**Cross Party Group on Children and Young People**

**Members Survey Results**

Children in Scotland and YouthLink Scotland were re-elected as the joint secretariat of the Cross Party Group on Children and Young People in June 2017. To support us in our role we conducted a survey of group members to identify the topics you wished to discuss and also how we could better engage you in the group.

We have met with the convenors and planned out the CPG’s work programme for 2017/18. Your responses fed directly into this meeting and informed the programme for the group going forward.

We have also used the findings to improve how we engage with members of the group and communicate the workings of the group with you. We have also used the results to identify methods by which you can currently engage with the group.

We asked the members of the CPG two main questions:

1. What topic(s) would you like to see covered by the CPG going forward? Please also give a brief explanation of why the group should look at this issue.
2. How do you feel members could be further engaged in the CPG?

**Results**

**1. What topic(s) would you like to see covered by the CPG going forward?**

The following table identifies the main general topics that were identified by members in the survey. These topics will be raised with the conveners and will also be explored in identify where there are any links to the upcoming political calendar. Whether any topic is taken forward is at the discretion of the conveners, however as you will see they have taken forward several of the topics identified by the membership.

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| Topic | Key areas identified |
| Child Rights | The topic was raised specifically by 3 respondents but also arose in other responses. Members noted a desire to hear about children and young peoples lived experience and how this impacts on services.  Due to the popularity among members we have worked with CPG members to deliver a meeting on Parliaments role in progressing children’s rights in December 2017. |
| Children and Young People’s Mental Health | Mental health was noted in relation to a variety of more specific areas. There was particular concern over the mental health of looked after children and young people.  The topic has been identified for discussion at a CPG meeting in 2018. The date of which will be confirmed early in the year. |
| PEF/Attainment Gap/Education | The attainment gap and Pupil Equity Funding are also topics that CPG members wish to discuss. There is particular appetite to hear how the Pupil Equity Fund and the Attainment Challenge Fund are being spent and also to have clear evidence of what actually works to reduce the attainment gap.  There was also some interest in the Governance Review and how the removal of control from Local Authorities will affect family support. The governance review was discussed by the CPG in 2016. |
| Care (Various) | The experience of looked after children and young people was also raised by other members who wished to discuss a variety of topics including; the outcomes care leavers, kinship care and also the needs of kinship carers.  There was also desire to know more about the effectiveness of the Children’s Hearings System and the reforms to it. |
| Drugs/Alcohol | There was also interest noted in the issues facing children and young people affected by drug and alcohol. |
| Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 | The Children and Young People (2014) Act was raised by several respondents, there was particular interest in the information sharing aspects of this. |
| Connecting CYP with nature | A member of the CPG raised connecting children with nature, this topic was meant to be discussed at the recent meeting on outdoor learning but had to be dropped. There is scope for its future discussion through a potential sub group. |
| Social Media and impact on children and young peoples development | The impact of social media on the development of children and young people, there could be a link with child rights in this topic and the work done by the 5 Rights Youth Commission. |
| Children and Young People wit Additional Support Needs | There was also an appetite for discussion issues relating to children and young people with additional support needs. This ranged from a general interest to more specific comments on the issues relating to children with learning disabilities.  This topic has also been selected for a meeting in 2018. |
| Research on child sexual abuse | There was interest in presenting the findings of new research on child sexual abuse by NSPCC. |
| Other (Topics with less explanation) | Other topics identified included; guidance on religious observation; screening tools for ADHD for non-clinical professionals and service integration. |

**Question 2: How do you feel members could be further engaged in the CPG?**

As the joint secretariat we will look at identifying new methods of engagement with the members in the ways you have identified. However we also need to ensure that current methods for member engagement are better understood.

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| Issue Raised | **You Said** | **Action Required** |
| Clarity over Minutes | You wanted clarity over what happens to minutes. | The Secretariat will continue to circulate the minutes once these are ratified at the following meetings. Members can also access these on the Scottish Parliament website. We will also aim to provide a draft of minutes following each meeting. |
| Taking Forward Actions | You wanted the group to become more action focused and more clarity on how these are taken forward. | The secretariat will look at how other CPGs take forward actions and identify ways for this work with the CPG on CYP.  The December 2017 meeting has raised several key actions that will be taken forward by the group in 2018. |
| Joining in discussions | You wanted more opportunities to join in discussions. | The Secretariat and Convenors will continue to ensure members are provided with the opportunity to join in discussions from the floor.  Taking questions from the floor rather than in advance allows members to respond to the presentations and use this to frame their input. These questions or points are noted within the minutes. |
| Presentations | You wanted the opportunity to provide presentations for discussion. | Members are encouraged to let the secretariat know if they have a topic or a presentation they would like to discuss with the group. However, there is not always scope for members to add presentations in after the panel due to the time constraints of a meeting. |
| Advance notice of topics | You said we should provide more advance notice of the topics for CPG meetings going forward. | We aim to be able to provide the topics and dates for upcoming meetings of the group following our meeting with the convenors.  We have now provided the dates of the first three meetings in 2018. The secretariat will continue to provide a forward plan of meetings. Topics have also been identified but not yet assigned to meetings |
| Involvement of children and young people in meetings | You identified that you could bring children and young people to CPG meetings | Members are actively encouraged to bring children and young people to meetings, however they should let the secretariat know in advance so that we can ensure the meeting is accessible for children and young people.  We have also responded to this by having a presentation from a young person at the December 2017 meeting. Direct liaison with CPG members supported this involvement.  June’s meeting will celebrate the Year of Young People and we aim to have this co-led by young people. |
| Annual members event | You said we could have an annual networking event. | The secretariat will explore the possibility of a members event including whether the wider membership would be interested in such an event. |
| Meetings outside parliament | You identified meetings could take place outside parliament. Potentially within a specific service. | The secretariat will identify whether this is feasible going forward. However a recent meeting was meant to take place in Holyrood Park but was moved for logistical reasons.  The possibility of an out door event is being explored for the future. |
| Workshop | You asked for a workshop to outline the scope of what the CPG can and cannot do | The rules for the CPG are currently available on the Scottish Parliament website. You can also contact the secretariat if you have any queries relating to the rules of the group. |
| Newsletter | You said we could find a way to share resources and experiences more easily. | The Secretariat will look to provide an end of year update for the AGM, reflecting on the past years work. |

**Going Forward**

We have discussed all the identified issues with the convenors and will explore the possibilities of taking these forward. As you will see we have already acted on several of these requests by incorporating member suggestions into meetings, becoming more action focused and including young people. You will continue to see your responses in our work in 2018 as we provide draft minutes and try to develop a newsletter.

Children in Scotland and YouthLink Scotland will utilise the findings to improve our work as the joint secretariat of the CPG. We will also explore the possibility of method of sharing resources and an annual event.

We would also encourage you to contact either [cross@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:cross@childreninscotland.org.uk) & [spaterson@youthlinkscotland.org](mailto:spaterson@youthlinkscotland.org) if you have any questions or wish to access previous minutes.

Thank you once again for responding to the survey, the membership of the CPG is essential in ensuring we make the most of the resource.