



CHILDREN AND FAMILY COURT ADVISORY AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Paper for the Cafcass Board meeting on 9 October 2019

UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KEY POINTS

- Final data on demand during September 2019 will not be reported until after the date of this briefing. Weekly tracking however shows no material change in previous trends where private law referrals continue to rise. Overall public law is steady in numbers, but the mix of case types points to increasingly demanding work.
- The consultation period for the Public and Private Law Judicial Working Groups is near close at the time of writing and our response will have been submitted following Board scrutiny and contributions.
- We hope to be able to conclude work on our pay settlement within the next two months, pending MOJ approval.
- We have received the outcome of the audit by the Information Commissioners Office and are working on a programme of activities to add assurance in a small number of areas.

1 AIM AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an overview of progress regarding our practice, people and partners.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BOARD

- 2.1 To note this overview and forward look.

3. PRACTICE

- 3.1 The most recent available data at the time of writing was reported in the previous Board Briefing.

3.2 *Consultation Responses on the Public and Private Law Judicial Working Group proposals*

A draft response to the consultations was shared with the Board on the 20 September 2019, following discussion at the Board Briefing on the 9 September 2019. Final submissions are to be made by the 30 September 2019.

4. PEOPLE

4.1 *Civil Service Pay Guidance 2019/20*

We have submitted our Business Case to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for an award in line with MOJ guidance. When approval has been received we will be able to speak with Trade Union representatives as we communicate the award with staff.

5. PARTNERS

5.1 *Presentation to the MOJ Executive Committee (Exco)*

On 24 September 2019, the Chief Executive and Director of Resources attended Exco in response to their request to build their relations with and understanding of the work of their sponsored ALBs. We were able to explain the challenges and also the opportunities faced by the organisation and where there were areas for future collaboration and system leadership.

6. ORGANISATION

6.1 *Information Commissioners Office (ICO)*

The ICO conducted a focused audit in August 2019 in response to their concerns regarding the numbers of data breaches we had reported. Their draft report was issued on the 10 September 2019 and a separate briefing has been prepared and circulated to the Board on the key points raised. A detailed paper will be presented to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee in December 2019.

6.2 *Progress with Board member recruitment*

Our business case for the recruitment of three new members from April 2020 and the extension of a further member's contract from November 2020 has been agreed. The recruitment process has now commenced and arrangements are in hand with the MOJ Public Appointments Team to convene the interview panel.

7. KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER

7.1 The contents of this report provide an update on activities in support of the three pillars of our revised strategy during the period since the last briefing on the 9 September 2019.

8. IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

8.1 The focus of all our activities to improve practice, develop a talented resilient workforce and bring our influence to bear on current and future systems and policy is towards benefiting the children we currently and will come to work with.

9 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

10 RISK ANALYSIS

10.1 There are no direct risk issues arising from this report.

11 DIVERSITY ANALYSIS

11.1 There are no direct diversity implications arising from this report.

**Jacky Tiotto,
Chief Executive,
26 September 2019**