

Press Information

Immediate Release: 0900 Tuesday 17th June 2008



CAFCASS ANNUAL REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED IN JULY

Cafcass, the organisation that looks after children's interests in the family courts, today announces that the publication date of the 2007-08 Annual Report will be July 16th 2008.

As an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body the Annual Report will be laid before Parliament.

Cafcass Chief Executive Anthony Douglas says:

"This year has seen many significant changes within Cafcass as we continue to build an organisation that delivers high quality outcomes for children and families. Whilst we know we perform strongly against the majority of our statutory functions and our key performance indicators we also know that we need to improve the quality of our practice particularly in private law. Cafcass has been given an excellent three-year budget settlement that will allow us to deliver on this improvement agenda.

The 2007-08 Annual Report will cover the implementation of our new structure – designed to support stronger practice performance – and the transformation of our practice models. There was also important work to improve business processes in IT, finance and complaints, all of which are essential elements for a still young organisation."

- ends -

Notes for Editors:

- The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) was formed as a new service for England and Wales on 1 April 2001 as part of the Government's commitment to supporting families and children. It brought together the services previously provided by the Family Court Welfare Service, the Guardian ad Litem Services and the Children's divisions of the Official Solicitor's Office.
- Cafcass has a statutory responsibility to ensure that children and young people are put first in family proceedings, that their voices are heard, the decisions made about them by courts are in their best interests and that they and their families are supported throughout the process. We operate within the law set by Parliament and under the rules and directions of the family courts.
- Cafcass' role is to work with Children and Families in the family courts. The following list provides some examples of the types of cases we work with:-
 - Adoption (public law)
 - Care Orders (public law)
 - Emergency Protection Orders (public law)
 - Residency and contact following divorce and separation (private law)

- Cafcass is sponsored by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and is a non-departmental public body.
- For the year 2006-2007 CAF/CASS promoted the interests of 80,536 children. This does not factor in the work we do with children and their families in dispute resolution and our support of contact centres.
- Cafcass recently established a Young People's Board who have experience of our services. They advise us on matters of policy and practice.
- Cafcass' new National Standards are available for download at our new website www.cafcass.gov.uk
- For 2008-09 Cafcass is implementing a major practice improvement programme to improve the quality and consistency of frontline practice.

For further information:

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