

**Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act
Training, Operations, Guidance and Diversion (TOG&D)
Task and Finish Group Meeting**

Monday 4 April 2022

Summary of meeting

1. Welcome

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Minutes and actions

The minutes of the last meeting of 4 March 2022 were agreed.

3. Update from Welsh Government

- The Deputy Minister for Social Services gave an Oral Statement to the Senedd to mark the Children Wales Act coming into force. In her statement she expressed her gratitude for the hard work of stakeholders in preparing for commencement and referenced two key achievements from the TOG&D group - the Practice Guide and setting up the out of court parenting support scheme. [Oral Statement: The Children \(Wales\) Act \(22 March 2022\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Publication of Guidance documents

- **Healthy Child Wales Programme** has been updated to make sure the guidance suitably references the Children Wales Act. [Healthy child Wales quality assurance framework | GOV.WALES](#)
- **Keeping Learners Safe**, which contains guidance for local authorities and governing bodies on arrangements for safeguarding children in education, has been updated.. [Keeping Learners Safe \(gov.wales\)](#)
- The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have updated the '**Charging Standard**' to reflect the change in the law. This guidance sets out how prosecutors and police should approach charging decisions in cases involving offences against the person. Guidance on '**Child Abuse (non-sexual) - prosecution guidance**' has also been updated. These are published on the CPS website:
 - [Offences against the Person, incorporating the Charging Standard | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)
 - [Child Abuse \(non-sexual\) - prosecution guidance | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)

Raising awareness

- As part of the awareness raising campaign letters have been sent to key individuals and organisations in Wales informing them about the change in the law and providing links to further information.

4. Welsh Government Justice Plan

An overview was provided on the Welsh Government's Justice in Wales Plan. The purpose is to update on justice related activity with which the Welsh Government has been involved since the publication of the report of the [Commission on Justice in Wales \(the Thomas Commission\)](#). It also sets out the approach for the period ahead, in the light of the recommendations of the Thomas Commission but also of developments since the report was published.

5. Updates on the out of court parenting support scheme

TOG&D members provided updates from their areas on the roll out of the out of court parenting support. No major issues were reported and as a lot of preparation had been done by the CPS, police and local authorities there was confidence that the process put in place would work smoothly.

6. Next steps

The TOG&D group has completed the tasks set out in the current terms of reference for the TOG&D, including developing and updating guidance and establishing the out of court parenting support scheme. It was agreed that at the next TOG&D meeting in early June, the future role and membership of the group would be considered, following feedback from the Strategic Implementation Group on future governance arrangements.