



All Party Parliamentary Group on Fatherhood

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 12 June 2019, 5pm
Portcullis House

Attendees

David Lammy
Steve Double
David Alton
Sir David Amess
Sir Peter Bottomley
Andrew Bridgen
Janet Daby
Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi
Bill Esterson
James Frith
Jack Jarvis
Wera Hobhouse
Tim Loughton
Eleanor Smith
Matt Western
Helen Whately
Alex Wheatle (author)
Brian Quavar (photographer)
Future Men (Secretariat):
Christopher Muwanguzi
Sean McFadden
Dr Yansie Rolston
Owen Thomas
Paul McDaniel
Zainab Juhoor

Welcome and Introduction from Co-Chair David Lammy. The meeting was declared quorate.

In addition to AGM business, David Lammy noted that, in advance of Father's Day on Sunday 16 June 2019, this meeting and photoshoot was scheduled to highlight the importance of fathers reading to their children.

1. Election of Officers

Unanimous vote in favour of all Officers (see below)

2. APPG aims for this Parliament

The Secretariat noted that topics proposed for future meetings, to be held on a quarterly basis, include:

- Fathers, Family Law and Access, inviting the Ministry of Justice;
- Fathers and 1001 Critical Days / Early Years in partnership with relevant APPGs – discussions planned;
- Fathers and Mental Health, following up from the Duke of Cambridge's visit to Future Men's Future Dads Programme.

Helen Whately expressed a wish to link her work with the Women and Work APPG with this Group and suggested a focus on shared parental leave and paternal leave, citing research by University of Birmingham's Equal Parenting Project headed by Dr Holly Birkett and Dr Sarah Forbes. All agreed that this issue was central to gender equality.

Owen Thomas (Future Men) noted that he and David Lammy sit on the Fawcett Society's Commission on Gender Stereotypes in Early Childhood, and he will report back to the Group in due course.

A discussion ensued about Sure Start Children's Centres and initiatives that aim to provide early access to books, including family hubs at libraries.

3. Appoint Future Men as secretariat

Duly appointed.

The Secretariat requested that the Co-Chairs' Office update the Register of APPG accordingly.

4. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9 October 2019, 5pm

5. Any other business

Author Alex Wheatle was introduced and photographs taken.

The Secretariat thanked the Co-Chair's offices and all involved for their assistance in organising the meeting, and noted that funding will be sought to support the APPG's aims as noted above. Sean McFadden, the new CEO of Future Men with effect from 1 July 2019, was introduced to the meeting.

David Lammy thanked all MPs for supporting the APPG on Fatherhood and the 'Fathers reading with their children'* photoshoot on this very busy day at Parliament.

*Supporting article in The House magazine: <https://www.politicshome.com/news/uk/social-affairs/children-and-young-people/house/house-magazine/104406/start-new-chapter>

Officers

Co-Chairs – David Lammy MP & Steve Double MP

Vice Chairs – David Linden MP, Fiona Bruce MP & Jim Shannon MP

Secretary – Andrew Selous MP

Treasurer – Michael Tomlinson MP