

**Children (Abolition of the Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill
Data Collection and Monitoring Task and Finish Group Meeting
Future Inns, Cardiff Bay
19 September 2019
Summary of the Meeting**

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Welsh Government (WG) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Update on the Bill

WG provided an update on the current position of the Bill and on the work of the other task and finish groups.

3. Minutes from the last meeting and Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference and the minutes from the July meeting were agreed. WG to invite education representation on this group.

4. Feedback from the exercise to map organisations' current systems and processes

There was a discussion on current processes and systems for collecting and recording across the different organisations where data collection may be required to monitor the impact on services. The discussion highlighted potential impacts, together with relevant and current data collection points and tools.

With respect to data currently collected by the police, and what may need to be collected in addition in future, it was agreed that WG should meet with analysts from each of the police forces to get a more detailed understanding of current systems including crime management systems. The pros and cons of each of the potential options for collecting police data would then be considered by the group at a future meeting.

The current processes and data collection points in other organisations represented at the meeting – social services, Cafcass Cymru and CPS – were also discussed, and it was agreed WG will continue to work with these partners regarding options on data collection and systems.

5. Group discussion on issues arising

There was a group discussion on issues arising, this covered volume of reports or referrals regarding physical punishment of children, clarity of data definitions and issues regarding duplication of data (i.e. in some circumstances the same incident may be recorded more than once, for example by social services against both the child involved and their siblings). It was agreed WG would have further discussions with partners on the issue of duplication and to include this on the agenda for future meetings. In addition, all members to provide further details on the data they collect

currently and data they consider they could collect should the law change, to capture information about numbers of cases of physical punishment of children.

Costs

There was a discussion on potential costs of system changes (if required). Organisations currently make routine changes to systems to record data. WG agreed to discuss further with individual group members.

6. Next steps/plan for future meetings

It was agreed that the options for police data collection would be discussed at the next meeting, following meetings between WG and police. There would also be a further discussion on data definitions.