

Cross-Party Group on Shared Parenting

Tuesday, 11th November 2025, 1800 - 2000
(online)

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Fulton Macgregor, MSP; Finlay Carson MSP

John Forsyth, Kevin Kane, Orla Donoghue, Sara McFarlane, Cathy Sexton, Janey Law, Megan Farr, Rob Byrne, Wendy Georgeson, Adam Briggs, Eoin Keane.

Speaker

Dr Sarah Foley, Moray House, University of Edinburgh

1 Welcome and introductions

Fulton welcomed attendees and sought permission to record the meeting solely as a record of the meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cheryl Brown and June Loudon

3 Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 28th January 2025

Minutes were approved with one amendment to record participation of Janey Law.

4 Parenting after Divorce or Separation research

Dr Sarah Foley, Lecturer in Developmental Psychology at Moray House, presented her current study on 'Parenting after divorce or separation'. The research focuses on the experiences of separated mothers and fathers who are co-parenting children between 4 and 8 years of age and who reached agreement without going through court.

5 Fathers Network Scotland Dads Survey 2025

Cathy Sexton, Director of Fathers Network Scotland, presented preliminary results of their 2025 Dads Survey. The Survey is becoming an important longitudinal survey, providing data on a range of issues concerning fathers and their families. Latest data reveals increasing feelings of stress among fathers in balancing pressures of work and wishes to be active parents at home.

6 What is a household? Where a child lives.

John Forsyth of Shared Parenting Scotland discussed the recent remarkable opinion in a Court of Session public law case, that confirmed an adoption application even though the parents no longer live together. What influence might it have on wider thinking about shared parenting?
[2025csoh87-petition-of-ab-and-cd-for-orders-under-the-adoption-and-children-scotland-act-2007.pdf](#)

7 AOB

After discussion, it was agreed the Convener and Secretariat would find a date for a final meeting of the CPG before the end of the current session.