



Priority Number	What have we done? (Brief description of safeguarding activity over reporting period)	How well did we do it? (What the agency has learnt from its performance information - Quality and Effectiveness of Safeguarding Arrangements and Practice)	What difference did it make?
<p><b>Priority One:</b>  <i>Board members are assured that arrangements are in place to identify and safeguard groups of children who are particularly vulnerable</i></p>	<p>CAFCASS has a Child Protection Policy which sets out the requirements placed by CAFCASS, on its staff and contractors, relating to its statutory function of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It details the procedures to be followed when completing a section 16A CA1989 risk assessment; making a child protection referral; taking urgent action to protect a child; and responding to an allegation made against a person who works with children. It also alerts staff to the requirements placed upon them in respect of child exploitation and female genital mutilation, and the resources available to support staff in this area of work.</p> <p>Risk is being managed through screening of incoming public law applications by a Service manager within 24hrs of receipt</p>	<p>Recent OFSTED inspection (Feb 2018) identified that in the vast majority of private law children's cases, safeguarding information is sufficiently analysed and informed by the views and assessments of relevant professionals, family members and children. Children's cases sampled, tracked and audited during this inspection show that for the majority of children, FCAs add significant value to safeguarding vulnerable children and their families in work for and after the first hearing.</p> <p>In Private Law CAFCASS has successfully met its internal and external targets, including all key performance indicators.</p> <p>OFSTED identified that Children and families who are the subject of public law proceedings receive</p>	<p>CAFCASS practitioners' effective and authoritative practice adds value and leads to better outcomes for most children. The provision of cogent, well-balanced and analytical risk assessments assists the courts to make child-centred and safe decisions.</p> <p>Strong, evidence-based and succinct reports to court by CAFCASS minimise the need for experts. They also reduce delay and the need for further appointments.</p> <p>Timely initial risk assessments ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded.</p> <p>Well established screening processes ensure that children are helped and protected in a timely manner.</p>



	<p>and timely allocation to a guardian.</p> <p>CAFCASS works closely with Local court forums (i.e. LFJBs) to look at overall performance issues in order to prevent drift for children which in itself is safeguarding from emotional harm</p>	<p>an excellent service. Children’s guardians provide timely and high-quality advice to the court in the majority of cases. Risk is identified, analysed and managed effectively throughout the proceedings.</p> <p>Key performance information shows that any newly received public law application is being allocated within an average of 1-2 days of receipt by CAFCASS.</p>	<p>Timely allocation and sharing early analysis with the courts assists in preventing delay for children and young people.</p>
<p><b>Priority Two:</b> <i>Board partners will own and share accurate information which informs understanding of safeguarding practice and improvement as a result</i></p>	<p>CAFCASS is a statutory Board partner of every Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in England, under s13 (3) of the Children Act 2004.</p> <p>CAFCASS London has its internal LSCB Strategy clearly outlining how effective representation of CAFCASS can be established. This includes:</p> <p>a) Oversight of LSCB agendas and papers, and a contribution on those matters that fall within Cafcass’ functions, operations and areas of local interest;</p>	<p>Attendance at the board meeting as well as individual meetings with the independent LSCB chair have enabled the sharing of information regarding relevant developments of the organisation and has allowed CAFCASS to understand developments and challenges within the LA that might impact on CAFCASS work.</p> <p>CAFCASS contributes to approximately 25 Serious Case Reviews (SCR) per year, and to a small number of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). To ensure that our contributions are</p>	<p>CAFCASS’ principal areas of expertise lie in public law (effecting compliance with the PLO, Emergency Protection Orders, children missing from care, Secure Accommodation Orders, child exploitation, the CAFCASS/IRO protocol, post-proceedings work) and private law. CAFCASS is often the only safeguarding agency involved in private law proceedings.</p> <p>The clear guidance about when children’s cases should be referred to the local authority due to safeguarding concerns and</p>



	<p>b) Managers being established in the LSCB; making meaningful contributions to the Board meetings</p> <p>c) Attendance at LSCB training events that relate to Cafcass' functions and disseminating this training locally</p> <p>d) Acting as the identified link with whom the LSCB can liaise, and who will respond quickly to requests from the LSCB to provide information;</p> <p>e) Managers sharing LSCB information across public and private law in view of the liaison role that they have with the LA's</p> <p>CAFCASS will upon request contribute to: Serious Case Reviews (SCRs); s11 audits; and LSCB annual reports</p>	<p>made effectively, a serious incident notification (SIN) procedure is in place to help staff understand which incidents need to be notified, and how.</p> <p>CAFCASS is not named within the Children Act 2004 as an organisation to which s11 applies but contributes to such audits as a statutory board partner through the provision of a corporate submission.</p>	<p>CAFCASS's operating framework provide unambiguous direction on expected standards, making children and their needs a priority.</p>
<p><b>Priority Three:</b> <i>The Board will see children and young people as valued partners and consult with them,</i></p>	<p>CAFCASS funds the running and operation of the Family Justice Young People's board (FJYPB). This is a a group of over 50</p>	<p>The FJYPB hosted its sixth annual Voice of the Child conference in Manchester in July 2018 the conference was</p>	<p>The FJYPB promotes the voice of children and young people that experience family breakdown including those children and</p>



<p><i>so their views are heard and included in the work of the LSCB</i></p>	<p>children and young people aged between seven and 25 years old who live across England and Wales. All members have either had direct experience of the family justice system or have an interest in children’s rights and the family courts.</p> <p>Court reports by CAFCASS are enhanced by using the child’s own words, resulting in the powerful voice of children informing recommendations to the court.</p> <p>CAFCASS has a formal complaint/feedback process for children and young people in place allowing them to tell us what has gone well or if they are happy about the service we provided.</p>	<p>completely child-led and focused on the theme of resilience. The FJYPB is currently working with the CAFCASS National Improvement Service to develop a voice of the child eLearning module for practitioners.</p> <p>Members of the FJYPB regularly inspect CAFCASS offices/waiting rooms to ensure they are child friendly, accessible and suitable for all children and young people.</p> <p>In 2017 the FJYPB has completed 12 court reviews across England and 4 across Wales, they have undertaken 25 supervised contact centre inspections and 3 supported contact centres.</p> <p>The FJYPB delivered presentations and workshop training at a variety of professional events such as development days, Local Family Justice Board conferences, judicial meetings and for voluntary agencies.</p> <p>The FJYPB continues to train professionals such as CAFCASS staff, social workers, judiciary,</p>	<p>young people who are involved in family court proceedings.</p> <p>The FJYPB has been active in persuading national organisations to change aspect of how they work to make them more child-friendly, child-inclusive and child-focused. They have persuaded some of the most senior leaders in the land to change policy to be more child-inclusive e.g., the new proposed Practice direction for children’s evidence and child witnesses in family proceedings.</p>
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<p><b>Priority Four:</b>  <i>Arrangements for Early Help will be embedded across agencies in Barking &amp; Dagenham who work with children, young people, and their families</i></p>	<p>CAFCASS direct provision of early help intervention is minimal. CAFCASS’s professionally qualified social work practitioners, work exclusively in the family courts. CAFCASS provides the judiciary with the advice, information and recommendations they need to make a safe decision about each child’s future.</p> <p>CAFCASS’ founding legislation provides a general function which is to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. This will include the making of Child in Need or Child Protection referrals to the LA that may lead to the provision of Early Intervention Services provided by the LA.</p>		



<p><b>Priority Five:</b>  <i>Board partners will challenge practice through focused inquiries or reviews based on performance indicators, practitioner experience and views from children and young people. Collectively we will learn and improve from these reviews.</i></p>	<p>Performance management is a key priority for CAFCASS. Key strengths and areas for development, identified in CAFCASS's self-assessment, are used to inform both management understanding of the quality of practice and individual staff development</p> <p>CAFCASS is actively contributing to the Care Crisis Review, a sector-wide initiative that aims to stem the increase in care cases and promote safe and beneficial outcomes for children.</p> <p>CAFCASS is also undertaking innovative projects that seek to improve practice, promote good outcomes for children and make better use of limited resources. An example is the three assessment pathways that we have been developing – domestic abuse; high-conflict; and parental alienation.</p>	<p>In February and March 2018 OFSTED undertook its second national inspection of CAFCASS, making an overall judgement of outstanding. OFSTED found that practice was effective and authoritative, helping courts to make child-centred and safe decisions, adding value and leading to better outcomes for children. The overall judgement was influenced by many factors including: the exceptional corporate and operational leadership; sensitive and knowledgeable direct work undertaken with children in relation to a wide range of diversity issues; the culture of continuous learning and improvement; and a strong aspiration to 'get it right' for vulnerable children.</p>	<p>A rigorous, strength-based performance framework supports the delivery of good and outstanding services nationally and locally.</p> <p>CAFCASS's well established strategic relationships with its key family justice partners (Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Services (HMCTS), the Judiciary and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) have led to creative and innovative services nationally and locally.</p>