



All Party Parliamentary Group on Fatherhood

General Meeting

Wednesday 29 January 2020, 6:30pm
Portcullis House, Grimond Room

Attendees:

David Lammy
Steve Double
Sir Peter Bottomley
Tim Loughton
Matt Western

Future Men (Secretariat):

Sean McFadden
Owen Thomas
Paul McDaniel

1. Welcome and Introduction: Co-Chairs Steve Double and David Lammy.

The meeting was declared quorate.

2. Elect / Re-Elect Officers

Unanimous votes in favour of the following:

Co-Chairs: David Lammy and Steve Double

Vice Chairs: Tim Loughton and Matt Western

Secretary: Sir Peter Bottomley

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

David Lammy suggested that Officers could reach out to Baroness Floella Benjamin to join the APPG as she may have a special interest in this area; Sir Peter Bottomley agreed to follow this up. Officers will also inform the Secretariat of other interested parties who may wish to be involved. *NB Fiona Bruce contacted David Lammy's office shortly after the meeting and expressed her interest in being an Officer.*

3. Appoint Secretariat

Future Men duly appointed.

4. Agree future themes / focus areas

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 below. It was agreed that the Co-Chairs will share the Chairing of meetings, each choosing a theme / subject area.

- Research on Young Fathers; chaired by David Lammy, early May (*precise date tbc*)
- Possible event to celebrate Father's Day, June (*Chair & precise date tbc*)
- Fathers, Family Law and Access, inviting the Ministry of Justice; chaired by both Co-Chairs, September (*precise date tba*)
- Profiling Fathers: challenges of fatherhood & reflection (*Chair & date tbc*)
- Intergenerational gaps, paternal grandparents and bringing together young and old for mutual benefit (*Chair & date tbc*)
- AGM (2021, *date tbc*)

David Lammy noted that concerns voiced in relation to Family Law issues are ready for examination, and that key stakeholders should be involved in the debate, together with a series of case studies.

Officers also discussed tabling a motion in Parliament in the run up to Father's Day (June 21) to discuss Fatherhood, which could be linked to an event at Parliament hosted by the APPG. Sir Peter Bottomley discussed an interest in reporting on 'Positive Images of Fathers', with supporting material provided by Future Men. There was additional discussion on approaching media outlets on what they are doing around promoting positive images of Fathers/Fatherhood before Father's Day.

International Men's Day on 19 November 20 was also highlighted.

5. Date of next meeting and subject

Early May 2020 *precise date tbc*; chaired by David Lammy

Subject: Research on Young Fathers, including research by Leeds Trinity University

Key areas:

- How and why do young fathers make choices about future pathways, whether education, employment, training or other choices?
- What is the reality of the experiences of these pathways as told by young fathers themselves?
- What impacts can such choices have on fatherhood and family life?
- What role do policy makers and practitioners play in supporting young fathers' future pathways.

David Lammy and Steve Double thanked all MPs for supporting the APPG on Fatherhood.