

Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Shared Parenting

Tuesday 8th November 2022 Meeting via Zoom 1800 -
2000 hours

Minutes

1 Present

Fulton MacGregor MSP, Jeremy Balfour MSP
Ian Maxwell, SPS, John Forsyth, SPS, Kenny Spence, Men in Childcare
Cheryl Brown, Midlothian Sure Start, Eleanor Stanfield, Dads Rock,
Rebecca Crowse, Dads Rock, Sarah McFarlane, Connect. June Loudon,
Grandparents Apart
Wendy George, Adam Briggs and Simon Stockwell, Scottish Government
Speakers: Alison Koslowski and Gary Clapton

2 Apologies

Kerry Knox ((Families Outside), Megan Farr (CYPCS), Graeme Richards
(Circle), Christine Carlin (HomeStart), Anne Wilson (Childrens Health
Scotland).

3 New members and changes

Maddy Welsh has joined on behalf of Dads Rock. Sarah Nelson
(Childrens Health Scotland has been added to mailing list.

4 Minutes of June meeting and matters arising

No matters Arising

5 How Scotland could benefit from new EU legislation on family leave and work-life balance

Professor Alison Koslowski, (lead editor of the International Review on
Leave Policies & Research 2022 which reviews the parenting leave
policies across 49 countries (including Scotland)) presented a report on
new EU legislation on family leave and work-life balance. The new
legislation has improved rights for all parents (mothers and fathers) and

other carers. She explained what Scotland would need to change to match our EU neighbours in this policy area.

Related links:

www.leavenetwork.org

https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/women-labour-market-work-life-balance/eu-legislation-family-leaves-and-work-life-balance_en#right-to-parental-leave

6 The Invisible Man: the absence of fathers in publicity for children and families services.

Dr Gary Clapton (University of Edinburgh) shared and updated his research on fathers, and the impact of imagery in public service advertisements and information campaigns

7 Future meeting items

June Loudon suggested we should hear about training in social services and how far changes are recognising the issues around including parents and extended families in building a picture of family support.

Fulton suggested pursuing this with either the Minister or Social Work Scotland.

John Forsyth proposed extending an invitation to Social Security Scotland.

8 AOB

Fulton has proposed a motion on shared parenting for a Members Debate in the New Year.