

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers

Chair: Steve McCabe MP

Minutes of the 2017 AGM of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers on 6th September 2017, 1pm – 1.30pm.

Committee Room 19, Palace of Westminster

Present: Steve McCabe MP, the Earl of Listowel, Bill Esterson MP, Tim Loughton MP, Alex Burghart MP, Nick Smith MP, Fiona Bruce MP, Lucy Allan MP, Lisa Nandy MP, Chloë Cockett, Become (minutes), Natasha Finlayson, Become, Felix Mann, office of Steve McCabe MP.

1. Election of Officers

1.1. The following officers were elected unanimously:

- Steve McCabe MP as chair of the group
- The Earl of Listowel as co-vice chair of the group
- Tim Loughton MP as co-vice chair of the group
- Alex Burghart MP as officer of the group
- Bill Esterson MP as officer of the group

2. Future work programme (to July 2018)

- 2.1. Paper 1, suggested work plan of the APPG was agreed.
- 2.2. Francis Listowel suggested that the group look at the mental health of children in care and care leavers and wondered whether it might be beneficial for the issues relating to care leavers to be the focus of a separate APPG.
- 2.3. Fiona suggested that the group look at the teaching of relationships for children in care and care leavers.
- 2.4. Chloë said that the reason mental health wasn't included as a meeting theme was because the green paper on mental health, the expert working group and the pilots on integrated physical and mental health were all due to be published/begin in autumn 2017, and it was difficult to predict the outcome.
- 2.5. Alex said that the group should monitor what is happening around work on children in need and secure the Minister if possible at a meeting.
- 2.6. Steve suggested that on all these issues, the group monitor what is happening and provide updates for the group via email. If there were opportunities for additional meetings, the group would look to fit them in.

3. Finances

- 3.1. Paper 2, the budget spreadsheet was agreed. Chloë said that while there were some funds available for speaker travel, if the group wanted to do anything more substantial, like an inquiry, money would need to be raised.

4. AOB

- 4.1. Steve updated the group on the security changes. He will be meeting with the security team to check that the way that the group invites attendees is compatible with the new system and would email an update to the group.
- 4.2. It was agreed that the group's statement of purpose be: 'To promote the voice of children and young people in care, in order to promote first class government policy for children in care and care leavers.'
- 4.3. Chloë said that she was leaving Become and the role of clerk would be handed to Natasha in the interim, while a Policy and Campaigns Officer was recruited. She said that she had enjoyed her four years as clerk to the group and wished it success in the future. Steve thanked Chloë for her work. Francis Listowel echoed his thanks and requested that the group's appreciation was formally noted.

The meeting was closed.