

QUALITY COMMITTEE OF THE CAFCASS BOARD

PREABLE AND REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

(AS AGREED AT THE JUNE 2013 QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING)

Preamble

The Quality Committee is a committee of the Cafcass Board. It has delegated authority from the Cafcass Board to oversee the quality of casework and the impact of that work on service users, Cafcass the courts. The Committee is charged with scrutinising the outcomes of internal practice audits and of external reviews and inspections of Cafcass practice. The Committee is required to report regularly to the Board and to bring to the Board for full discussion any matters that require the Board's attention. The Committee is also asked to review the steps being taken by the organisation to minimise and mitigate the inherent risks to children arising through the work of Cafcass and to work with the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee to define respective responsibilities in this regard. Finally, the Committee is charged with developing an Annual Quality Account setting out how Cafcass is seeking to continuously improve the quality of everything it does. This includes all services, not just front line services.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE QUALITY COMMITTEE

1. To give assurance to the Board that Cafcass is continuously improving and how it is mitigating risks to quality, including work on resilience, equality and diversity as set out in the Strategic Plan, through:
 - Considering the activities and developments aimed at improving the quality of practice of Cafcass and improving outcomes for the children it serves;
 - Considering Ofsted reports, data relating to Cafcass submissions to Serious Case Reviews, and the outcomes of local service area health checks and practice audits, where these involve major findings and/or major learning points and receiving reports on the implementation of action plans;
 - Receiving and considering, on a six monthly basis, reports about internal practice audits carried out in local service areas, including audits of safeguarding and quality of practice;
 - Considering major revisions to the public and private law practice models as they are being developed;
 - Considering planned innovations to practice and work to strengthen internal systems;
 - Maintaining effective links with the Research Governance Committee;
2. To discuss practice issues in depth, relating to the fulfilment of Cafcass' functions, referring any major issues to the whole Board.
3. To request and consider new reports into any aspect of Cafcass' work and make appropriate recommendations for action.
4. To provide the Board on an annual basis with a Quality Account which sets out Cafcass's work on maintaining and improving quality of practice, child protection and safeguarding children's welfare. The Quality Account covers all Cafcass services, not just front line services.

NB: These Terms of Reference incorporate the Terms of Reference of the previous Child Protection Board and the previous Board Practice Committee.

NB1: This Committee will meet quarterly, usually half way between Board meetings, so that the 4 meetings are appropriately spaced

NB2: The quorum for this Committee is 3 members