

Draft Minutes

Cross-Party Group on Shared Parenting

Tuesday 26th September 2023

Online 1800 – 2000hrs

Present: Fulton MacGregor MSP, Finlay Carson MSP

Ian Maxwell, John Forsyth, Jen McAllister, Cathy Sexton, Sara McFarlane, June Loudon, Eoin Keane, Maddy Welsh, Claire Traynor-Gray, Kenny Spence, Cheryl Lee Brown, Sarah Rogers, Simon Stockwell, Wendy Georgeson, Rob Byrne.

Apologies: Megan Farr; Ann Gibson, Aileen Peace, Jane Denmark, Selina Smyth

Minutes of June 13th 2023 meeting were approved. No amendments. No matters arising.

What are Fathers Telling Us? Presentation by Cathy Sexton, Co-Director of Fathers Network Scotland

Cathy presented some of the preliminary findings of their Fathers Survey. More than 1,000 dads responded to Fathers Network Scotland's call to share their parenting experiences and have their voices heard. This was numerically FNS's biggest response and revealed significantly greater commitment of fathers to parenting their children as well as insight into the barriers they encountered.

Paying the Price: Presentation by Sarah Rogers, Public Affairs Officer, Families Outside

[‘Paying the Price’](#) research by Families Outside explored in depth the financial costs to families of supporting someone in prison and after release. The research found the burden of care and costs falls disproportionately to women and highlighted the role of prison in creating, sustaining, and deepening poverty amongst children and families. Alongside the research findings, the report identified key policy solutions and recommendations to improve outcomes for children and families affected by imprisonment.

Work Plan, Date of Next Meeting and AOCB

The task of finding a date for the next meeting was delegated to the Convener and Secretariat. Details to be circulated in due course.