

Cross Party Group on Children Affected by Parental imprisonment

Annual Report November 2015

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Forward by Christine Chapman AM (Chair)

For some years in Wales there has been a growing concern about inequities within the justice system. One such inequity is the imprisonment of Welsh Women offenders and the effects their imprisonment has on their families.

While researching the issue of women prisoners the effects of imprisonment of either or both parents on children and families became overwhelming and compelling. A visit to HMP Parc witnessing the benefit of their innovative approach to family based interventions served as a further catalyst in seeking to improve the experiences of the children of prisoners and their families.

In order to both discover the effects of parental imprisonment on children and further define the issue a cross party group was established enlisting all party support. The intention of the group is to finish during the fourth assembly with a report seeking to make recommendations to Welsh Government in relation to both devolved and none devolved responsibilities.

We look forward to reporting on and debating the group findings in early 2016.



Christine Chapman AM
Welsh Labour
Chair

Jocelyn Davies AM
Plaid Cymru



Aled Roberts AM
Welsh Liberal Democrats

Suzy Davies AM
Welsh Conservative



Meetings

1. May 13th 2014

Inaugural Meeting

Christine Chapman AM - Chair

The meeting agreed the Terms of Reference, (Appendix 1) and the forward work plan, (Appendix 2)

'Setting the Scene'

Presentations were made by:

Corin Morgan- Armstrong

Head of Family Interventions and Invisible Walls Wales. HMP Parc

Jo Mulcahy

Head of Services Wales and South West. PACT

Laura Tranter

Strategic Service Manager, Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment. Barnardo's Cymru

2. October 22nd 2014

Education, Wellbeing and Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment.

Christine Chapman AM - Chair

Presentations and debate on:

Education, Wellbeing & Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment

Dr. Sam Clutton – Assistant Director, Policy Barnardo's Cymru

Invisible Walls Accord: Working with schools

Corin Morgan-Armstrong - Head of Family Interventions & Invisible Walls Wales HMP Parc

Implementing a Local Education Authority approach to supporting CAPI in education

Zoe Lancelott – Head of Engagement & Participation Rhondda Cynon Taff

Barnardo's Cymru Handbook for Schools and CSOF work with Education

Emma Reed – Project Worker Barnardo's Cymru

3. March 10th 2015

Women Prisoners Christine Chapman AM - Chair

Presentations and debate on:

Messages from Research

Robert Jones – Lecturer in Criminology University of South Wales

Visiting Mum Project

Jo Mulcahy - PACT Regional Head of Services

Women's Pathway Project

Wendy Hyett - IOM Cymru Women's Pathfinder Project Manager

4. July 7th 2015

Child Poverty and Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment Christine Chapman AM – Chair

Presentations and debate on:

The National Context

Dr Sam Clutton, Barnardo's Cymru Assistant Director for Policy.

Family work in HMP and YOI Parc visitor centre

Helen Steele, Barnardo's Cymru Visitor centre worker.

Prison, Families and Poverty

Jo Mulcahy, PACT Regional Head of Service.

Prison, Families and Poverty

Lyndsey Kearton, Policy Officer Citizens Advice.

5. July 9th 2015

Visit to HMP Parc by:

Suzy Davies AM

Aled Roberts AM

Jackie Radford AM Support Staff to Aled Roberts

Visit included the Visitor Centre, Visits Hall, the Family Intervention wing hosted by Corin Morgan-Armstrong, G4S.

Forward Work Plan

The Cross Party group on Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment has their final public meeting on November the 24th 2015. This meeting will take a different format facilitating direct contact, conversation and discussion between children, their families and policy and decision makers.

The Group intends to publish their final report in early 2016.

Financial Statement

The Cross Party Group on Parental Imprisonment has incurred costs for catering only. All costs have been borne by Barnardo's Cymru. (Appendix 3)

There has been no request for expenses.

Additional costs for children, young people and families to attend including transport, staffing and subsistence have also been borne by Barnardo's Cymru.

Attendee List

Members

Christine Chapman AM (Chair)

Aled Roberts AM

Jocelyn Davies AM

Suzy Davies AM

Julie Morgan AM

Janet Haworth AM

Mike Hedges AM

Delegates Present:

Barbara Natasegara	(Safer Wales)
Ben Ford	(Write to Freedom)
Bernie Bowen Thomson	(Safer Wales)
Beverley Poitner	(FFOPS)
Caroline Ryan	(Cardiff YMCA)
Carol Floris	(SOVA)
Catherine Davies	(Barnardo's Cymru)
Charlie Cable	(SOVA)
Chris Powles	(Pembrokeshire Youth)
Christine Mathias	(Pembrokeshire LA)
Corin Morgan-Armstrong	(HMP Parc)
Danielle Rayner	(IOM)
Elaine Speyer	(Barnardo's Cymru Minutes)
Emma Jones	(Gibran)
Emma Reed	(Barnardo's Cymru)
Emma Wools	(Probation)
Emma Richards	(Wales CRC)
Eve Exely	(Cardiff University)
Eve Wilmott	(MA Student)
Gareth Williams	(Cardiff YMCA)
Gemma Jones	(Women's Aid)
Helen Steele	(Barnardo's Cymru)
Ingrid Zammit	(NOMS)
Jack Stanley	(Peter Hain's Office)
Jessica Joyce	(Cardiff University)
Jo Mulcahy	(PACT)
Joanne Heatley	(The Wallich)
Jocelyn Davies staff	
Justine Jenkins	(St Giles Trust)
Karen Rees	(Barnardo's Cymru)
Kate Doyle	(SOVA)
Laura O'Keefe	(VCS Cardiff)
Laura Tranter	(Barnardo's Cymru)
Lee Dutton	(St Giles Trust)

Leeanne Plechowicz	(Welsh Government)
Leon Morgans	(Wales CRC/Probation)
Lindsey Pudge	(Barnardo's Cymru)
Lindsey Kearton	(Citizens Advice)
Lyndon Samuel	(Gwent Police)
Margaret Gardner	(FASO)
Mary Cooke	(Invisible Walls Wales)
Mary Van den Heuvel	(ATL)
Nicky Sturgess-Webb	(Vale of Glamorgan LA)
Nicola Thomas	(Invisible Walls Wales)
Neera Sharma	(Barnardo's)
Rachel Thomas	(Children's Commissioner for Wales)
Robert Jones	(University of South Wales/Wales Governance Centre)
Robin Lewis	(AM Support staff)
Sam Clutton	(Barnardo's Cymru)
Sara Steele	(VCS Cardiff)
Shamshi Ahmed	(SOVA)
Sian Mile	(AM Support Staff)
Sian Thomas	(NAfW MRS)
Tim Ruscoe	(Barnardo's Cymru)
Tony Kirk	(NOMS)
Trish Woodhouse	(PACT)
Vicki Evans	(AM Support Staff)
Wendy Hyett	(IOM Women's Pathfinder Project)
Yvonne Rodgers	(Barnardo's Cymru)
Zoe Lancelott	(RCT Education)

National Assembly for Wales Cross Party Group on Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment (CAPI) – Terms of Reference (Subject to formal adoption)

Vision

The establishment of a National policy, legislative and practice framework ensuring that all children who experience the adversity of a parent in prison are recognised, are heard, and have an equal and fair chance to achieve positive outcomes in their lives.

Terms of Reference

There will be an expectation on those considered group members to contribute to the operation of the group, where ever reasonably possible, in person or by representative. Contributions made by a representative shall be considered as those of the group member unless otherwise specified.

There will be an expectation that whenever possible, group members or representatives will respond to information shared and requests made between scheduled meetings.

Discover – gather information, experiences and research

- Consider information gathered directly from families affected by imprisonment.
- Consider information gathered by specialist service providers.
- Consider information gathered from generic services for CAPI.
- Consider research findings.
- Consider new research priorities.
- Undertake service visits.
- Undertake other visits, e.g. HMP Parc.

Define – describe and highlight the issues

- Bring together the range of issues faced by families with CAPI illustrating the complexity of their needs and the adequacy of current responses.
- Consider the issues in relation to schedule 7.
 - Consider recommendations to Welsh Government
 - What could Welsh Government advocate for?
 - What could Welsh Government deliver?

Disseminate

- Take opportunities for written and oral questions in plenary.
- Take opportunities for short debates.
- Consider influence of future work plans and inquires of NAFW Committees.
- Produce Cross Party Group report including defining the issue and making recommendations to Welsh Government.

National Assembly for Wales Cross Party Group on Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment

Proposed Schedule and focus of meetings:

May 13th Mid-Day Ty Hywel Inaugural meeting

This meeting will appoint members to key roles, explain rationale for the group, agree terms of reference and work plan, receive presentations from members to set the scene.

Hidden Sentence

This meeting will explore the “Hidden Sentence” served by the children and families of those imprisoned and will receive presentations from members to focus on some of the key issues

Education

This meeting will consider the role of education in identifying and supporting children and families affected by parental imprisonment and discuss the work that is already being undertaken in Wales to develop this area.

Women prisoners

To explore the particular issues that affect Welsh Women offenders who are imprisoned outside of Wales and the impact on their families.

Finance/Benefits

This meeting will focus on the financial impact of a parent/carer being imprisoned and how the loss of an income or benefit can mean vulnerable families are pushed further into poverty.

What next?

This meeting will focus on presenting the research that has been undertaken over the duration of the CPG and will seek to identify a strategy to progress recommendations.

Statement of expenditure**May 13th 2014**

Charlton House Catering		
Lunch and refreshments	289.60	
VAT	57.92	
Total		347.52

October 22nd 2014

Charlton House Catering		
Lunch and refreshments	267.20	
VAT	53.44	
Total		320.64

March 10th 2015

Charlton House Catering		
Lunch and refreshments	234.65	
VAT	46.93	
Total		281.58

July 7th 2015

Charlton House Catering		
Lunch and refreshments	168.45	
VAT	33.69	
Total		202.14

Total excluding VAT (£)	<u>959.90</u>	
Total including VAT (£)		<u>1215.24</u>