

## **MINUTES**

Inaugural Meeting - All Party Parliamentary Group for Parents

Tuesday 12 November, in Room S, PCH, 5 - 6pm

### **Attendees:**

Sharon Hodgson MP, Connor Rand MP, Baroness Stedman-Scott, Lord Knight of Weymouth, Tristan Osborne MP, Jack Lovie (Office of Sharon Hodgson MP), Jason Elsom (Parentkind), Frank Young (Parentkind), Nicola Martin (Parentkind), Cara Bishop (NEU)

### **Apologies:**

Baroness Blower, Vikki Slade MP, Baroness Lister of Burtersett, Lisa Smart MP, Baroness Bonham-Carter, Lord Browne of Layton, Lord Hampton, Sarah Smith MP, Sam Rushworth MP, Lord Lucas

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Welcome - Sharon Hodgson MP**

SH welcomed attendees and outlined the purpose of the meeting as required by the Rules for APPGs.

### **2. Ambition for the APPG for Parents - Frank Young (Director of Policy and Research, Parentkind)**

FY discussed the ambition of the APPG for Parents.

It is important the group represents all parties.

Ambition of the group is to have a high profile and to meet regularly.

### **3. Agree name of the group and description of its purpose - Sharon Hodgson MP**

*Proposed name: "The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Parents"*

The name of the group was agreed.

*Proposed description: "The APPG for parents exists to promote the role of parents."*

The description of the group was agreed.

### **4. Election of officers - Sharon Hodgson MP**

The following Officers were elected:

*Sharon Hodgson MP (Chair and registered contact)*

*Connor Rand MP*

*Baroness Stedman-Scott*

*Lord Knight of Weymouth*

### **5. Confirmation of Parentkind as secretariat - Sharon Hodgson MP**

It was agreed that Parentkind would act as secretariat to the APPG for Parents

## **6. Discussion on outline plan for 2025 - Frank Young (Director of Policy and Research, Parentkind) - all attendees**

There was a discussion about the different types of APPG.

It was agreed that the focus of the APPG should be holding inquiries and publishing reports from these inquiries.

It was agreed that we should explore working with other APPGs.

There was a discussion about how to increase attendance and Officers agreed to support this work.

There was a discussion about the importance of “political diversity” and in particular ensuring opposition parties were involved with the group.

There was a discussion around using Parentkind’s PTA network to present to the APPG – Parentkind will include this in a draft plan (see below).

There was a discussion around potential inquiry topics including: the cost of childcare, SEND, smartphones and social media, mental health (particularly parental mental health), parents in poverty, school attendance and the child maintenance system. It was agreed that parents in poverty was a strong topic to explore alongside government work in this area.

It was agreed that the APPG would explore hosting dinners and/or lunches for parliamentarians on the estate and that hosting regular meetings was important.

It was agreed the next meeting should be in January with invited speakers. There was a discussion about the importance of high profile or famous people to increase attendance.

**ACTION:** It was agreed that Nicola Martin from Parentkind would draft a plan for 2025 to present to the Officers.