



## Experts in the Family Justice System (EFJS) Committee

### Regional Committees: Terms of Reference

1. The Report of the President's Working Group on Experts in the Family Justice System was published on the 5 November 2020:  
<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Working-Group-on-Medical-Experts-Final-Report-v.7.pdf>
2. Recommendation 22 was:  
*'the establishment of regional 'experts in the family justice system' committees under the Patronage of the Family Division Liaison Judge with co-chairs from a judge and health/ medical expert in the region. The committee would be comprised of legal and medical/healthcare professionals in order to address the shortage of medical experts and to implement at a regional level the recommendations for training and interdisciplinary collaboration including mentoring and feedback forums.'*
3. The Regional Groups are based broadly around the NHS Regions and Legal Circuits:

<b>Family Division Areas</b>	<b><u>NHS Areas</u></b>
<b>North (Manchester, Liverpool, Carlisle etc)</b>	North West
North East (Newcastle, Leeds, Teesside etc)	North East and Yorkshire
Midlands	Midlands
Wales	NHS Cymru
East Anglia (Cambridge, Norfolk etc)	East of England
Western (Bristol, Portsmouth, Cornwall etc)	South West

London and Thames Valley	London
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	South East

4. The Working Group and FJC Sub-Committee intend that the Regional Groups should have considerable autonomy as to how they organise themselves and fulfil the aims of the Recommendation given the variations in existing activity levels within the health and legal professions in the areas of training as is apparent from Local Family Justice Boards.
5. Recognising that level of autonomy, the FJC identify the following as core activities for the Regional Groups
  - a. Meeting of co-chairs and other officers 2 x per annum with the FJC Sub-Committee chair
  - b. Liaising with the national committee and cross-fertilisation across the different regions/sharing information and best practice.
  - c. Assisting the FJC staff to collate information about forthcoming cases which might be suitable for the mini-pupillage/marshalling scheme.
  - d. Developing links and liaising with existing regional initiatives or local organisations on experts and training to promote co-operative approaches and joint ventures.
  - e. Organising pods or forums to facilitate discussions/mentoring. These might be geographical or based on a specialisation and arranging 2 or more meetings (face to face or remote) per annum.
  - f. Setting up social media links for the group via WhatsApp or Facebook.
  - g. Arranging training sessions (not less than once per annum) either face to face or remotely.
  - h. Promoting visits by health professionals to courts and legal professionals to health settings to promote inter-disciplinary understanding.
  - i. Liaising with the FJC and FDLJ to arrange a social event at judges' lodgings or similar once per annum.