



**Cafcass Cymru Advisory Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2019
Cafcass Cymru Offices, Cathays Park, Cardiff**

Present:

Jackie Murphy (JM)	Chair
Paul Apreda (PA)	FNF Both Parents Matter Cymru
Beth Flowers (BF)	Office of Children's Commissioner for Wales
Eleri Butler (EB)	Welsh Women's Aid
Gareth Jenkins (GJ)	ADSS Cymru
Sean O'Neill (SO)	Children in Wales
Dan Ronson (DR)	Family Mediation Council
Karen Broadhurst (KB)	Lancaster University
Linda Cusworth (LC)	Lancaster University
Nigel Brown (NB)	Cafcass Cymru
Matthew Pinnell (MP)	Cafcass Cymru
Vikki Sweeney (VS)	Cafcass Cymru (secretariat)
Matt Wright (MW)	Cafcass Cymru

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:

Catrin Cracroft	Law Society Representative
Sharon Lovell	NYAS Cymru
Des Mannion	NSPCC Cymru
Judge Helen Mifflin	Judiciary
James O'Reilly	Legal Services Commission
Rakhshanda Shahzad	South Wales BAWSO
Zoe Richards	Learning Disability Wales
Hugh Simkiss	HMCTS
Sarah Coldrick	AFA Cymru
Denise Inger	Snap Cymru

3. Minutes of meeting held on 9 July 2019 – sign off prior to publication on Cafcass Cymru website

Agreed - There were no amendment to the minutes.

4. Matters arising

No other matters arising.

5. Referrals and Performance

Public Law

NB provided an overview of the referrals and performance figures covering 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019. There had been a decrease in the number of section 31 applications but the overall number of public law referrals remains consistent.

Private Law

NB reported that there continues to be an increase in the number and complexity of private law referrals.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Work is continuing to be undertaken to improve KPI3.

6. Family Justice Observatory (FJO) and Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) project – Presentation

Professor Karen Broadhurst Lancaster University and Dr Linda Cusworth Lancaster University, delivered a presentation of The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory Data Partnership. Since 2015, the Nuffield Foundation has been funding the development of a Family Justice Observatory:

- To Support best possible outcomes for Children who come into contact with the Family Justice system in England and Wales
- Improving access to and use of data and research evidence
- Work with stakeholders to identify issues for action
- Generate new evidence and insights
- Make more use of existing evidence through translation and mobilisation

The first report published using Cafcass Cymru data was “Born into Care (Wales)” which mirrors a similar piece of research undertaken in England. The future work plan was shared with members of the Advisory Committee.

The Chair thanked Karen and Linda for their stimulating presentation which provoked a very lively and informative discussion.

Action: VS to circulate copies of The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory Data Partnership presentation.

7. Cafcass Cymru Strategic Plan

NB informed committee members that staff have been engaged in the development of the new Cafcass Cymru strategic plan. The draft plan was presented to members of the Advisory Committee for their views and contribution. Members were asked to forward any comments to NB by 15 November.

Action: VS to circulate copies of the draft Strategic Plan to members.

8. Cafcass Cymru Response to the Private and Public Law Consultation

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

NB will circulate an embargoed copy of the Cafcass Cymru Annual Report to members of the Advisory Committee 2 days prior to publication.

10. Dates for 2019

The next meeting will be held on:

18 March 2020 09:30-11:30 – Welsh Government Office, Cardiff
30 June 2020 09:30 -11:30 – Welsh Government Office, Cardiff
3 November 2020 09:30-11:30 – Welsh Government, Office, Cardiff

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

ACTION SHEET

Agenda item number	Action	Lead
Item 6 – Family Justice Observatory (FJO) and Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL)Project- Presentation	Secretariat to circulate copies The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory Data Partnership Presentation	Secretariat
Item 7 – Cafcass Cymru Strategic Plan	Secretariat to circulate copies of Cafcass Cymru Strategic Plan	Secretariat