



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY COURT ADVISORY AND SUPPORT SERVICE**  
**Paper for the Board Meeting on 9 June 2016**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND RISK ASSURANCE COMMITTEE 2015/16**

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**KEY POINTS**

- The Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) for 2015/16 has been drafted in line with good practice requirements.
- The purpose of the report is to present a summary of the ARAC's business for the year in a way which ensures that Cafcass complies with the Corporate governance in central government departments: Code of Good Practice 2011.
- The Terms of Reference for the ARAC are to be reviewed and updated.

**1. AIM AND PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present the 2015/16 Annual Report of the ARAC to the Cafcass Board.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION FOR THE BOARD**

- 2.1 To approve the 2015/16 Annual Report of the ARAC.  
2.2 To review and, if necessary, update, the Terms of Reference of the ARAC.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 This report provides an overview summary of the business of the ARAC covering the period 2015/16.  
3.2 The Corporate governance in central government departments: Code of good practice 2011 requires that the Board receive annually a report on the work of the ARAC. The Chair of the ARAC reports orally back to the Board following every meeting of the Committee and the minutes from every meeting of the ARAC are included in the Board papers. The purpose of this report is to present to the Board a summary of the ARAC's business for the year in a way which ensures that Cafcass complies with the code.

**4. KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE ARAC TO CONSIDER**

- 4.1 The terms of reference of the ARAC, as set out at Appendix A in the Annual Report, are to be reviewed and approved annually by the Board.

**Julie Brown, Director of Resources**

**18 May 2016**