

# Introduction to Cafcass Cymru's Statements of Expectations

## Key Principles

Cafcass Cymru has a vital role in supporting children and families in family court proceedings. We advise the courts on what we consider to be in the best interests of individual children. All cases are referred to us by a court. The child's future welfare is at the heart of every decision taken by Cafcass Cymru.

We are part of the Welsh Government's Health and Social Services Group. We are accountable to both the Minister and the Director General for Health and Social Services.

We have developed a set of statements of expectation which describe the services Family Court Advisors (FCA) and Family Court Social Workers (FCSW) are able to deliver and what service we are not able to deliver.

### The following key principles underpin these statements

1. We will ensure the voice of the child is heard in Family Proceedings and we are committed to implementing the Rights of Children and Young Person's (Wales) Measure. We will ensure that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child underpins all our work with children and young people.
2. We will provide high quality independent expert advice and information to children, families and the courts. Our interventions will be strategically targeted to provide the maximum value from the resources we have available.

3. In public law proceedings we will scrutinise and review the decisions and arrangements made by the local authority and make independent recommendations to the court. We will always seek the direction of the court to ensure the matter before the court proceeds to the timetable set out, or that directions are fulfilled.
4. In private law proceedings we will strive to facilitate the earliest possible resolution in proceedings, in the best interests of the children involved. Our intervention starts with the child and stays with the child throughout the life of the case; our role is to narrow the issues for the child whilst enabling the court's understanding of how to achieve the best outcome for the child in the shortest possible timeframe.
5. We will ensure that all work is allocated so that every child receives a timely, effective and efficient service sufficient to their needs.

