



**Minutes from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Child Contact Centres and Services
15 September 2020**

Inaugural meeting of APPG on Child Contact Centres and Services

Alex Norris MP	Chair
Baroness Anne McIntosh	Co-Chair
Jess Phillips MP	Vice Chair
Baroness Finlay	Vice Chair
Lee Rowley MP	Vice Chair
Secretariat	Richard Daniels r.daniels@naccc.org.uk

In attendance

Alex Norris MP	Chair
Baroness Anne McIntosh of Pickering	Co-Chair
Jess Phillips MP	Vice Chair
Baroness Finlay	Vice Chair
Lee Rowley MP	Vice Chair
CEO NACCC	Elizabeth Coe
Vice-Chair NACCC	Anne Dillon
Secretariat	Richard Daniels

Apologies

David Drew MP
Jessica Morden MP
Philip Davies MP
Graham Brady MP
Steve McCabe MP
Baroness Hamwee

Election of Chair, Co-Chair and officers

Jess Phillips MP Chaired the election, the following members were elected

Alex Norris MP	Chair
Baroness Anne McIntosh	Co-Chair
Jess Phillips MP	Vice Chair
Baroness Finlay	Vice Chair
Lee Rowley MP	Vice Chair

THERE ARE NO FINANCAL GIFTS OR BENEFITS IN KIND



Minutes of meeting

The election of chair, co-chair and officers and expenditure statement on financial gifts or benefits in kind was undertaken and recorded above.

Alex Norris introduced attendees and managed proceedings.

Bill work

Richard Daniels provided an overview on recent engagement to promote the amendment for 'all Child Contact Centres and organisations that offer facilities or services for child contact to be accredited in England and Wales.' To the Domestic Abuse Bill (DA).

The DA Bill is currently waiting for its Second Reading date in the Lords. Jess Phillips suggested the Bill may be delayed but hopes it will secure a Second Reading date before Christmas recess.

Baroness McIntosh highlighted the need for a cross party support and four sponsors for the amendment and to then rally support. Jess Phillips emphasised the tactical importance for cross party support in securing amendments to the DA Bill in the commons and proposed we add the words 'domestic violence' to the amendment (and ensure it's within scope of the long title and added onto an existing clause as will stand a better chance of adoption eg something related to 'family justice') – Anne Dillon agreed to draft an amendment for approval. It would also be useful to review with the Clerks (to check within the scope of the Bill) and submit the amendment at the earliest opportunity.

Labour front bench Lord Richard Rosser and Lord Kennedy
Front bench Conservative Baroness Williams of Trafford

There was agreement that this was not a contentious amendment. There will be big ticket items the Labour front bench are seeking to secure in the DA Bill, so tactically cross party support will help give us the best opportunity to secure government backing.

Baroness Finlay updated the group on her recent work on harm caused by alcoholism and campaign to extend the remit of the Commissioner for Children's role to cover alcohol and drug harm to ensure agencies covering children protection are joined up. Anne Dillon highlighted the Judicial Protocol – the guidance issued by the President of the Family Division for the judiciary when ordering contact in contact centres - includes reference to alcohol.

Anne Dillon also raised the importance of keeping other children's charities on board and Richard Daniels updated group on our APPG meeting in July 2019 to secure support from Barnardo's, The Salvation Army and Family Action for our amendment. The issue that had raised some concern among other charities was in relation to accrediting body. To date, NACCC has been the accrediting body for their member organisations but the amendment specifically omits reference to how the accrediting body should be constituted. Jess Phillips



informed members there is a coalition of children's charities including the Children's Society and Action for Children who are aligned and working together on the DA Bill issues. Members of the group emphasised the importance of obtaining 'Third party' support for example Local Authorities.

Jess Phillips advised of the 10% of cases go to family court 70% of these involved DA. Elizabeth Coe updated the APPG on number of DA cases NACCC oversee, of the 7007 supervised cases we handle (pa) 1800 involve domestic violence. Supported contact case involve very few domestic violence issues as they would be picked up during the assessment stage.

Reference to report;

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895173/assessing-risk-harm-children-parents-pl-childrens-cases-report_.pdf

Richard Daniels advised no response has been received from government to our letter on the DA Bill (Home Office and MoJ). Alex Norris sent similar correspondence which has also not received a response and mooted capacity issue due to Covid.

Jess Phillips updated the APPG on case studies to raise profile around DA Bill issues and the potential to pick up child contact in these cases studies focusing on need for better regulation.

Actions to take forward

Alex Norris to follow up with Labour front bench team in HoL re amendment	Alex Norris
Circulate the latest version of the Judicial Protocol	Secretariat
Arrange a virtual meeting with ministerial team re amendment	Alex Norris
Contact Lord Listowel to re-join APPG and support the amendment	B.McIntosh
Contact Lord Newby to support or advise as to the appropriate Lib Dem	
Peers to support the amendment	AnneDillon
Forward amendment and documents to Baroness Finlay	Secretariat
Contact Lord Wills on the amendment	B.McIntosh
Secure sponsors and wider support for amendment in the Lords	APPG
Circulate information on virtual contact since lockdown	Secretariat
Case study on Child Contact Centres	Secretariat
Ask coalition of children's charities views on the amendment	JessPhillips