



**Cafcass Cymru Advisory Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2018
Cafcass Cymru Offices, Cathays Park, Cardiff**

Present:

Andy Wallsgrove	Office of Children's Commissioner for Wales – on behalf of Rachel Thomas – Acting Chair
Paul Apreda	FNF Both Parents Matter Cymru
Eleri Butler	Welsh Women's Aid
Christopher Dunn	Voices from Care
Vivienne Laing	NSPCC (on behalf of Des Mannion)
Sharon Lovell	NYAS
Nigel Brown	Cafcass Cymru
Matthew Pinnell	Cafcass Cymru
Beth Altman	Cafcass Cymru
Matt Wright	Cafcass Cymru
Rhianon James	Cafcass Cymru (secretariat)

1. Welcome

Nigel Brown welcomed everybody to the meeting. He explained that the Chair, Jackie Murphy, was unable to attend and had sent her apologies. Nigel introduced Andy Wallsgrove and thanked him for agreeing to be Acting Chair for the meeting.

2. Introductions and Apologies

Round the table introductions were led by the Acting Chair.

Apologies were received from:

Jackie Murphy	Tros Gynnal Plant (Chair)
Sarah Coldrick	AFA Cymru
Catrin Cracroft	Law Society Representative
Denise Inger	SNAP Cymru
Gareth Jenkins	ADSS Cymru
Des Mannion	NSPCC Cymru
HHJ Helen Mifflin	Judiciary
Sean O'Neill	Children in Wales
James O'Reilly	Legal Services Commission

Zoe Richards
Dan Ronson
Rakshanda Shahzad
Hugh Simkiss
Rachel Thomas

Learning Disability Wales
Family Mediation Council
BAWSO
HMCTS
Children's Commission for Wales

3. Minutes of meeting held on 14 March 2018 – sign off prior to publication on Cafcass Cymru website

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Referrals and Performance

PA said that he was pleased how quickly up-to-date section 31 information is now available on Cafcass Cymru's website.

NB stated Cafcass Cymru is still developing the suite of performance information which will continue over the next 12 months.

MP gave an overview of the performance report. Cafcass Cymru's workload continues to increase and NB commended staff for their commitment to responding to this challenge.

Overall public law applications have increased by 25% over the past two years and this increase, although smaller is continuing. The increase is variable across Wales.

SL stated that there has been a significant increase in advocacy referrals in Gwent which correlates with Cafcass Cymru performance information.

The volume of Private Law work has increased across Wales but particularly in South Wales.

MP outlined that Cafcass Cymru has met three out of the four key performance indicators (KPIs). However, it failed to meet its target for KPI3 – section 7 reports that met their court filing date. MP acknowledged that there is work to be done to improve this but added that in the context of increasing workloads, this is quite a challenge.

The Chair thanked MP for his report. He added that the new format is very clear and easy to read.

EB asked if it would be possible to have end of year data.

Action: NB to send 2017-18 data to Advisory Committee members

6. Cafcass Cymru Innovation Programme

It was agreed that this agenda item would be covered under agenda item 8

7. Family Justice Reform Update

It remains unlikely that there will be any significant reform or new legislation relating to the Family Justice System during the term of the current Government.

NB brought to the attention of members the recently launched sector led Care Crisis Review undertaken by the Family Rights Group, into the rise in applications for care orders and the number of children in care that was published 13 June 2018. A link to the reports will be circulated to all members.

MP attended the Family Justice Board on 6 June at which Sir Andrew McFarlane was present. Sir Andrew McFarlane, a Court of Appeal judge, will take up the position of President of the Family Division when Sir James Munby retires on 27 July.

8. Approach to Private Law Work

Beth Altman, Head of Operations, South Wales, delivered a presentation entitled: “Best Practice Approach to Private Law: Child in Focus”. There followed a question and answer session. The Chair thanked Beth for her interesting and helpful information session.

Action: BA to circulate copies of the presentation to members of the Committee.

9. Review of Research and Case Law on Parental Alienation

Copies of the literature review had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the report was also available on Cafcass Cymru’s website.

10. Any Other Business

NB reminded members that the next meeting will be held on 14 November in Cardiff and will start at **9:30 am**.

The Chair thanked members of Cafcass Cymru Advisory Committee for their valuable contribution to the meeting.

ACTION SHEET

Agenda item number	Action	Lead
Item 5: Referrals and Performance	Nigel Brown to send 2017-18 data to Advisory Committee	Nigel Brown
Item 8: Approach to Private Law Work	Beth Altman to circulate copies of the presentation to members of the Committee.	Beth Altman