



AGM 2021-22 Minutes

Tuesday 27 April 2021, 2 – 2.30pm – held virtually via Zoom

Attending

- Steve McCabe MP (Chair)
- Lucy Allan MP
- Marie Rimmer MP
- Lord Russell of Liverpool
- Jim Shannon MP
- David Simmonds MP
- Lord Watson of Invergowrie
- Baroness Young of Hornsey
- Bruce Warwick, Office of Sarah Champion MP
- Bethan Jones, Office of Steve McCabe MP
- Rhiannon Clapperton, Become (Secretariat)
- Sam Turner, Become (Secretariat) and APPG Clerk

Apologies

- Tim Loughton MP
- Sarah Champion MP

1. Election of Officers

- Steve McCabe MP was elected as Chair and Point of Contact for the APPG.
- The following were all elected as additional Officers:
 - Lucy Allan MP
 - Tim Loughton MP
 - Marie Rimmer MP
 - David Simmonds MP
 - Lord Watson of Invergowrie
 - Baroness Young of Hornsey

2. Spotlight Inquiry update

- Sam Turner (Clerk) offered a brief update on the APPG's Spotlight Inquiry activity, noting the Inquiry's focus on exploring themes of care and community given the impact of the pandemic and launch of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care as an opportunity for influencing change.
- Attendees heard about the different opportunities for individuals and organisations to participate and share their insights, including through the regional evidence sessions hosted by MPs, specific sessions delivered for groups of care-experienced young people through Become as secretariat, and the accessible call for evidence. [Further information, including upcoming sessions and how to participate, can be found here.](#)
 - **Action: Attendees to promote the Spotlight Inquiry information through their networks and encourage individuals and organisations to contribute.**

- Lucy Allan MP commented that the first West Midlands evidence session was extremely productive and provided a good opportunity for a range of young people and professionals to be heard. [The notes from the West Midlands session can be found here.](#)
- Rhiannon Clapperton noted the positive feedback received on the session from Josh MacAlister as Chair of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care and the ambition for the Inquiry to highlight key issues and inform the Review as it continues.

3. Other 2021-22 activity

- Steve McCabe MP invited contributions from those attending as to other focuses for APPG activity and potential meetings in the coming year.
- Lord Watson asked for the Group to be aware of the government's proposals for introducing national standards for currently unregulated accommodation for 16-17 year olds and a recent debate in the Lords on this subject where concerns were raised about the impact of the reforms. [The Hansard debate record can be found here.](#)
- Lucy Allan MP highlighted a recent Centre for Social Justice report on safely reducing the number of children going into care and the importance of boosting early support for families to reduce the need for high-cost late statutory intervention into children's lives. [The report can be found online here.](#)
 - **Action: Become as secretariat to arrange for a session for the CSJ report authors to speak with APPG members.**
- Jim Shannon MP raised how young people in and leaving care with disabilities can often fall through the cracks in support from children's social care. Sam Turner (Clerk) noted that the intersection between disability and care experience was an under-explored topic. [Some reading on disability and care experience can be found here.](#)
- Steve McCabe MP noted the impact of the pandemic and recovery on young people leaving care in terms of employment and career opportunities and progression to higher education.

4. AOB

- No other business was raised.

The meeting closed at 2:24pm.