

## **Annual Report 2023-24: All-Party Parliamentary Group for Care-Experienced Children and Young People**

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this report are those of the group.

### **Statement from Officers**

We confirm that the group has complied fully with the rules, conducted affairs with due diligence and complied with the regulations governing foreign governments.

### **Overview of the APPG**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Care-Experienced Children and Young People is a cross-party group of MPs and Peers. The purpose of the group is to promote the voice of care-experienced children and young people, in order to promote first-class government policy for children in care and care leavers.

The group's secretariat is provided by Become, the national charity for children in care and care leavers in England.

### **Work of the APPG in 2023-24**

#### **1) Annual General Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The APPG's AGM was held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023. In total, 11 Officers were elected including Steve McCabe MP as the Group's Chair and Tim Loughton MP as Vice Chair. At the AGM, Officers voted to change the name of the APPG from the APPG for Looked After Children and Care Leavers to the APPG for Care-Experienced Children and Young People. The Group also agreed to conduct an inquiry into the Government's proposals into extending corporate parenting across the public sector.

Minutes of the AGM can be found on [the APPG webpage here](#).

#### **2) APPG inquiry into corporate parenting – July 2023 to March 2024**

In July 2023, the APPG launched an inquiry into the Government's proposals to extend corporate parenting responsibilities to a range of public bodies and organisations. [The terms of reference for the inquiry can be found here](#).

The APPG held an open call to evidence and a survey for public bodies between July and September 2023. In total, the APPG also held 15 different workshop sessions with care-experienced children and young people to hear their views, insights and experiences. The sessions, included six regional sessions covering each region of England. Four of these regional sessions were chaired by Officers of the APPG: Steve McCabe MP chaired the Midlands regional session, Tim Loughton MP chaired the South East and East of England regional session, Edward

Timpson MP chaired the North West regional session, and Rachael Maskell MP chaired the North East and Yorkshire regional session.

In total, the APPG Inquiry received evidence from over 200 individuals or organisations, including over 160 care-experienced children and young people.

### **3) Launch of APPG Inquiry report – Formal meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The APPG Inquiry report into corporate parenting was published on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024. On the same day, the APPG held a formal meeting in Portcullis House to discuss the findings of the APPG Inquiry report, and to provide an opportunity for Parliamentarians to hear directly from care-experienced children and young people about what was important to them about the proposed reforms.

The APPG Corporate Parenting Inquiry [report can be found here on the APPG web-site](#).

The minutes of the APPG meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 can be [found here on the APPG web-page](#).

### **4) Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) by correspondence - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was held by correspondence on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to ensure that the APPG was compliant with the new rules. At the EGM, the election of the following four Officers was confirmed:

- Steve McCabe MP – Co-Chair and Registered Contact;
- Lord Watson of Invergowrie – Co-Chair
- Baroness Tyler of Enfield – Officer;
- Tim Loughton MP – Officer.

It was also confirmed that 23 Parliamentarians would be named as Members of the APPG. [Full minutes of the EGM can be found here on the APPG webpage](#).

### **5) Roundtable discussion on recent policy developments in the children social care system across England, Wales and Scotland**

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, the APPG held a formal meeting and roundtable discussion on recent policy developments in the children's social care system across England, Wales and Scotland. The discussion included external speakers – Louise Hunter from Who Cares? Scotland, Katharine Sacks-Jones from Become, and Helen-Mary Jones from Voices for Care Cymru.

Minutes of the roundtable will be added on to the [APPG's web-page](#) shortly.

### **Contact details**

The secretariat of the APPG for Care-Experienced Children and Young People is provided by Become.

Website: <https://becomecharity.org.uk/become-the-movement/appg/>



If you have any questions about the APPG, please email [appg@becomecharity.org.uk](mailto:appg@becomecharity.org.uk).

The Chair and Registered Contact of the APPG, Steve McCabe MP, can be contacted via [mccabes@parliament.uk](mailto:mccabes@parliament.uk).