



APPG for Care-Experienced Children and Young People Roundtable Discussion – May 2024.

Minutes of the roundtable discussion with sector professionals, parliamentarians and Government officials, about children's social care across the United Kingdom – organised by the [All-Party Parliamentary Group for Care-Experienced Children and Young People](#) on 21st May 2024, 12pm – 1:30pm

Venue: Archbishop's Room, First Floor, Millbank House.

Present:

Panel speakers: Katharine Sacks-Jones, Become; Helen Mary Jones, Voices for Care Cymru; Louise Hunter, Who Cares? Scotland.

Lord Watson of Invergowrie (APPG Co-chair and Chair of meeting); Marie Rimmer MP; Baroness Tyler of Enfield (APPG Officer); Lord Wood of Anfield; Baroness Lister of Burtersett; Baroness Young of Hornsey; Lord Russell of Liverpool; Lord Prentis of Leeds; Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle; Rt Rev. Lord Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham; Jonathan Bacon, Department for Education; Steve Crocker (virtual), Kate Cornish, Department for Education (virtual); Lucy Tiller on behalf of the Rt Rev. Bishop of Manchester; Maddy Planche on behalf of Munira Wilson MP; Becky Plummer on behalf of the Rt Rev. Bishop of Newcastle.

Become staff: Matt Blow (virtual); Clare Bracey, Simone Connolly, Victoria Wilson.

This roundtable discussion observed Chatham House rules.

- 1. Welcome and introductions:** The APPG Co-Chair, Lord Watson welcomed all attendees, allowing each to introduce themselves to the room. He then handed over to the three sector expert representatives to provide an update on recent policy developments in children's social care across the three respective nations.
- 2. England:** Katharine Sacks-Jones, Chief Executive of Become provided an update on children's social care in England – highlighting key issues such as the pressures on the care system and local authorities, rising demand for children's social care, the instability that children in care continue to face and the care cliff for young people leaving care. Katharine reflected on recent



developments including [Stable Homes, Built on Love](#) – the Government’s reform strategy for children’s social care published in February 2023, as well as information about the launch of the new [Department for Education \(DfE\) Market Interventions Advisory Group](#).

3. **Wales:** Helen Mary Jones, Voices for Care Cymru provided an update on children’s social care in Wales and the recent developments over the past three years from the Welsh Government, including legislation being laid to remove profit in the sector and its four-year transition period; and the [Universal Basic Income pilot for care leavers](#) in Wales.
4. **Scotland:** Louise Hunter, Who Cares? Scotland provided an update on children’s social care in Scotland, including [The Promise Scotland](#) – the reform programme for children’s social care in Scotland; the lack of effective outcomes data; and the reduction in children entering care in Scotland in recent years.
5. **Questions and discussion:** The Co-Chair reflected on the respective updates from each of the nations and opened the room for questions and comments. Attendees raised various reflections and questions about the developments, the state of children’s social care across the three countries and what lessons could be learned from each.
6. **End:** The roundtable closed at 1.30pm.