

**Minutes of the meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 5.30pm – 6.45pm**

**Hybrid event:** some attendees attended in Room P, Portcullis House, Parliamentary estate; other attendees attended via Zoom

**Present:** Steve McCabe MP (Chair), Josh MacAlister (Chair of the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care), Rachael Maskell MP, Munira Wilson MP, Lord Watson of Invergowrie, Baroness Uddin, representatives of Become (who provide the APPG secretariat), over 85 other attendees in Parliament or via Zoom.

**1. Welcome and Introductions from the Chair - Steve McCabe MP**

- The Chair welcomed everyone attending the meeting both in person and virtually, thanking everyone for their participation and interest in the APPG for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

**2. Overview of APPG Spotlight findings – Matt Blow, Policy & Public Affairs Manager at Become**

- MB summarised the main focus and findings of the [Spotlight Inquiry](#), which the APPG carried out between 2021 and published in early 2022.
- The inquiry focused on the theme of community, and the impact that community can have for care-experienced children and young people.
- During the inquiry, evidence was gathered from over 300 care-experienced people, including over 130 care-experienced young people. One of the central themes that emerged from the inquiry was the existing stigma and prejudice care-experienced young people face across a range of areas of life.
- MB summarised the findings of the report and how the report has been used to inform the development of the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care. MB highlighted the 15 specific, and five general recommendations, that the inquiry report made.

**3. Overview of Care Review Findings & Executive Summary – Josh MacAlister**

- JM talked about [the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care \(Care Review\)](#), which was published in May 2022: explaining the process that the Review took to gathering evidence and developing its recommendations.
- JM highlighted some of the Care Review’s key findings and recommendations, including in relation to kinship care, stability for children in care, extending corporate parenting responsibilities to other public bodies, the proposal to develop regional care co-operatives, the recommendation to make care experience a protected characteristic, and the five missions to support care-experienced children and young people.
- JM flagged that children’s voices, views and experiences were at the heart of the development of the Care Review.
- JM informed the meeting that the Government had committed to publishing its response to the Care Review before the end of 2022.



**4. Question & Answer Session – Josh MacAlister & Attendees**

- JM answered questions put forward by care-experienced young people and other attendees on a variety of topics related to the findings of the [Care Review](#).
- Some of the questions asked were around educational funding for care-experienced young people, widening of corporate parenting responsibilities, the Care Review's recommendations about the role of the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), regional care co-operatives, changes to the benefit system, kinship care, the national advocacy service, and support for care-experienced people over the age of 25.
- JM responded to all questions asked during the meeting and it was confirmed any additional questions would be responded to by email.

**5. Conclusion and end of meeting – Steve McCabe MP**

- The Chair thanked everyone for attending and participating in the APPG meeting.
- The Chair suggested the APPG write to the new Minister and ask for their attendance to the next APPG meeting on Children in Care and Care Leavers.
- The Chair suggested following meetings of the APPG to be held in a similar hybrid format.

Meeting Closed at 18:49pm.