

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



Wednesday 29 January 2020, 5 – 5.30pm, Room R, Portcullis House

AGM Minutes

In attendance

- Lucy Allan MP
- David Lammy MP
- Steve McCabe MP
- Marie Rimmer MP
- David Simmonds MP
- Liz Twist MP
- James Lawrie, Office of Lucy Allan MP
- Katharine Sacks-Jones, Become (Secretariat)
- Sam Turner, Become (Secretariat) and APPG Clerk

Apologies

- Bill Esterson MP
- Tim Loughton MP
- Baroness Young

1. Election of Officers

1.1. Steve McCabe MP was elected as Chair and Point of Contact for the APPG.

1.2. The following were all elected unanimously as additional Officers of the Group:

- Lucy Allan MP
- Bill Esterson MP
- Tim Loughton MP
- Marie Rimmer MP
- David Simmonds MP
- Baroness Young

2. Meetings and activity in 2020

2.1. Steve McCabe MP invited thoughts as to meeting topics and activity which the Group should consider in the coming year.

2.2. Marie Rimmer MP raised the use of unregulated settings, typically semi-independent or supported accommodation for young people in care aged 16-18, and highlighted the links between such accommodation and out-of-area placements, involvement of young people in county lines and criminal exploitation, and the lack of capacity in local-authority managed children's homes.

- 2.3. Attendees agreed this would be an important topic to explore work around as part of the Group.
- 2.4. David Simmonds MP noted how the existing 1989 Children's Act sets out the differences in the care which local authorities are expected to provide to young people from age 16, and suggested that the Group's work should concentrate on the practical, legislative changes required and not just serve to highlight an already-known problem.
- 2.5. David Lammy MP reflected on his previous work which explored pathways into the criminal justice system and its links to children in care and the use of unregulated settings.
- 2.6. He suggested that, in the same way that special provision is provided for veterans of the armed forces, special consideration should be made for care-experienced young people in terms of the wiping of criminal records, for example.
- 2.7. Lucy Allan MP highlighted the government's commitment to review the care system and the role the Group should have in informing the direction of this review. It was hoped that the review would be comprehensive and cross-governmental in its scope, picking up previous work delivered jointly by the Education Select Committee and Local Government Select Committee in 2019 and authored by Clive Betts MP.
- 2.8. The Group agreed that the upcoming review should be a central focus this year.

Actions:

- **3 provisional APPG meeting dates to be established prior to the summer recess.**
- **Become as Secretariat to provide a draft summary of the Group's intended programme of activity for 2020 and circulate to Officers.**

3. AOB

- 3.1. No other business was raised.

The meeting closed at 5:31pm.