

Advert for Cafcass Research Advisory Committee member (voluntary)

Are you interested in helping us set the research agenda for cutting-edge studies that improve how the family justice system functions for children and families? The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) is looking to recruit external academic researchers with significant experience in family justice research to join its Research Advisory Committee.

The Committee is responsible for making decisions on and overseeing external and internal research, ensuring that the research we support helps to inform practice developments and the wider family justice system. Researchers work with Cafcass staff, children and families that consent to participation in interviews and surveys, or case-related data.

Members will play a critical role in ensuring research that we support helps to inform practice developments and the wider family justice system, as part of our partnership with the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory.

About Cafcass and the role

Cafcass represents children in family court cases in England. We put children's needs, wishes and feelings first, making sure that children's voices are heard at the heart of the family court setting, and that decisions are made in their best interests. We support research that helps inform our practice and influence policy across the family justice system, steered by our Research Advisory Committee.

We are looking to recruit up to six new members to our existing Research Advisory Committee. Experienced family justice researchers are encouraged to apply, particularly those with specialist knowledge in any of the following areas: machine learning and its application to children's experiences; evaluation expertise; data visualisation; domestic violence and its impact on children.

Principal responsibilities for Committee members:

- Offer technical advice and quality assurance when considering internal and external research applications looking to access Cafcass and Cafcass Cymru resources
- Provide independent assurance for Cafcass and Cafcass Cymru for research applications approved through the SAIL Databank.
- Support Cafcass and Cafcass Cymru in the delivery and publication of studies which assist in building up a body of evidence about the needs and experiences of children and families involved in the family justice system
- Advise on technical and strategic developments in external research and their implications for Cafcass and Cafcass Cymru's practice and commissioned services.
- Provide technical and methodological advice and expertise as required on internal research and analysis, including projects conducted in collaboration with external partners.
- Update the Performance and Quality Committee with an account of its work on a bi-annual basis.
- Ensure the Research Governance Framework is up to date and aligned with organisational priorities.

Committee members meet face-to-face twice a year, with reasonable travel expenses reimbursed in line with Cafcass policy, e.g. standard class rail, or standard mileage rate

How to apply

To apply, please submit your CV, along with a brief covering statement on what you can offer to the Committee, to Saif Ullah, Senior Research and Evaluation Manager, at saif.ullah@cafcass.gov.uk. If you would like to informally discuss the role prior to applying, please get in touch.

The closing date for applications is **5pm on Friday 8th May 2020**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview in **mid/late May 2020**.

For further information about Cafcass research and our data, please visit our website at <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/about-cafcass/research-and-data/>

Location: Remote, with bi-annual travel to Committee meetings

Salary: Unpaid volunteer but will be able to claim reasonable expenses in line with Cafcass policy

Closing date 8th May 2020