

All Party Parliamentary Group :Conception to Age Two.

AGM

Monday 9 October 2017, Atlee Suite, Portcullis House, London.

Attendees:

Robin Balbernie, Chris Bingley, Lynne Burnham, Pamela Calder, Dawn Cannon, Diane Church, Peter Clarke, Anna Day, Diana Dean, Clare Dolman, Jill Domoney, Emily Fletton, Elaine Fulton, Ruth Gardner, Tommy Gilchrist, Vivette Glover, Jo Gordon, Alain Gregoire, Maggie Harris, Joanna Hawthorne, Eileen Hayes, George Hosking, Joanna Howes, Tasa Ikie, Naomi Jayawandome, Hilary Kennedy, Lydia Keyte, Sarah Kingham, Beckie Lang, Sam Lawes, Penelope Leach, Tim Loughton, Derek Moore, Louise Morganstein, Alison Morton, Susan Pawlby, Marie Peacock, Jenny Peters, Richard Pratt, Heather Ransom, Mary Rheeston, Carolyn Silberfield, Kate Springfield, Katherine Sykes, Anna Thorn, Rachel Tonkin, Carole Ulanowsky.

Apologies received

Cheryl Adams, Carmel Blackie, Sarah Darton, Elaine Hanzak, Ros Kane, Ruth Marks, Alan McMaster, Christine Puckering, Julie Revels, Sally Smith, Peter Toolan.

Reconvening of the APPG

Chair of the APPG, Tim Loughton MP opened up the meeting. He is prepared to stand again as Chair of the group and has the support of the existing officers vice chairs: Frank Field MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Lady Barbara Hollins, Earl Lestowle, Fiona Bruce MP and Norman Lamb MP. Sadly Mark Durkan from the SDLP has lost his seat, however James Morris MP is standing.

The group was officially reconvened.

Transforming Infant Mental Health publication

The group then heard from Dr Penelope Leach, editor of the new book *Transforming Infant Wellbeing. Research, policy and practice for the first 1001 critical days*, a collection of 25 articles from over 40 experts in the field of infant mental health. The book was created following, and building upon, the lecture series that supported the development of *The Building Great Britons Report*, and brings together the scientific evidence and the policy recommendations for the importance of the first 1001 days.

Future of the APPG

Tim Loughton MP then opened up the floor to questions about the future of the APPG and where next now that the Great Britons Report and the book have been successfully achieved. He thanked The Wave Trust and PIP UK for their joint secretariat to date for the group, but highlighted that both

charities do not, for this parliamentary year, have capacity to undertake a big piece of work such as a report but that offers are welcome from other members of the group to assist with the secretariat duties.

Tim Loughton presented the opportunity of the forthcoming Mental Health Bill as an opportunity for the group to disproportionately push for perinatal and infant mental health within this agenda.

Various questions and points came from the floor throughout the discussion from a wide range of individuals and organisations:

- The need for the APPG to not preach to the converted and to take the evidence we now have in The Building Great Britons Report and the Transforming Infant Mental Health book to start taking action. This needs to be ambitious with investment in people being the priority at government level.
- That sub groups could be created within the APPG, led by members keen to do so, to help move action forward on areas of interest i.e. LSE costings for infant mental health, using key themes from the IMH book
- MPs need to attend the APPG, especially those standing as officers – can we invite a wider group i.e. those with babies/young children
- Closer working with MPs and their civil servants (who may be around longer than MPs)
- The APPG needs to work with other APPGs to support networking but also action on shared goals i.e. children, housing, poverty,
- Widen the APPG membership to be more inclusive, diverse and can make a difference in other ways i.e. scriptwriters, young parents, local champions
- An ask for a longer term goal when developing services and for commissioners to be looking beyond a three year cycle
- A recommendation for delegates to look at the Early Intervention Foundations work on language development and interactions between infants and carers.
- A need to feed evidence gaps into the research agenda through the research councils.
- A need for society to value and support the parenting role, especially for mothers, as well as working careers. Parenting to be seen as a successful and important role too. Current career structures are not parent friendly.
- A need for a consensus around the qualifications of those in childcare and the need for infant health and wellbeing being integral to these rather than just being target focussed.
- A need to upskill and train across the early years workforce to understand child neurodevelopment and the importance of the first 1001 days. This needs to be within core training.
- The Transforming Infant Mental Health book would be good as a parent facing text so that its accessible to parents and non specialist professionals. The audience was reminded of the parent resources now available on the AIMH website.

An interest in working on specific packages of work was expressed by NorPIP, The Stafanou Foundation, AIMH. Any organisations interested in leading on a package can get in touch with Beckie Lang at PIP UK (Beckie.Lang@pipuk.org.uk) or Sam Lawes (slawes@wavetrust.org) at the Wave Trust.

Tim Loughton to be the filter and conduit for those wanting to feed into the Mental Health Bill.

Next meeting will be set following the launch of the Bill.