

**Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill  
Operations, Guidance and Training  
Task and Finish Group Meeting**

**Cathays Park Cardiff**

**Tuesday 25 February 2020**

**Summary of Meeting**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Welsh Government (WG) welcomed everyone to the meeting and members introduced themselves.

**2. Minutes and actions of previous meeting**

The minutes from the meeting in September 2019 were agreed.

**3. Bill & Implementation Status Update**

WG provided an update on the current position of the Bill. The Bill had now passed Stage 4 and Royal Assent is expected in March 2020.

**4. Communications Update**

WG provided an update on communications activity in relation to the Bill which places a duty on the Welsh Government to raise awareness. There has been extensive media coverage, especially at key points in the Assembly process, which has raised awareness about the Bill.

Members discussed awareness raising among visitors to Wales, professionals, harder to reach communities and children and young people. The WG will provide updates at future meetings.

**5. Out of Court Disposals & Diversion Scheme Task and Finish Group update**

WG provided an update on the work of the Out of Court Disposals & Diversion Scheme Task and Finish Group (OOCs Task and Finish Group). Members discussed non-conviction data and the police process set out in the Explanatory Memorandum. Welsh Government officials were due to meet colleagues from the four police forces ahead of the group's next meeting on the 19 March.

**6. Discussion on the guidance and training mapping exercise**

WG thanked everyone who took the time to return the guidance and training templates, which had been circulated to members of the Group.

Members discussed the need to explore how the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (WSP) and related training modules are updated. The Wales Safeguarding procedures Project Board meet quarterly and could be asked to consider how and when information about the law change should be incorporated in the procedures or associated training. It was suggested that a practice guide could be added to the

WSP to provide specific multi-agency guidance on dealing with incidents of physical punishment after the change in the law.

It would be useful to prepare and distribute a one page information sheet explicitly for professionals about the change in the law. For health professionals an e-learning package at different levels is the responsibility of Public Health Wales. Both the further and higher education sector will need to be aware of the Bill so they can incorporate it into the syllabus of professional courses.

The CPS would take account of the law change to update guidance, and it was likely that bespoke training and engagement would be required for practitioners in the CPS and legal professions and associations. The College of Policing has the remit to set standards for the police service on training, development, skills and qualifications.

## **7. Scope of the group and developing a work plan**

Members discussed the purpose and scope of the Operations, Guidance and Training Group and agreed that the terms of reference should be amended or refined to reflect the overlaps and inter-dependencies with aspects of the work of the other task and finish groups. The OGT group should have an overview of guidance and training processes. The role of the OGT group should be to identify sectors which need to be aware of the law change for the purposes of their areas of work, and provide information required by key bodies to support them to update guidance and training in their sector.