

**Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on
Shared Parenting**

Draft minutes of meeting held Wednesday 6th November 2019

Room Q1.03, Scottish Parliament

Present: Fulton McGregor MSP (Convener), Gillian Martin MSP (Vice Convener), Marcin Zawisza (Circle), Eileen Brownlie (Relationships Scotland), Ian Maxwell (Shared Parenting Scotland), June Loudon (Grandparents Apart), Eileen Prior (Connect), Peter Cloke (Circle), Lorna Kettles (Early Years Scotland), Eoin Keane (parent), Jan James (Good Egg Safety), Kenny Spence (Men in Childcare), Thomas Lynch (Dads Rock), Kirsty Nicholls (Fathers Network Scotland), Cheryl Brown (Midlothian SureStart), Erin Campbell (Scottish Youth Parliament)

In attendance: Hannah Frodsham and Wendy Georgeson (Scottish Government).

Apologies: Jeremy Balfour MSP, Elaine Stalker (Families Outside), Shelagh Young (HomeStart), Fiona Robertson (South Lanarkshire). Megan Farr (CYPCS), Dave Devenny (Fathers Network Scotland), Pauline Linn (Family Mediation West), Graeme Richards (Circle)

Welcome and introductions

Gillian Martin chaired the meeting

Fulton explained this was a big week with the publication of the Scottish Government's Legislative Programme and, from the perspective of this group, publication of the Children (Scotland) Bill and the Family Justice Modernisation Strategy. Simon Stockwell and Hannah Frodsham from the Scottish Government Family Team were in attendance to explain some of the content and the timeline for progress through Holyrood.

New members and membership changes

We welcomed Erin Campbell who is Depute Convener of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee of the Scottish Youth Parliament .

Minutes of 4th September meeting and matters arising

There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved.

Presentation: Raising Awareness of Parental Alienation by Jan James of the Good Egg Safety CIC.

Jan heads up this internationally awarded Community Interest Company specialising in behavioural change campaigns in safety and health. Child protection features strongly in their campaigning, and the organisation has extended its remit to raise awareness of the long-term psychological harm to children and target parents caused through parental alienation. Her presentation included Scottish results from a UK survey. Following her presentation, there was discussion of the issues raised. Erin Campbell mentioned the survey that had been conducted by the Equalities and Human Right Committee into the views of young people on involvement of both parents amongst other matters.

Children (Scotland) Bill: further consideration of the Bill and its implications for shared parenting.

Hannah Frodsham outlined the progress on the bill so far including the likely dates of Justice Committee hearings. Scottish Government officials are appearing before the committee on 26th November. Ian Maxwell mentioned the call for views by the committee which should be submitted this week.

Forward planning of agenda

It was suggested that we seek a speaker to talk about the UNCRC and the plans to put it into Scottish law.

Dates of next meeting: April 15th 2020

Any Other Business: Ian Maxwell mentioned the new name of FNF Scotland, and that the Shared Parenting Scotland name would be launched in February 2020 at an event addressed by Sir James Munby, the former head of the English Family Courts.