

# Cross-Party Group on Shared Parenting

16 November 2021, 1800 – 2000hours

Minute

Present

MSPs

Fulton MacGregor MSP, Jeremy Balfour MSP, Finlay Carson MSP

Invited guests

Paul Bradshaw, Professor William Fabricius

Non-MSP Group Members

John Forsyth, Ian Maxwell, Mark Downie, Pauline Linn, Chris Mietzitis, Angela Baccari,  
June Loudon, Cheryl Brown, Sara McFarlane

**In attendance**

Simon Stockwell, Rob Byrne, Wendy Georgeson

Apologies

Michael Marra MSP

Eileen Brownlie, Megan Farr, Eoin Keane,

Agenda item 1

**Council of Europe resolution on Equality and Shared Parenting.**

John Forsyth (Shared Parenting Scotland) reminded the group that recognising and addressing gender-based barriers to shared parenting has been within the DNA of the CPG from the outset - not only when parents separate but also within 'intact' households.

He reminded the group of the Council of Europe resolution on the issue from 2015 aimed at promoting "gender equality in the workplace and in the private sphere".

<https://pace.coe.int/en/files/22220/html>

Some of the 12 points listed in the resolution are incorporated in practice in Scotland but not all. The UNCRC Incorporation Act may highlight other areas where Scotland has ground to make up.

## Agenda item 2

### **Equal Parenting is a child health matter**

Professor William Fabricius is Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Arizona. He was in Scotland for a few days en route to presenting at the Nordic Conference on Shared Parenting and Gender Equality in Oslo.

Professor Fabricius explained the science that led to change in the law in Arizona in 2013 presuming equal shared parenting after divorce. He took questions on the practical effect on shared parenting and conflict between parents since 2013. He explained that judges and lawyers as well as parents and their supporters had changed their practice to support equal parenting rather than make an order and stand back to see what happened

## Agenda item 3

### **Presentation on Growing Up in Scotland.**

Paul Bradshaw is Director of the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen) and Project Director of the Growing Up in Scotland study (GUS). ScotCen have been delivering GUS on behalf of the Scottish Government since 2005.

Paul provided an overview of the study revealing details of the data collected on children and families to date and how GUS has provided evidence for Scottish Government policy. In discussion with members Paul acknowledged that data on individual demographic groups of interest to members of the CPG - such as separated parents and fathers - has improved but remains an issue of resources.

## Agenda item 4

### **Any Other Business**

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 with the likelihood that it will be on Zoom once again.

The meeting closed at 2000 hours.