as of March 2015, are as follows:

Members:

- ❖ David Melding AM DPO (Chair)
- ❖ Bethan Jenkins AM
- ❖ Julie Morgan AM
- ❖ Mohammad Asghar AM

Secretary:

- ❖ Rhian Williams – Voices From Care

Meetings held in the past 12 months

A total of two meetings were held from April 2014 to March 2015.

The Cross Party Group on Looked After Children did not meet with any lobbyists or charities.

DATE OF MEETING	ASSEMBLY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	SUBJECTS DISCUSSED	IN ATTENDANCE & GUEST SPEAKERS
7 TH May 2014	David Melding AM DPO -Chairperson Craig Lawton - Suzy Davies AM Support Staff	Children's Commissioner for Wales Life After Care Report	R. Williams - VFC
25 TH February 2015	David Melding AM DPO—Chairperson Joyce Watson AM Tomos Davies—Angela Burns AM Support Staff Fiona Openshaw— Joyce Watson AM Support Staff George Rudebusch, David Melding AM Support Staff—Minute taker	Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham	Menna Thomas, Research and Policy Officer, Barnardo's Hywel Ap Dayfdd— Policy Officer, Children's Commissioner for Wales Office

Financial Statement

A total of £3.60 was paid in travel expenses across the two meetings which were met by Voices From Care and an estimation of £119.58 costs in kind for time incurred by Voices From Care staff for servicing the Cross Party Group on Looked After Children.