



**Cafcass Cymru Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2018  
Cafcass Cymru Offices, Cathays Park, Cardiff**

**Present:**

Jackie Murphy	Chair
Paul Apreda (PA)	FNF Both Parents Matter Cymru
Eleri Butler (EB)	Welsh Women's Aid
Catrin Cracroft (CC)	Law Society Representative
Peter Curran (PC)	HMCTS ( <i>on behalf of Hugh Simkiss</i> )
Denise Inger (DI)	SNAP Cymru
Gareth Jenkins (GJ)	ADSS Cymru
Des Mannion (DM)	NSPCC Cymru
Sharon Lovell (SL)	NYAS Cymru
Sean Oneill (SO)	Children in Wales
Dan Ronson (DR)	Family Mediation Council
Rakshanda Shahzad (RS)	BAWSO
Rachel Thomas (RT)	Children's Commissioner for Wales
Sharon Eastlake (SE)	Care Inspectorate Wales (observer)
Nigel Brown (NB)	Cafcass Cymru
Matthew Pinnell (MP)	Cafcass Cymru
Rhianon James (RJ)	Cafcass Cymru (secretariat)

---

**1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

**2. Introductions and Apologies**

Round the table introductions were led by the Chair.

Apologies were received from:

Sarah Coldrick	AFA Cymru
Zoe Richards	Learning Disability Wales
Hugh Simkiss	HMCTS
Sue Thomas	Magistrates Association

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 18 June 2018 – sign off prior to publication on Cafcass Cymru website**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### **4. Matters arising**

NB reported on his meeting with Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division, which was held on 13 November. The President intends to establish a work stream to focus on public law work and another to focus on private law work. MP added that the meeting had provided an opportunity to emphasise the importance of having representation from Wales on both these work streams.

### **5. Referrals and Performance**

#### *Public Law*

NB provided an overview of the referrals and performance figures covering 1 April 2018 to 31 October 2018. The year to date has seen a further 1% increase in section 31 referrals across Wales. However, there is an inconsistent picture across areas, with Mid and West Wales seeing a 22% increase in the first six months of this year whilst South West has seen a 17% fall.

In response to PA's query regarding the reasons for the increase in section 31 referrals, GJ stated that the reasons are complex but include austerity, deprivation, neglect, substance abuse and an increase in poor mental health. NB added that MoJ is undertaking a further piece of work in South East Wales with two local authorities, to examine what is driving the increase in section 31 applications. The report is due out in spring 2019.

#### *Private Law*

NB reported that private law work has seen a further small increase. There has been a 3.9% increase in safeguarding reports in the first six months of 2018-19.

NB reported on Cafcass Cymru's Child Impact Analysis tool which will be implemented across Wales by the end of the financial year. NB stated that he had shared this at a recent meeting of the All Wales Heads of Children's Services. It had been positively received and there was interest in all local authorities adopting the approach. Three local authorities, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend, agreed to be test areas post April 2019.

#### *Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)*

The second quarter of 2018-19 saw continued good performance against the KPIs, particularly in terms of timeliness of allocation. There was also an overall improvement in KPI 3 around the filing of court reports.

## 6. Family Justice Observatory

- **Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) Project**

MP reported that amongst its recommendations, the Family Justice Review in November 2011 pointed to the system-wide need for improved dissemination and identification of research. Following this, a piece of scoping work was undertaken around the need for a Family Justice Observatory (FJO) for Wales and England. Subsequently, the Nuffield Foundation has agreed to fund for five years the development of a FJO. In order to support the work of the FJO the Nuffield Foundation has also agreed to fund a Data Platform and Analytics Service (DPAS). This will involve the transfer and availability of anonymised data that can be used by researchers for meaningful system-wide enquiry across key issues. Cafcass Cymru and Cafcass England are currently working with the FJO to transfer the organisations' administrative data in to SAIL Databank at Swansea University. SAIL already hosts Welsh health and education data and therefore the opportunities around data linking and outcome focused enquiry become very exciting. PA asked if it would be possible to invite someone from FJO to talk at a future Advisory Committee meeting.

**Action:** MP to arrange for someone from FJO to provide an overview of the FJO and SAIL project at a future meeting.

## 7. Cafcass Cymru Innovation Programme

- **Safeguarding Enquiry Report (SER) Pilot**

NB updated the meeting on the outcome of the SER Pilot that has previously been presented to the members of the Advisory Committee. The evaluation of the pilot was very positive and the decision has been taken to appoint five Safeguarding Enquiry Officers to permanently adopt this model of working.

- **Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement (QALI)**

MP provided a summary report of the first quarter of the Practice Review Model. The Practice Review Model is a key component of Cafcass Cymru's Quality Assurance Learning and Improvement (QALI) Framework and was launched in April 2018. A further summary report will be presented to the next Advisory Committee focused on the quality of court reports.

SL said that she really enjoyed reading this paper as the child's voice is clearly represented. She asked if children and young people ever provide feedback. MP stated that Cafcass Cymru encourages feedback from children and young people and is working closely with the Family Justice Young People's Board to develop additional ways of Cafcass Cymru receiving feedback.

PA asked if Cafcass Cymru would be publishing quality reports. NB responded that it is Cafcass Cymru's intention to develop the current format of its annual report to include a quality report. DM said it would be helpful to look at how quality reviews are completed.

EB commended Cafcass Cymru for this piece of work adding that she appreciated that the model is still at the first stage of design and delivery. She stated that she found it really useful. She queried reference to an area identified for learning around the insufficient use of tools.

In response to these comments, NB agreed to share some anonymised quality audits at the next meeting. NB also confirmed work is ongoing to review the number of assessment tools available.

**Action:** Second quarter of the Practice Review Model to be included on future agenda.

**Action:** MP to bring a case study and procedure to a future meeting.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- **Child Friendly Version of Cafcass Cymru Annual Report**

MP shared a draft version of Cafcass Cymru Annual Report aimed at young people. Once it has been shared with young people MP will send the website link to Advisory Committee members.

**Action:** MP to send website link to Advisory Committee members

## **9. Dates for 2019**

The dates for 2019 meeting were confirmed as follows:

19 March 2019 – 09:30 11:30

3 July 2019 – 09:30 – 11:30

6 November 2019 – 09:30 – 11:30

All meetings will be held in Cardiff.

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

## ACTION SHEET

Agenda item number	Action	Lead
<b>Item 6:</b> Family Justice Observatory – SAIL Project	MP to arrange for someone from FJO to provide an overview of the FJO and SAIL project at a future meeting.	Matthew Pinnell
<b>Item 7:</b> Cafcass Cymru Innovation Programme – Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement (QALI)	<p>Second quarter of the Practice Review Model to be included on future agenda.</p> <p>MP to bring a case study and procedure to a future meeting.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Matthew Pinnell</p>
<b>Item 8:</b> Any Other business – Child Friendly Version of Cafcass Cymru Annual Report	MP to send website link to Advisory Committee members	Matthew Pinnell