



## CHILDREN AND FAMILY COURT ADVISORY AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Paper for the Board meeting on 10 October 2018

### Board Membership

#### KEY POINTS

- *The Board Regulations allow for the 'Service to co-opt up to five co-opted members to provide expertise to the Service'.*
- *It is proposed to co-opt Sophie Humphreys, founder and former CEO of Pause, onto the Board, as the second co-opted member after Joanna Nicolas.*
- *Sophie's work with Pause as well as her all-round experience will add to the Board's existing skill set.*

#### 1. AIM AND PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to update the Board on the appointment of a new co-opted member.

#### 2. ACTION FOR THE BOARD

- 2.1. To note the co-option of a new Board member, which is within the gift of the Cafcass Chair.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Board is fully resourced in accordance with the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Membership, Committee and Procedure) Regulations 2005 (the Regulations), which sets out that the 'Secretary of State is to appoint the Chairman of the Service and 9 other appointed members'.
- 3.2. The Regulations allow for the 'Service to co-opt up to five co-opted members to provide expertise to the Service'.
- 3.3. The Board has one co-opted member at present. From time to time and since Cafcass was established, individuals with different skills have been co-opted onto the Board.

#### 4. KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER

- 4.1. The Chair proposes to co-opt Sophie Humphreys onto the Board for the reasons set out.
- 4.2. Sophie was the founder of Pause and has recently stepped down as its CEO. Pause is a highly relevant organisation for Cafcass as it works with women who have experienced, or are at risk of, children being removed from their care on a permanent basis. This cycle is often repeated and is often inter-generational as well, adding to its complexity. Pause and similar programmes aim to give women the opportunity to pause and take control of their lives with the aim of supporting women on the programme to care safely for future children and thereby prevent those children being borne automatically into care. Sophie is also a highly experienced independent advisor on child protection and safeguarding.

4.3. Sophie's co-option will commence on 1 November on consistent terms with other Board member appointments.

**Anthony Douglas, CBE, Chief Executive**  
**Nicola Blakebrough, Corporate Strategist**  
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