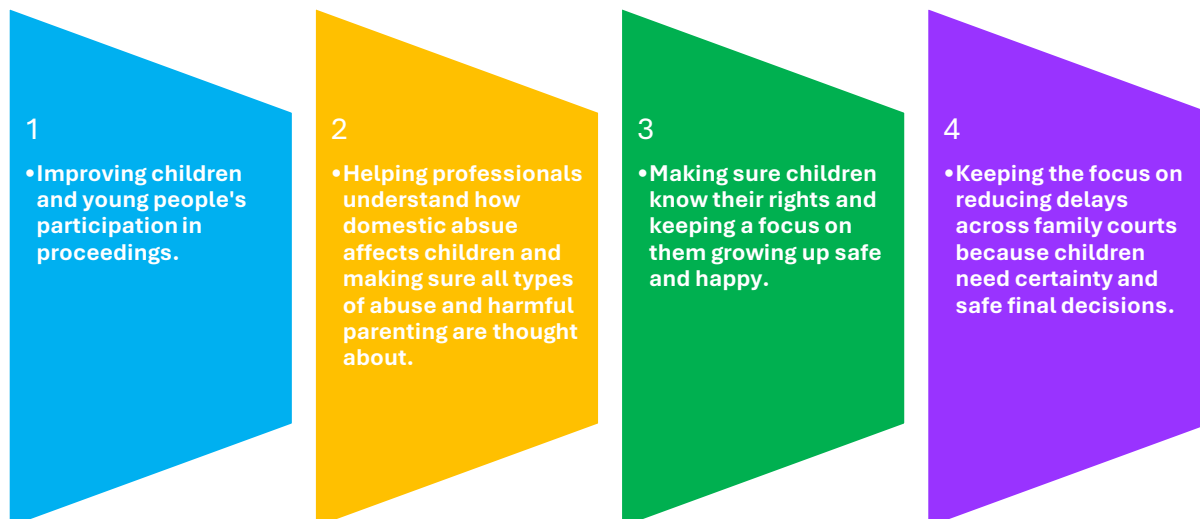


FJYPB 2025 – 2028 Priorities



We are proud to be sponsored and supported by Cafcass and we will maintain our support in the development of their strategic priorities within our work programme. In addition, we will continue to work with our external partners to advocate for the voices of children and young people as detailed below in our 2025 – 2028 priorities.

FJYPB Priority 1: Improving children and young people's participation in proceedings.

Cafcass Strategic priorities linking our work programme

- **Seeing and Engaging with Children.** FJYPB to support the development of new technology and a new 'app' to replace 'How it looks to me' as well as working with Cafcass to develop the third animation in the 'Taking me Seriously' film series. Driving further improvement in the quality and impact of planning alongside recommendations being effectively shared consistently.
- **Complaints.** 1. Reviewing learning, 2. Evaluating Language and 3. Feedback letters.
- **Safe Family Time Guidance.** Supporting how this guidance is embedded into practice, so that children's safety and welfare are central at all times in the arrangements that are made.
- **Cafcass annual regional performance boards.** Challenge each region and the senior team about what they understand of children's experiences, how and what they do in response.

- **Improving child and family arrangements service.** Promote the inclusion of children and young people in this work as it develops and include a review of the changes required for children whose proceedings are heard in a pathfinder court.

Work with our external partners

- **Connected children.** Maintain focus on the unique experiences of all children, particularly identifying and safeguarding connected children.

FJYPB Priority 2: Helping professionals understand how domestic abuse affects children and making sure all types of abuse and harmful parenting are thought about

Cafcass Strategic priorities linking our work programme

- **The national Cafcass practice reference group:** Continue to co-chair and advocate for children and young people who experience domestic abuse, influencing Cafcass practice through lived children's experiences.
- **Practice materials.** Enhance the experiences of child victims through effective engagement and use by family court advisers and children's guardians of specialist materials that enable young people to communicate the impact of being a victim of domestic abuse.

Work with our external partners

- **Safe family time.** Continue to promote the Safe Family Time guidance across public and private law proceedings, focusing on embedding practices that keep children safe and feeling safe, including interim arrangements.
- **Returning home.** Exploring the impact on children and young people of the practice of returning children home when they have experienced harm.

FJYPB Priority 3: Making sure children know their rights and keeping a focus on them growing up safe and happy.

Cafcass Strategic priorities linking our work programme

- **Working with family justice professionals.** Continue to work with the family justice system - Cafcass, Cafcass Cymru, National Family Justice Board, Ministry of Justice, the Judiciary and the Department for Education (DfE)
- **Independent reviewing officers (IROs).** In public law proceedings, support Cafcass to evaluate and further develop the letters to IROs, asking specifically how children have experienced them.
- **Uniqueness.** Support Cafcass in its national priority, making sure that every child's experience is well described in the context of their needs and what makes them special and unique.

Work with our external partners

- **Communication.** Create resources and co-develop guides that enable children and young people to understand the decision being made about their lives and have influence over how they shared.
- **Children's rights.** Promote services that share and explain the rights of children and young people within the family law system and beyond.

FJYPB Priority 4: Keeping the focus on reducing delays across family courts because children need certainty and safe final decisions.

Cafcass Strategic priorities linking our work programme

- **Different experiences for children depending on where they live.** Work collaboratively with Cafcass leadership teams and regional partners to focus on the causes of variation and the actions to reduce this range of experiences for children and their families.
- **National Family Justice Board's priorities.** Continue to attend as members and to support the board in keeping the experiences of children at the centre of proceedings – including the impact of delay on them.

Work with our external partners

- **Challenging delay.** Enable children and young people to challenge senior family justice system leaders (inclusive of Cafcass) on the actions they are taking to reduce delay in the family courts. This includes considering timetables, care plans, and the necessity of other information for the court (addendum or expert reports) that may extend durations unnecessarily.
- **Evaluating pathfinder reforms.** Involving members in the evaluation of this new way of working, making sure that timeliness does not take priority over the quality of children and families experiences and arrangements.
- **Child inclusive mediation.** Consider how to promote the involvement of children and young people in early resolutions to safe future arrangements with their families