



Family Justice Council

Annual Report
2011-12

Contents

Foreword by the President, Sir James Munby	3
1: How the Council works	5
2: Overview of Activities and Issues in 2011-12	8
3: The Children in Families Committee	9
4: The Children in Safeguarding Proceedings Committee	12
5: The Money & Property Committee	15
6: The Diversity Committee	17
7: The Experts Committee	19
8: Voice of the Child Sub-Group	21
9: The Domestic Abuse Committee	24
10: The Parents and Relatives Group	27
11: The Local Family Justice Councils	29
12: The Dartington Hall Conference	32
13: Challenges for 2012-13	34
Annex A: Terms of Reference	36
Annex B: Membership	37
Annex C: Expenditure 2011-12 and Budget for 2012-13	48
Annex D: Report on Business Plan 2011-12	50
Annex E: Family Justice Council: 2012-13 Business Plan	54

Foreword by the President, Sir James Munby

This is the seventh annual report of the Family Justice Council and saw the Council publish several documents setting out valuable guidance on a range of issues. One of the Council's key functions is to identify issues which require guidance and to consider and propose best practice.

During the year covered by this report the Council published: guidance on children giving evidence in family proceedings; guidance on the conduct of Financial Dispute Resolution hearings in financial proceedings; best practice on the use of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) in family proceedings; a protocol on the service of non-molestation orders, and; guidelines on the use of overseas experts in family proceedings.

The range of issues covered by these documents is striking and demonstrates the value of the interdisciplinary expertise of a body like the Family Justice Council.

Sir Nicholas Wall was the President of the Family Division and Chairman of the Council during the period covered by this report. Sir Nicholas has since retired and I would like to pay tribute to his commitment to interdisciplinary working in the family justice system. He was among the first judges to realise the importance and necessity of this approach to reform. He was convinced of the value of this approach and was a powerful advocate for it. It is a matter of great regret that Sir Nicholas' Presidency of the Family Division and chairmanship of the Council were brought to a premature end by ill health.

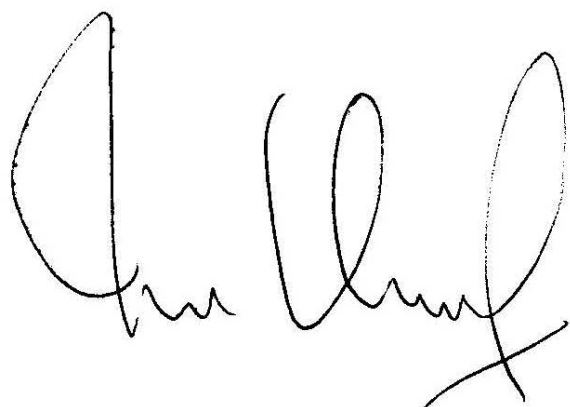
The national Family Justice Council is supported by 39 local Family Justice Councils covering England and Wales. The local FJCs are key providers of interdisciplinary training for legal, social care and health professionals working in the family justice system. The training events provided by the local FJCs are rightly valued by lawyers, social workers and health professionals alike for their quality.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for the considerable time and effort which they have given to its work throughout the year. It is a mark of their commitment to public service that its members produce work of such quality without remuneration and in addition to their busy professional lives. I am also grateful to the wider circle of people who have given their time and expertise to serve on the Council's committees and on the local Family Justice Councils.



I wish to acknowledge the contribution made by officials from, in particular, the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Education in working constructively with the Council on a range of issues.

Finally, I, Lord Justice Thorpe, and all the Council members, would like to thank our Secretariat for their hard work in taking forward the Council's agenda over the last year, as well as all the administrators of the local Family Justice Councils across England and Wales.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Munby', written in a cursive style.

Sir James Munby
President of the Family Division

1: How the Council works

1.1 This is the seventh Annual Report of the Family Justice Council and covers the work of the Council over the financial year 2011-12. Details of the Council's activities and the key issues it has tackled are set out in Section 2. The Council is a non-statutory advisory non departmental public body, sponsored by the Judicial Office. It was established on 1 July 2004 as an outcome of the then Lord Chancellor's Department's 2002 consultation paper on 'Promoting Inter-Agency Working in the Family Justice System'. The respondents to this consultation felt that there was a clear need for a representative body that brought together all the key groups working in the family justice system.

The Primary Role of the Family Justice Council

1.2 The Council's primary role is to promote an interdisciplinary approach to family justice. The Council monitors how effectively the system, both as a whole and through its component parts, operates and advises on reforms necessary for continuous improvement. The Council also aims to improve co-operation between the various professions that work in the family justice system (judges, lawyers, health professionals, social workers, guardians, mediators and others) and to promote a greater understanding between the professionals and the users of the family courts – parents and children. Towards the end of this reporting year, the Council was asked to adopt a new role providing advice, from an interdisciplinary perspective, to the Family Justice Board. The Family Justice Board is a new executive body charged with improving the coordination of the leadership and management of the family justice system. The establishment of the Family Justice Board was one of the principal recommendations of the Family Justice Review.

1.3 The formal terms of reference set by the Secretary of State for Justice and the Lord Chancellor are attached at Annex A.

Composition of the Council

1.4 The Family Justice Council consists of a representative cross section of those who work in, use, or have an interest in, the family justice system. A full list of the members is attached at Annex B. The Council is chaired by the President of the Family Division, Sir Nicholas Wall. Its Deputy chairman is Lord Justice Thorpe, the Deputy Head of Family Justice. Its members include:

- a Family Division High Court judge
- a circuit judge

- a district judge (county courts)
- a district judge (magistrates' courts)
- a magistrate
- a justices' clerk or deputy justices' clerk
- two family barristers
- two family solicitors
- a family mediator
- a consultant paediatrician
- a child mental health specialist
- an assistant director of local authority children's services
- an academic
- a person appointed for their knowledge of family justice from a parent's point of view.

In addition the Council has ex-officio representatives (who attend meetings where there is business which concerns them) from the following organisations:

- Cafcass
- CAFCASS CYMRU
- the Children's Commissioners for England and Wales
- the Ministry of Justice (MoJ)
- the Department for Education (DfE)
- the Department of Health (DH)
- the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)
- the Legal Services Commission (LSC)

- Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS)
- the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Structure of the Family Justice Council and its Committees

1.5 The Family Justice Council has thirty-one members (including the ex-officio representatives).

1.6 There is an Executive Committee of nine members, which makes management and planning decisions. Its members are made up of the Chairs of the Council's main committees and a representative from the MoJ.

1.7 The Council's more detailed work is carried out by a number of subject based committees. There are three main committees dealing with Children in Safeguarding Proceedings (Children Act 1989 and Adoption and Children Act 2002); Children in Families (Children Act 1989, Family Law Act 1996 and Children and Adoption Act 2006); and Money and Property (Matrimonial Causes Act 1973). In addition, there are cross cutting committees and sub-groups on Experts, Diversity, the Voice of the Child and Domestic Violence. Two new Committees were formed in 2008-09: the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADR) and the Parents and Relatives Committee. The committees, working groups and sub-groups include Council members and co-opted members.

1.8 Reports on the work of all of the Council's committees, working groups and sub-groups are given in Sections 3-11.

Meetings of the Council

1.9 The full Council meets quarterly. Three of these meetings are in London and one is held outside London and linked to a residential conference for representatives of the local Family Justice Councils (Local FJCs).

1.10 Section 13 sets out briefly the Council's plans for 2012-13.

2: Overview of Activities and Issues in 2011-12

2.1 During this reporting year the Council continued to devote much of its time and resources to contributing to the Family Justice Review chaired by David Norgrove. The Review Panel published its interim report on 31 March 2011 and the Council responded in June 2011, it was pleasing to note that the Council's written evidence was quoted extensively.

2.2 Given the broad terms of reference of the Family Justice Review, contributing to the review was a priority for most of the Council's committees including Children in Safeguarding Proceedings, Children in Families, Experts, Voice of the Child, ADR, Parents and Relatives and Domestic Violence.

2.3 The Council's committees have also worked on drafting a number of sets of best practice guidance. These documents included protocols on securing proof of service of domestic violence injunctions and on access to medical records pursuant to a court order for disclosure. The Council has drafted guidance on the instruction of medical experts from overseas in family proceedings and on children giving evidence in family cases in the wake of the Supreme Court decision in *Re W [2010] Civ 57*.

2.4 The Council held a public debate and panel discussion entitled **Experts in the family courts: are they worth it?** in December 2011. It focused on concerns about quality cost and other issues raised by the current approach to commissioning expert evidence for use in the family courts. The debate also covered alternative approaches proposed by the Family Justice Review and Sir Liam Donaldson in 'Bearing Good Witness'. Chaired by the President of the Family Division, Sir Nicholas Wall, the speakers included District Judge (MC) Nicholas Crichton, Dr Heather Payne, Mr Malek Wan Daud and Mr Steve Goodman. It was followed by a question and answer session with an expert panel. A transcript of the event can be found on the FJC web pages of the Judiciary Website at: www.judiciary.gov.uk/about-the-judiciary/advisory-bodies/fjc

2.5 The Council responded to a number of Government consultation papers on legal aid reform, revised statutory guidance for local authorities on Family and Friends Care and on a raft of new forms to be used for care and supervision orders under section 31 Children Act 1989.

2.6 In addition to the quarterly meetings of the Council, the FJC sponsors biennial interdisciplinary conferences for family justice professionals. The next one, on the subject of the Family Justice Review, will take place at Dartington Hall in October 2011. There is also an annual conference for representatives of local FJCs, which takes place every April.

2.7 Apart from the conferences, the Council's main business is transacted through its committees, which report to the main Council meetings. The key issues tackled by the committees are set out in chapters 3 to 12 following.

3: The Children in Families Committee

Membership

Jane Craig	Solicitor (Chairman until July 2011)
Martyn Cook	Family Magistrate (Chairman from Sept. 2011)
Anne Barlow	Professor of Family Law and Policy, University of Exeter
Nicholas Crichton	District Judge, Inner London Family Proceedings Court
Fiona Green	Cafcass
Nina Hansen	Solicitor
Rachel Karp	District Judge, Barnet County Court
Bridget Lindley	Deputy Chief Executive & Legal Adviser, Family Rights Group
Judith Masson	Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, Bristol University
Marilyn Mornington	District Judge, Barnsley
Sunita Mason	Chair, Law Society Family Law Committee
Lesley Newton	Circuit Judge, Manchester
Beverley Sayers	Family Mediator
Christine Smart	Independent Social Worker
Dr. Claire Sturge	Consultant Child Psychiatrist
Julia Thackray	Solicitor

Officials in attendance

Kate Lyons	Department for Education
Jan Salihi	Shared Parenting and Mediation, Ministry of Justice

Terms of Reference

Remit: To promote better outcomes for parties and children in private law proceedings under the Children Act 1989.

1. Identify and develop projects within the above remit that would improve the current arrangements, for endorsement by the Family Justice Council and inclusion in the Business Plan.
2. Develop projects approved under paragraph 1.
3. Deliver other projects referred to the Committee by the Family Justice Council.
4. Report to the Family Justice Council on issues referred to the Council for advice; and on issues within the above remit that the Committee considers should be brought to the Council's attention.

Activities in 2011-12

3.1 The work of the Committee focuses on the Private Law aspect of the Children Act 1989 concerning children in families. It covers issues around the residence of children, contact with non-resident parents and other relatives, and other issues that affect their lives, such as schooling.

3.2 In the last financial year the Committee and the Executive Committee approved a research proposal submitted by Professors Joan Hunt and Liz Trinder on chronic litigation in child contact cases. This was to take the form of a literature review of the available international research on these chronically litigated contact cases, in order to ascertain whether there might be a form of effective intervention being used elsewhere that could be adopted for use in the United Kingdom.

3.3 The final report was published in July 2011, with a later article summarising their findings published in Family Law in December 2011. It concluded that the limited research which is available suggests that there are no easy answers, although one particular form of intervention, parenting co-ordination, which is increasingly used in the United States, stood out as being the most promising. Parenting co-ordination involves the Court delegating to a suitably qualified neutral professional the task of working with parents to implement Court ordered parenting plans for their children. A proposal for a scoping study for a Parent Co-ordination Pilot, to explore precisely how the pilot will operate in this jurisdiction, was submitted to the office of the President of the Family Division for advice and consideration. In March 2012, the outgoing chair of the committee published an article in Family Law, exploring the benefits and expectations of the proposed pilot study.

3.4 The Committee contributed to the Council's response to the interim report of the Family Justice Review published on the 31st March 2011. The Committee also provided feedback and comments on the work of other committees namely, the research on fact-finding hearings in private law cases from the Domestic Abuse Committee, and the two documents, 'What parents can expect from the family courts' and 'What the family court expects of parents', from the Parents and Relatives Group.

4: The Children in Safeguarding Proceedings Committee

Membership

Lesley Newton	Circuit Judge, Manchester (Outgoing chairman)
Liz Gillett	Clinical Psychologist (Chairman from Oct. 2011)
Mark Andrews	Deputy Justices' Clerk
Richard Clark	Solicitor, Dudley MBC
Martyn Cook	Family Magistrate
Jenny Clifton	Office of the Children's Commissioner
Nicholas Crichton	District Judge, Inner London Family Proceedings Court
Gillian Douglas	Professor of Law, Cardiff University
Katherine Gieve	Solicitor
Andreas Kyriacou	Senior Co-ordinator Looked After Children, LB Harrow
Bridget Lindley	Deputy Chief Executive & Legal Adviser, Family Rights Group
Caroline Little	Association of Lawyers for Children
Katharine Marshall	Designated Family Judge, Swindon
Judith Masson	Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, Bristol University
Heather Payne	Consultant Paediatrician
Deborah Ramsdale	Assistant Director of Children's Services, Staffordshire
Alison Russell QC	Barrister
Ranjit Uppal	Public Law Solicitor
Malek Wan Daud	Barrister

Officials in attendance:

Louise Bridson	Department for Education
Eleanor Druker	Legal Services Commission
Jayne Bowman	Ministry of Justice
Eileen Shearer/ Richard Green	Cafcass

Terms of Reference

Remit: Safeguarding children principally, but not exclusively, under the Children Act 1989

1. Identify and develop projects within the above remit that would improve the current arrangements, for endorsement by the Family Justice Council and inclusion in the Business Plan.
2. Deliver projects approved under paragraph 1 and ensure that information is disseminated to local FJCs.
3. Deliver other projects referred to the Committee by the Family Justice Council.
4. Report to the Family Justice Council on issues referred to the Council for advice, and on issues within the above remit that the Committee considers should be brought to the Council's attention.

Activities in 2011-12

4.1 A key public law aspect of the Children Act 1989 concerns proceedings relating to the safeguarding of children initiated by local authorities, through care and supervision proceedings, and in some cases followed by adoption.

4.2 The Committee has devoted most of its energies this year to devising its contribution to the key public law section of the consultation on the Family Justice Review panel's interim report. Much discussion was generated by the proposals on which issues should be for the court and which should be for the local authority Children's Services. The Committee recommended that delay can be reduced by effective judicial case management to limit the use of experts and assessments to where they are of genuine assistance in deciding the case and to hold parties to realistic timetables.

4.3 The Committee met with David Norgrove, the Chairman of the Family Justice

Review Panel. The Committee discussed the Family Justice Service, the future of the Family Justice Council; the role of the court and local authorities, and the timetable for the child.

4.4 In response to a request from Mr Justice Ryder, Judge in Charge of Modernisation, the Committee submitted a paper commenting on the latest version of the Cafcass Operating Framework.

4.5 The Committee set up a working party, chaired by Lord Justice Thorpe, which produced and published 'Guidelines in relation to Children Giving Evidence in Family Proceedings'. This was published on the FJC website and in Family Law in January 2012. Alex Verdan QC, a member of the working group, submitted an article to accompany the guidelines, also published in Family Law.

4.6 The Committee responded to a request for information by the DfE on the review of Regulations and National Minimum Standards governing residential assessment family centres. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the Regulations and Standards, that govern the centres, focus on the quality and effectiveness of the service provided to families, rather than organisational or procedural issues. A consultation on revised versions of these documents is planned for the latter part of 2012. Prior to that consultation, the DfE sought views of the Committee, both on the centres themselves and on the Regulations and Standards.

4.7 The Committee contributed to a steering group held by research teams in the DfE and MoJ, about guidance on child development for family professionals. This was one of the issues identified by the Family Justice Review. The guidance is intended to take the form of a literature review and collation of expert knowledge in order to present the findings in a clear and accessible form appropriate for professionals in the family justice system. This guidance is due for publication towards the end of 2012.

4.8 Members of the Committee met with the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to discuss concerns over the proposed changes to the fee structure of publicly funded expert witnesses. The Committee collated evidence of court delays caused by difficulties in obtaining prior authority. This was submitted to the LSC for consideration.

5: The Money & Property Committee

Membership

Judith Parker (Chairman)	Family Division High Court Judge
Rebecca Bailey Harris	Barrister, Emeritus Professor of Law, Bristol University
Anne Barlow	Professor of Family Law & Policy, Exeter University
Simon Bruce	Solicitor
Jane Craig	Solicitor
Nicholas Cusworth QC	Family Law Bar Association (FLBA)
Nigel Dyer QC	Barrister (FLBA)
Godfrey Freeman	Solicitor
Sheren Guirguis	Barrister
Sue Henson	District Judge, Reading
Philip Marshall	Barrister (FLBA)
Clive Million	Circuit Judge
Nicholas Mostyn	Family Division High Court Judge
Jeffrey Nedas	Chartered Accountant
Peter Watson-Lee	Solicitor
Philip Waller	The Senior District Judge, London

Terms of Reference

Remit: The law and procedures for the distribution of money and property on the breakdown of a relationship.

1. Identify and develop projects within the above remit, that would improve the current arrangements, for endorsement by the Family Justice Council and inclusion in the Business Plan.
2. Deliver projects approved under paragraph 1.

3. Deliver other projects referred to the Committee by the Family Justice Council.
4. Report to the Family Justice Council on issues referred to the Council for advice; and on issues within the above remit that the Committee considers should be brought to the Council's attention.
5. Advise and assist the Family Procedure Rule Committee on matters referred to it by that Committee in relation to the making, or amendment, of rules for financial property proceedings or of directions about practice and procedure.

Activities in 2011-12

5.1 The Money and Property Committee looks at the practice and procedure relating to financial proceedings under Section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973. This deals with the division of matrimonial property and assets on divorce. The Committee met twice during the reporting period.

5.2 The Committee has continued to work on a major project putting together guidance on the conduct of Financial Dispute Resolution (FDR) hearings. The purpose of the guidance is to encourage greater consistency of approach to FDRs through the promotion of best practice. The Committee has drafted the guidance to be of assistance to solicitors, barristers and judges. When completed, the draft guidance will be submitted to the President of the Family Division and, subject to his approval, published on the Family Justice Council web pages.

5.3 Over the coming year, the Committee will make the completion and, subject to approval, the dissemination of the guidance on FDRs its highest priority.

6: The Diversity Committee

Membership

Malek Wan Daud	Barrister (Chairman)
Heather Anderson	District Judge
Maria Dennis	Solicitor
Peggy Ekeledo	Solicitor
Victoria Gould	Young People Legal Services, Warwickshire County Council
Sukhchandani Kaur	Independent Social Worker, NAGALRO
Elpha Lecointe	Barrister
Sherry Malik	Corporate Director, Strategy and Performance, Cafcass
Cris McCurley	Solicitor
Azmat Nisa	District Judge
Frances Orchover	Barrister
Heather Payne	Consultant Paediatrician
Jo Redmond	Legal Adviser, Warwickshire County Council
Khatun Sapnara	Barrister
Katy Rensten	Solicitor

Terms of Reference

Remit: To consider and provide advice to the Family Justice Council on diversity issues arising in the family justice system.

1. Identify and develop projects for endorsement by the Family Justice Council and inclusion in the Business plan, that would improve how the family justice system reflects and takes account of the needs of a diverse society.
2. Deliver projects approved under paragraph 1.
3. Deliver other projects referred to the Committee by the Family Justice Council and its Committees.

4. Report to the Family Justice Council on issues referred to the Council for advice; and on issues within the above remit that the Committee considers should be brought to the Council's attention

Activities in 2011-12

- 6.1 The Committee met three times during the reporting year.
- 6.2 The Committee's work focused on three priorities: a) concerns over the new contract for the provision of interpreter services in the family courts; b) attempts to regulate Shari'a councils and other religious tribunals; and c) forced marriage
- 6.3 The Committee received a number of concerns from practitioners and judiciary regarding the new contract the Ministry of Justice has entered into for the provision of interpreter services. The concerns included reports of interpreters failing to turn up at court resulting in ineffective hearings and adjournments. The Committee has also received reports of interpreters speaking the wrong dialect turning up at court and of interpreters turning up at courts who were not able to translate to an acceptable standard also resulting in ineffective hearings and adjournments.
- 6.4 The Committee Chairman has sent representations to, and had meetings with, senior HMCTS managers at which he was given assurances that performance under the contract was improving. The Committee would continue to monitor the situation.
- 6.5 The Committee provided advice to Baroness Cox on the content of her Private Peer's Bill on the regulation of religious tribunals. The Committee Chairman has also contributed to a cross departmental committee on Shari'a councils which has been established to gather information and to inform policy development.
- 6.6 The Committee convened a meeting of groups providing advice and support to the victims of forced marriage to consider a Home Office consultation on the criminalisation of forced marriage. Following this meeting in March 2012, the Committee drafted up a response to the public consultation on behalf of the Family Justice Council. The Council's response cautioned against criminalisation. In the opinion and experience of those who provide support and advice to victims of forced marriage, criminalisation will act as a major disincentive to victims to come forward and take action against their parents and other family members.

7: The Experts Committee

Membership

Heather Payne	Consultant Community Paediatrician (Chairman)
Katherine Gieve	Solicitor
Elizabeth Gillett	Consultant Clinical Psychologist
Jane Ireland	Professor of Forensic Psychology
Brian Jacobs	Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
John Jenkins	General Medical Council
Karl Johnson	Consultant Paediatric Radiologist
Mike Pike	Consultant Paediatric Neurologist
John Pinschhof	Forensic Psychologist
Alison Russell QC	Barrister
Michael Shaw	Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
Neil Stoodley	Consultant Neuro-Radiologist

Terms of Reference

Remit: Issues surrounding recruitment and training of experts and delivery of expert opinion.

1. Identify and develop projects within the above remit that will improve the current arrangements, for endorsement by the Family Justice Council and inclusion in the business plan.
2. Deliver projects under paragraph 1 and ensure that information is disseminated to local FJCs.
3. Deliver other projects referred to the Committee by the Family Justice Council.

4. Report to the Family Justice Council on issues referred to the Council for advice; and on issues within the above remit that the Committee considers should be brought to the Council's attention.

Activities in 2011-12

7.1 The Committee met three times during the year. Its priorities included the research project conducted by Professor Ireland into the quality of psychologists' reports used in family proceedings, the drafting of a protocol on disclosure of medical records in GP's surgeries, the publication of guidance on overseas experts and contributing to the Family Justice Review.

7.2 Professor Ireland presented the findings from her fieldwork at Manchester, Nottingham and Medway county courts for her study on the quality of psychologists reports used in family proceedings. The study involved reading and scoring reports used in public and private law proceedings against an agreed set of quality criteria. The Committee had a number of concerns relating to the methodology of the study and to the presentation of its findings given the small sample size used. The study was subject to a blind peer review process and the Committee discussed its concerns with Professor Ireland. Ultimately, the Committee did not recommend the publication of the study by the Family Justice Council. The study was published by Professor Ireland's university. The Council issued a press release on the publication of the study.

7.3 The Committee has also produced further drafts of a draft protocol on the disclosure of medical records held at GP's practices pursuant to a court order. The Committee has been liaising with Department of Health officials and it is intended that the published version of the protocol will be distributed to all GPs. This project arose from reports received by the Committee of difficulties experienced in securing medical records from GP's practices even when the letter requesting the records enclosed a court order. It appears that staff in some GP's practices are unaware that the consent of the patient is not required where there is a court order for disclosure of the records.

7.4 The Committee made a key contribution to the Council's written submissions to the Family Justice Review in June 2011 as expert evidence is a priority issue for the Family Justice Review. The Committee has argued for more intelligent and selective use of expert evidence in family proceedings.

7.5 The Committee published 'Guidelines for the instruction of medical experts from overseas in family cases' in December 2011. The document is a guide to best practice in the issues that should be considered when deciding whether to instruct an overseas expert. The document is designed to assist both instructing solicitors and judges faced with applications seeking leave to use an overseas expert. The guidelines stress the need to investigate the qualifications and experience of the overseas expert. The guidelines have been well received by practitioners and judges alike and have been referred to in a number of cases.

8: Voice of the Child Sub-Group

Membership

Nicholas Crichton	District Judge, Inner London Family Proceedings Court (Chairman)
Sue Berelowitz	Deputy Children's Commissioner for England]
Jon Bettinson	CAFCASS CYMRU
Syd Bolton	Solicitor and Co-Director, Refugee Children's Rights Project, Coram Children's Legal Centre
Rhian Davies	CAFCASS CYMRU
Caroline Little	Solicitor
Pat Monro	Solicitor and Immigration Judge
Beverley Sayers	Family Mediator
Christine Smart	Children's Rights Director, Cafcass
Karen Tatom	UK Border Agency
Keith Towler	Children's Commissioner for Wales

Officials in Attendance

Jayne Bowman	Access to Justice, Ministry of Justice
Stuart Moore	Access to Justice, Ministry of Justice

Terms of Reference

Remit: to ascertain the views of children and young people, and provide advice to the Council on the participation and involvement of children, and young people, in the Family Justice System.

1. To identify and deliver projects for endorsement by the Family Justice Council, and inclusion in the Business Plan, on how the family justice system can listen more effectively to the Voice of the Child.

2. To deliver other projects referred to the Sub-Group by the Family Justice Council.
3. To facilitate the engagement of children and young people in the work of the Family Justice Council through discussion groups and other activities
4. To report to the Family Justice Council on issues referred to the Council for advice, and to report on issues within the above remit that the Sub-Group considers should be brought to the Council's, or its Committees' attention.

Activities in 2011-12

8.1 The Sub-group held five meetings during the reporting year and met twice with the Upper Tribunal, Immigration and Asylum Chambers.

8.2 The most significant objective for the Sub-group was to improve the exchange of information between the family and immigration jurisdictions given the overlap in cases involving children asylum seekers and child victims of trafficking. There are a number of areas where the family and immigration jurisdictions come into contact. There are frequent appeals before Immigration Judges where proceedings have also been instituted before the Family Courts. Many applicants facing deportation or removal have relationships in the UK and have children with whom they either live, have contact with, are seeking contact with, or who are in the care system. The family courts may be asked to make adoption orders without full knowledge of the immigration regime which includes provisions designed to safeguard the welfare of the child. It continued its work with the Immigration and Asylum Chamber to take forward its agreed recommendations. The fundamental issue was the need for an information-sharing protocol between the two jurisdictions to help establish a formal channel of communication. Both jurisdictions worked together to identify the main requirements of the protocol and put together a draft version. The President of the Family Division approved the protocol, pending a final decision from the President of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the Upper Tribunals. An interface paper was compiled for family judges, seeking to provide information on immigration law as it impacts on family law proceedings. This set out the main areas where there may be an intersection of interest between family and immigration law and where a knowledge of the immigration aspects of one or more of the parties may have a bearing on the outcome of the family hearing. The Sub-group began drafting 'nutshell' guidance on family law for the benefit of immigration judges.

8.3 The Sub-group made a significant contribution to the Council's response to the Family Justice Review report. It was pleased that the report had recognised the importance of children's rights, the principles of paramountcy and Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – the child's right to be heard. However, it felt that more could have been done to highlight the importance of training in talking to children.

It also showed concern about communication with families in the early stages of private law proceedings and Cafcass processes. It also felt that the report seemed to demonstrate a lack of understanding regarding public law and raised concerns about the role of guardians and delays.

8.4 The Sub-group raised concerns about the lack of responsibility and duty of care once vulnerable children had left UK borders. A scoping study was carried out, along with discussions with the UKBA, with a view to further consideration of the matter.

8.5 The Sub-group discussed a number of issues around the voice of the child and agreed to keep an open dialogue on such matters such as awareness of Article 12 and children with special educational needs. It also 'took an interest' in a consultation by the Office of the Children's Commissioner (funded by the FJC) with children and young people on the proposals emerging from the Family Justice Review and a short film capturing their views.

9: The Domestic Abuse Committee

Membership

Alison Russell QC	Barrister (Chairman)
Adrienne Barnett	Barrister
Mererid Edwards	Barrister
Teresa Hallett	CAFCASS Cymru
Nicola Harwin	Women's Aid
Rosemary Hunter	Professor of Law, University of Kent
Ben Jamal	Domestic Violence Intervention Project
Jagbir Jhutti-Johal	University of Oxford
Heather Payne	Consultant Paediatrician
Karen Morgan-Read	Crown Prosecution Service
Azmat Nisa	District Judge, Kingston-upon-Thames
Khatun Sapnara	Barrister
Jane Worsey	Legal Services Commission

Terms of Reference

Remit: To consider and provide advice to the Family Justice Council on domestic violence issues arising in the family justice system.

1. Identify and develop projects within the above remit that would improve the current arrangements, for endorsement by the Family Justice Council and inclusion in the Business Plan.
2. Deliver projects approved under paragraph 1 and ensure that information is disseminated to local FJCs.
3. Deliver other projects referred to the Working Group by the Family Justice Council.
4. Report to the Family Justice Council on issues referred to the Council for advice; and on issues within the above remit that the Committee considers should be brought to the Council's attention.

Activities in 2011-12

9.1 The Committee met twice during the reporting year. The Committee was renamed the Domestic Abuse Committee.

9.2 The Committee met to consider the Family Justice Review's interim report and made a significant contribution to the Council's final response. In its contribution, the Committee highlighted concerns about the narrow definition of domestic violence and the need to ensure that cases featuring domestic violence are not channelled, inappropriately, into mediation.

9.3 The guidance documents, 'Protocol for process servers: Non-molestation orders', and 'MARACs and disclosure into court proceedings', were published on the FJC website in November and December 2011 respectively. These documents were subsequently published in Family Law. The Protocol for process servers is a guide for the service of non-molestation orders and injunctions made by the courts to protect people from violence and harassment. Without these orders being correctly served on the person against whom they are made, and proper proof of that service obtained, the courts cannot enforce the orders or punish any breach of the order.

9.4 The guidance on MARACs (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) and disclosure into court proceedings offers assistance to legal practitioners and MARACs where consideration is being given to seeking disclosure of documents or other information. There are regular MARAC meetings held in most local authority areas in England and Wales that collate information about high risk cases of domestic abuse with a view to creating a co-ordinated safety plan for the victim and children (if any). The work is case specific and all relevant agencies will attend at or contribute to the conference. MARACs can therefore appear a valuable source of information in court proceedings where domestic abuse may be an issue. The guidance was drafted by a sub-group of the committee, chaired by Sir Mark Hedley, and published in consultation with CAADA (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse).

9.5 The Committee identified a need for research on finding of fact hearings and on the operation of the 'Practice Direction on Residence and Contact Orders: Domestic Violence and Harm' issued in 2009. There had been considerable anecdotal feedback from the courts to the effect that these are taking up too much court resource. The Committee felt it would be helpful to secure some more objective data on this issue to see whether any amendment to the Practice Direction was required.

9.6 A research proposal was developed by two members of the Committee, Professor Rosemary Hunter, Professor of Law at the University of Kent, and Adrienne Barnett, a family and children barrister at 1 Pump Court Chambers. This proposal was ultimately approved by the FJC Executive in December 2010 and the research commenced in April 2011. The research team has started to capture feedback on the frequency and effectiveness of hearings from a wide range of family professionals such as judges, solicitors, barristers and Cafcass officers through questionnaires, and the research is expected to be completed at the end of 2012. Professor Hunter plans to give a

presentation on the research to date at the next conference for local family justice councils in April 2012.

9.7 In March 2012, the Committee submitted a response to a Home Office Consultation on a revised definition of domestic violence. The consultation sought views on the desirability of widening the current cross-government definition of domestic violence; whether the current definition is being applied consistently across government and if it is understood by practitioners, victims and perpetrators. The Committee called for a consistent application of the definition of domestic violence across all government agencies, highlighting the definition of domestic violence considered by the Supreme Court in *Yemshaw v London Borough of Hounslow* UKSC 3. The Committee supported the widening of the definition to include coercive control, and application to 16-17-year-olds. The Committee was particularly concerned about the narrow definition of domestic violence in respect of Mediation Information and Assessment Meetings (MIAMs) and as proposed in respect of the allocation of public funding in family proceedings.

10: The Parents and Relatives Group

Membership:

Bridget Lindley (Chairman)	Deputy Chief Executive & Legal Adviser, Family Rights Group and Family Mediator, Cambridge Family Mediation Service
Cathy Ashley	Chief Executive, Family Rights Group
Nicholas Crichton	District Judge, Inner London Family Proceedings Court
Denese Dillon	Service user and parent
David Jockelson	Solicitor
Susan Nicolau	Family Action
Paul Prescod	Service user and kinship carer
Angela Rose	Service user
Beverley Sayers	Family mediator representative on the Family Justice Council
Christine Smart	Independent Social Worker

Terms of Reference

Remit: To ascertain the views of adult service users of the family justice system, and provide advice to the Council on specific issues.

1. To facilitate the engagement of service users in the work of the Family Justice Council.
2. To identify and deliver projects for endorsement by the Family Justice Council and inclusion in the Business Plan, which reflect the views of, or involve, service users.
3. To deliver other projects referred to the group by the Family Justice Council.
4. To report to the Family Justice Council on issues referred to the Council for advice; and to report on issues within the above remit that the group considers should be brought to the Council's or its Committees' attention.

Activities in 2011-12

10.1 The Group met twice during the reporting period and conducted much of its business by email out of committee. The Group contributed to the Council's input into the Family Justice Review, and highlighted the impact of proposals to restrict the scope of public funding on potential family and friends' carers. Following on from this, the Group responded to a request from Mr Justice Ryder, Judge in Charge of Modernisation, and submitted papers on Family Group Conferences and proposals for early parental engagement in family proceedings.

10.2 The Group organised and provided service user representation at the Dartington Interdisciplinary Conference in October 2011. The Group highlighted families' experiences of the family justice system, looking specifically at early intervention; the importance of co-operation between parents and the local authority in protecting children at risk; family group conferences; professional advocacy in child protection; family and friends care as an effective form of placement; and personal testimonials.

10.3 The Group continues to lead in proposing amendments to the Midlands 'What the family court expects of parents' document. The Group has proposed rolling out an amended version of this document across England and Wales so that the document is sent to all parents involved in child contact applications. The Group has also drafted a document entitled 'What parents can expect from the family courts' as a corollary to the original document. The Group has proposed that the expectations documents should be read together and that the expectations between parents and the family courts should be reciprocal.

10.4 The Group completed a review of the FJC's 'Guidance on the Use of Family Group Conferences' published in 2008. The revised guidance was re-issued in September 2011, with publication on the FJC website.

11: The Local Family Justice Councils

11.1 The Local Family Justice Councils (local FJCs) were set up in 2005 to underpin the work of the national Council at local level. Their principal aims are:

- to highlight and address local issues on improving the delivery of family justice, including organising training events;
- to respond to the issues raised by the FJC, highlighting any local initiatives designed to address these difficulties, and;
- to create a reciprocal exchange of information and ideas between local FJCs and the national Council.

11.2 There are 39 local FJCs in England and Wales, each chaired by a Designated Family Judge. Members are drawn from a wide range of disciplines working in the family justice system and typically include a district judge, magistrate, paediatrician, academic, child mental health specialist as well as representatives from the local authority, police, Cafcass (CAFCASS CYMRU in Wales) and voluntary agencies. The Local FJCs are supported by a part-time administrator usually drawn from local HMCTS staff.

11.3 The local FJCs each met between two to four times during the course of the reporting year. Many also held separate sub-committee meetings allowing them to consider more specific issues. For example, Greater Manchester set up a new group to look at family and criminal interface; Suffolk established an Appropriate Dispute Resolution committee to consider mediation matters and Sussex set up a working party to tackle concerns over the use and instruction of experts.

11.4 The work of the local FJCs underpins that of the national Council but has the flexibility to determine local priorities. Local FJCs' commitment to improving family justice in their areas gave rise to some significant initiatives. The following are just a few of the measures taken to improve the system:

- Humberside introduced a protocol allowing access by adopted adults to court adoption records
- Merseyside produced leaflets to help birth parents understand adoption issues
- Cumbria looked at the role of contact centres, their role, types of referrals and how the centres were being used

- Coventry and Warwickshire Pre-Proceedings pilot which sees the Family Court Advisor (Children's Guardian) introduced into pre-proceedings work to try to avoid protracted public law proceedings
- Suffolk began work on a project to introduce post-proceedings meetings with the aim of reducing the number of repeat cases and sequential removals of children from their parents
- Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire developed an agreement with the local NHS Trust for improved procedures for disclosure of medical records in safeguarding cases
- Greater Manchester produced an Emergency Protection Application protocol for Public Law proceedings
- North Wales requested a review of the training delivered to staff undertaking video interviews of children giving witness statements about alleged abuse and of the quality assurance mechanisms in place to ensure practice standards. They convened a working party to help ensure the police and social services have the necessary skills and capacity to undertake joint investigation and interview processes.
- Lastly, a number of Local FJCs have successfully raised money to buy adoption teddy bears as a memento for children of their adoption ceremony.

11.5 The local FJCs held around 70 interdisciplinary training events covering a wide range of topics. For example:

- Sussex looked at Care and Contact and the impact on children during and after care proceedings
- Warwickshire and Coventry considered family justice for the Under 5s
- West Yorkshire presented a conference on the impact of substance abuse on families
- Surrey looked at personality disorders, how they are defined and treated, and their effects on parenting
- Staffordshire held a conference on Family and Friends Care, featuring the perspectives of local carers
- Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire considered the effects on babies and toddlers of witnessing violence

- Cumbria presented a conference on Repairing Children who have suffered physical, emotional or psychological harm
- Merseyside held an open forum on technological developments in childcare cases
- Some local FJCs held seminars on mediation awareness at the request of the national FJC following the introduction of the President's Pre-Application Protocol and associated guidance. Many held training on court skills for expert witnesses and also the effects of the Family Justice Review.

These events are unique in providing interdisciplinary training for those working in the family justice system and allow an opportunity for sharing information across the professions.

11.6 In addition to local initiatives, Local FJCs considered issues of national interest. Concerns included the role of contact centres and how they were being used; delays in public law and adoption cases; court closures; legal aid changes and the increase in litigants-in-person; and the use of expert witnesses, their fees and the quality of reports. Many Local FJCs took the opportunity to consider the Family Justice Review interim report and to submit their comments.

11.7 The annual Local FJC conference was held in April to which a member of each Local FJC was invited. The conference provided a good opportunity for multi-disciplinary discussions, particularly about the Family Justice Review. Delegates also heard from various speakers on topical issues affecting the family justice system. Dr Liz Gillett gave advice on how best to instruct psychological experts; Professor Joan Hunt provided an overview of her research into 'Chronic Litigation in Private Law Cases' where there were multiple repeat applications over a long period, or protracted proceedings, and where the parents were in high and entrenched conflict. There was a general discussion on the availability of local sources of legal advice when legal aid cuts are implemented. Professor Judith Masson gave a presentation on care proceedings from the parent's perspective. The day concluded with a presentation and general discussions about the Family Justice Review.

12: The Dartington Hall Conference

12.1 The biennial Dartington Hall Conferences began in 1995, and the 9th Conference took place between 30th September and 2nd October 2011. Details of previous conferences, which led to the formation of the President's Interdisciplinary Committee and, ultimately, to the formation of the Family Justice Council itself, can be found in the Council's Annual Report for 2005/06 at: www.judiciary.gov.uk/about-the-judiciary/advisory-bodies/fjc/annual-reports. The report of the 2009 Conference is to be found in the Council's Annual Report for 2009/10 at: www.judiciary.gov.uk/about-the-judiciary/advisory-bodies/fjc/annual-reports

12.2 The 2011 Conference: 'Dear David: A Memo to the Norgrove Committee from the Dartington Conference 2011' was the fourth to be organised by the Council. The programme was put together by an interdisciplinary group, chaired by Lord Justice Thorpe. The group, which comprised members of the Council together with other professionals, eminent in their fields, discussed and refined the programme over a number of months. In a change from previous conferences, Dartington 2011 was viewed as an opportunity for the Family Justice Council to feed into the late stages of the deliberations of the Norgrove Committee prior to the publication of the final report of the Family Justice Review. Lord Justice McFarlane, a member of the Norgrove Committee, was in attendance during the debates and discussions of the conference.

12.3 The Conference had seven plenary sessions over three days:

- Private Law: A change from confrontation to mediation
- Hearing the voice of the child in private and public law proceedings
- Reform of the family court and legal aid reform
- The future of the Family Justice Council
- Public Law: reforming care proceedings
- Public Law: the Munro review and achieving permanence
- Pre-proceedings processes in public law and users' experiences of the family justice system
- Conference action points

12.4 Each plenary session was followed by discussions in small breakout groups which identified a number of suggested resolutions. A small drafting committee met each day to discuss and formulate final resolutions which were agreed at the final plenary session.

12.5 The resolutions can be found on the FJC website at: www.judiciary.gov.uk/about-the-judiciary/advisory-bodies/fjc/dartington-conferences.

12.6 The Conference papers, as in previous years, have been published by Family Law, and copies of the publication circulated to all the 39 local FJCs.

13: Challenges for 2012-13

13.1 The Council has identified nine objectives to form the focus for its work in 2012-13. The priority for the Council over the coming 12 months will be continuing to contribute to the Family Justice Review and, depending on the Government's response, contributing to the implementation of the recommendations. A report on the progress made against the Business Plan for 2011-12 is attached at Annex D. The Council's Business Plan for 2012-13 is attached at Annex E. The Secretary of State for Justice has approved these activities. They are:

1) To take forward projects referred to the Council by the Family Justice Board

13.2 The Family Justice Board is scheduled to have its first meeting in April 2012 where it will identify its priorities for the coming year. The Board is expected to refer projects to the Council to assist it in making progress against the priorities it identifies.

2) To work with the MoJ and DfE in contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of the Family Justice Review.

13.3 The Council submitted written and oral evidence to the Family Justice Review and is well placed to assist in the implementation of those recommendations accepted by the government.

3) To contribute to the work streams of the family modernisation programme led by Mr Justice Ryder

13.4 The Council stands ready to contribute to the development of Mr Justice Ryder's proposals especially through the pathway and expectations documents.

4) To work with the President, the Judicial Office, MoJ and DfE in contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of the family modernisation programme.

13.5 The Council stands ready to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations in Mr Justice Ryder's report which is likely to be published in summer 2012.

5) To commission a scoping study into the feasibility of adopting the parenting coordination model in England and Wales

13.6 This project will take forward some of the recommendations of the literature review on high conflict and chronically litigated child contact cases carried out by Joan Hunt and Liz Trinder.

- 6) To prepare and submit a response to the Home Office consultation paper seeking views on the desirability of widening the current cross-government definition of domestic violence**

13.7 The Domestic Abuse and Diversity Committees will lead on drafting the Council's response to this important consultation on the definition of domestic violence. The Council is concerned that the current definition is too narrow.

- 7) To commission research into feedback to the judiciary on outcomes for children of final orders made in public law cases and on how this could be achieved.**

13.8 The Council has commissioned Professor Judith Masson to arrange focus group discussions with judges on whether they would find feedback on their decisions in public law cases helpful and, if so, how they would prefer to receive the feedback. The Children in Safeguarding Proceedings Committee will consider the findings and make recommendations.

- 8) To circulate an updated immigration and family interface information document to the family judiciary by the end of April 2012.**

13.9 The Voice of the Child Committee has been working with Tribunal judiciary on a 'nutshell' guide to immigration law for the family judiciary.

- 9) To seek agreement from the President and HMCTS to introduce a revised 'What the Family Courts expect from Parents' document and to introduce a corresponding 'What Parents can expect from the Family Courts' document across England and Wales.**

13.10 The Parents and Relatives Committee will produce a revised draft of the expectations document and a draft of a corresponding document from the parents' perspective for consideration by the Council and for discussion with HMCTS.

Annex A: Terms of Reference

The Family Justice Council aims to facilitate the delivery of better and quicker outcomes for families and children who use the family justice system. The Council's primary role is to promote an interdisciplinary approach to family justice, and through consultation and research, to monitor how effectively the system both as a whole and through its component parts delivers the service the Government and the public need and to advise on reforms necessary for continuous improvement. In particular it will:

- Promote improved interdisciplinary working across the family justice system through inclusive discussion, communication and co-ordination between all agencies, including by way of seminars and conferences as appropriate;
- Identify and disseminate best practice throughout the family justice system by facilitating a mutual exchange of information between local family justice councils and the national Council, including information on local initiatives, and by identifying priorities for, and encouraging the conduct of, research;
- Provide guidance and direction to achieve consistency of practice throughout the family justice system and submit proposals for new practice directions where appropriate;
- Provide advice and make recommendations to Government on changes to legislation, practice and procedure, which will improve the workings of the family justice system.

Annex B: Membership

Chairman (ex officio): The Rt. Hon. Sir Nicholas Wall, President of the Family Division and Head of Family Justice

The Rt. Hon. Sir Nicholas (Peter Rathbone) Wall (Kt 1993), President of the Family Division and Head of Family Justice and President of the Court of Protection since 13 April 2010. Sir Nicholas Wall was a Judge of the Family Division of the High Court from 1993 until 2004 when he was promoted to the Court of Appeal.

Born in 1945 he was educated at Dulwich College and Trinity College Cambridge. He was President of the Cambridge Union Society in 1967. He was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1969 and became a Bencher in 1993. He took Silk in 1988. 1988-1990 Assistant Recorder; 1990-93 Recorder; Family Division Liaison Judge Northern Circuit 1996-2001; a Judge in the Employment Appeal Tribunal 2001-2003. Since 2003 he has also been a Judge in the Administrative Court. Member of Lord Chancellor's Advisory Board on Family Law 1997-2001; Chairman Children Act Sub-Committee 1998-2001.

Publications

Joint Editor Supplements to *Rayden and Jackson on Divorce, 15th Ed-* 1988-91

Joint Editor *Rayden and Jackson on Divorce, 16th Ed* – 1991-1997

17th Editor and contributor *Rayden and Jackson 17th Ed* 1997

Contributor – *Rooted Sorrows: psychoanalytic contributions to assessments and decisions in the family justice system* 1996.

Contributor – *Divided Duties: care planning within the family justice system* -1998

Author – *A Handbook for Expert Witnesses in Children Act Cases* – 2000

Contributor -*Delight and the Dole: the Children Act ten years on* - 2002

Various papers in medical and legal journals

Recreation:

Collecting, binding and restoring books, theatre, opera, walking and composing clerihews

Deputy Chairman (ex officio): The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Thorpe, Deputy Head of Family Justice

Sir Mathew Thorpe was educated at Stowe and Balliol College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar, Inner Temple, 1961 and became a Bencher of the Inner Temple 1986.

A mixed practice until taking Silk in 1980, thereafter specialising in family law. Counsel to the Cleveland Inquiry 1987. Appointed a judge of the High Court, Family Division, in 1988. Liaison Judge for the Western Circuit 1991-1995. Appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal in 1995 and in 2005, Head of International Family Justice for England & Wales

President: Mediation in Divorce.

Trustee: St Saviour's Priory; Muzaffarabad Earthquake Appeal

Mark Andrews: Justices' Clerk member

Mark originally joined the Magistrates' Courts Service in Dorset as a legal adviser in 1993, qualifying as a solicitor in 1998. In 1999 he transferred to Cheshire, becoming responsible for two family panels. Since 2005 he has been the Deputy Justices' Clerk for the Merseyside Family Proceedings Court and, from the beginning of 2009, the Family Proceedings Courts in Cheshire. He was a member of the Council of the Justices' Clerks' Society between 2004 and 2009, serving as a Vice-President for 2008-09. He has been involved with work for the Judicial Studies Board for a number of years in relation to the design and delivery of family court training to magistrates and legal advisers. He was a member of the JSB working group responsible for training all members of the family judiciary in relation to the Public Law Outline.

Martyn Cook: Magistrate member

Martyn retired from paid employment in 2005. During his career he worked in car manufacturing, publishing, direct mail marketing and financial services. After working in business process planning and organisation he then spent 25 years in information technology with responsibility for the development, implementation and support of systems covering all aspects of business functions. He has been a Magistrate for 35 years and sits in the Adult and Family Courts. He is Chairman of the Swindon Bench.

Martyn is a member of the Judicial College Magisterial Family Committee. He is also the magistrate member of the Family Procedure Rule Committee and has observer status to the Magistrates Association Family Court Committee. He is a Lay Member of the Residential Property Tribunal Service. Martyn lives in Swindon; is married, with 4 grown-up children, and 7 grandchildren. He is a member of the local Baptist Church.

Private Law Solicitor - vacant

Nicholas Crichton: District Judge at the Inner London Family Proceedings Court, Wells Street and District Judge (Magistrates Court) member

Chairman of the Voice of the Child Group

Nicholas was a solicitor in private practice North West London with particular interest in care proceedings/child protection, 1971 - 1986. He was appointed Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate (since renamed District Judge (Magistrates' Court)) in 1986. Appointed Recorder (public and private family law tickets) 1991. Appointed in 1995 to sit full time in Family Proceedings and closely involved in setting up and development of Inner London Family Proceedings Court at Wells Street, which opened in April 1997.

Nicholas is a former member of the Judicial Studies Board Family Committee and former chairman of Inner and North London Guardian ad Litem Panel Committee. He is the chairman / serving member of a number of committees and groups including Association of Lawyers for Children and Young Persons subcommittee, NSPCC group producing information for children with disabilities who face care proceedings, Coram Family Advisory Groups and National Youth Advocacy Service Professional Advisory Group.

Nicholas is a frequent speaker at International Conferences and regularly works in the field of child protection in Russia and Bulgaria, Ethiopia and Namibia.

Caroline Little: Public Law Solicitor member

Caroline studied law at London University and has remained in practice in London ever since. She represented children as soon as she qualified and was one of the early appointments to the Children Panel in 1985. Throughout her career in legal aid practice she represented children and family members at all levels of courts; advocacy being an integral part of the Children Panel requirement.

Caroline has always been involved in training and education of practitioners, through the London Children Lawyers group and nationally through the Association of Lawyers for Children (ALC). Through the ALC she has assisted in putting together a number of two day national conferences attracting the highest quality national and international speakers, and innovative one day conferences run by children and young people. She has been involved in training lawyers, Cafcass employees, guardians and medical practitioners.

As Co-Chairman of the ALC for nearly four years Caroline was heavily involved in government policy on children in the care system, giving evidence to the Justice Select Committee and Children's committee and sitting as the solicitor practitioner member on the Ministerial Group for Care Proceedings (which became the National Family Justice

Board). She had served on the Family Justice Council sub-committees of Children in Safeguarding and Voice of the Child for a number of years before being appointed to the Council.

Elizabeth Gillett: Child Mental Health Specialist member

Elizabeth is a Clinical Psychologist and Managing Director of Phoenix Psychological Services (Warwickshire) and Tranquil House Psychology Services (Worcestershire / Birmingham), both independent practices offering comprehensive psychological services to individuals, organisations and court proceedings.

Previously Elizabeth was a senior clinician in services for people with learning disabilities and child and family NHS services across the Midlands as well as having worked at a national level with MENCAP in a training capacity. Current clinical work includes specialist input into a regional adolescent NHS service; supervision to clinicians employed within the NHS / independent organisations; consultancy to specialists looking after children units and statutory support services; and therapeutic input with individual children and families.

Elizabeth is a practising Expert Witness within family proceedings across England and Wales with a special interest in working with families with complex presentations including those where one or more family members have difficulties such as a disability, mental health problems and/or pervasive developmental disorders.

Elizabeth is a Tutor on the University of Birmingham and University's of Warwick and Coventry Doctoral programmes for applied Psychologists in training. Other professional interests include being an Independent Chair of a Warwickshire based Specialist Fostering Agency; and undertaking voluntary work in Botswana, in Southern Africa where she is registered as a Clinical Psychologist, working with vulnerable children and families in areas of social deprivation.

Bridget Lindley: Parent's Representative member

Chairman of the Parents & Relatives Committee

Bridget was admitted as a Solicitor in 1986. She is Deputy Chief Executive and Principal Legal Adviser at Family Rights Group where, for the last 24 years, she has provided legal advice to thousands of vulnerable parents and other family members about the care and protection of their children. At Family Rights Group she has also been actively involved in lobbying Government and Parliament on legal and policy issues relating to family support, child protection, family and friends care, looked after children, special guardianship and adoption. She has participated in a number of key stakeholder groups and has successfully lobbied Parliament on legal reforms, most on the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.

In addition to her work at Family Rights Group, Bridget is also a family mediator at Cambridge Family Mediation Service where she has practised since 1998, and she was a senior research associate at the Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge where she undertook socio-legal research on family involvement in child protection processes (1997-2002). Bridget was appointed to the Family Justice Council as the parents' representative in December 2007 and was chair of the Parents and Relatives sub-group until it was disbanded in 2012. She continues to participate actively in the work of the Council including the work of the pre-proceedings working group.

Anne Barlow: Academic member

Anne is a Professor of Family Law and Policy at the University of Exeter, having joined in 2004, having started her academic career at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1991. Prior to this she practised as a solicitor specialising in Family Law in London. She is now a leading socio-legal researcher and has a particular interest in the regulation of married and cohabitation relationships and in comparative family law. She has held a number of research grants awarded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Ministry of Justice and the Nuffield Foundation. Her recent projects include Community of Property – a Regime for England and Wales (with Reading University); The Common Law Marriage Myth Revisited and Exploring Perceptions of Pre-Nuptial Agreements (all funded by the Nuffield Foundation) and with colleagues at Kent University, she is currently working on an ESRC-funded project Mapping Paths to Family Justice, which is exploring alternative family dispute resolution. She also leads the Network on Family, Regulation and Society.

Anne has published widely in the Family law field and her books include: *Cohabitation, Marriage and the Law. Social Change and Legal Reform in 21st Century Britain*: (2005) Oxford: Hart Publishing pp. 154 (with S. Duncan, G. James and A. Park).

Community of Property - A regime for England and Wales? (2006) Bristol: Policy Press (with Elizabeth Cooke and Therese Callus).

Property Relations between Spouses (England and Wales) In European Family Law in Action: Property Relations between Spouses, Boele-Woelki, Braat and Curry-Sumner (eds), (2009) Antwerp: Intersentia pp 1242.

She is also Vice Chair of the Socio-Legal Studies Association and a member of the ESRC's Grant Assessment Panels.

Rachel Karp: District Judge, Barnet County Court

District Judge member

Rachel is a District Judge at Barnet County Court, appointed in 2004. She was previously a partner in private practice, specialising in family work. She is a Family Tutor Judge for the Judicial College, was a member of the Tax Law Rewrite Steering Group and the President's Private Law Working Party leading to the revised Practice Direction on private law children's applications. She gave evidence to the Family Justice Review.

She sits in a busy County Court hearing financial applications, and children's private and public law cases. In a voluntary capacity she is the coordinator of legal advice for a Drop-In Centre for destitute asylum seekers.

Katharine Marshall: Designated Family Judge, Swindon County Court

Circuit Judge member

Katharine qualified and practised as a Barrister before joining the magistrates' courts, later becoming a Deputy Justices' Clerk. In 1999 she was appointed an Acting Stipendiary Magistrate, subsequently renamed Deputy District Judge (Magistrates' Court), before taking up a full time post in 2002 as District Judge (Magistrates' Court) in Brent. Appointed immediately to sit in family proceedings, sitting in the Inner London Family Proceedings Court at Wells Street, as well as locally.

In 2008 Katharine was appointed as Circuit Judge with an exclusively family jurisdiction, sitting in Hampshire. From 2012, she was appointed as Designated Family Judge for Wiltshire, sitting at Swindon. She was a former member of the Family Procedure Rule Committee and Judicial Studies Board Family Committee.

Judith Parker: A Judge of the High Court Family Division

Chairman of the Money and Property Committee

Judith Parker practiced at the Bar in London for 35 years before appointment to the High Court Bench, Family Division in 2008. Initially she practised in crime and civil as well as family law, but became a specialist family lawyer after taking silk in 1991.

Her practice encompassed child law (private and public law including adoption); divorce and personal status; financial provision following breakdown of marriage; Tolata; Schedule 1 Children Act 1989; with a particular interest in medical treatment and medical evidence; surrogacy, reproductive medicine and the HFEA 1990; and transnational cases. Whilst at the Bar she wrote and lectured on family law and related topics. She sat as a Deputy High

Court Judge from 1997 and a Recorder (crime) from 1998.

She was appointed to the FJC in January 2010 and chairs the Money and Property Committee.

Heather Payne, Dr (MB BS, DCJ, FRCPCH, FHEA): Consultant Paediatrician member

Heather is on secondment to Welsh Government, as was, until 2011, is a Consultant Paediatrician at the Anurin Bevan Health Board, and Senior Lecturer / Associate Dean in the Wales Postgraduate Deanery, Cardiff University. She qualified in 1980 at St Bartholomew's Hospital and has worked in London, Cardiff and Newport, taking up a post as Consultant in Caerphilly in 1996. She specialises clinically in Child Protection, Fostering and Adoption and child mental health, and has published peer reviewed research in all these areas. She is a past Chairman of the BAAF Medical Group and adviser to Government and RCPCH on Looked After Children. In 2010-12 she served on the GMC Advisory Group in Child Protection.

Heather has been Course Director for a range of MSc courses in child health and protection at Cardiff University, and has been extensively involved in developing and evaluating inter-professional medical and medico-legal education. She held the portfolio for Equality and Diversity in the Wales Postgraduate Deanery and has developed UK wide monitoring criteria to promote GMC standards in this area. Heather was appointed to the Family Justice Council in July 2009, and is working on a project with local Family Justice Councils and RCPCH to promote court skills for Paediatricians.

Away from work, Heather has 3 children pursuing training in law, architecture and physiotherapy, sings in a church choir, and follows Welsh rugby and opera. She is Hospitaller for the Wales Commandery of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem.

Deborah Ramsdale: Assistant Director of Children's Services member

Deborah qualified as a Social Worker in 1986 and has worked exclusively in Children's Services, specialising in Child Protection and Looked After work. She has worked in six of the West Midlands authorities; Walsall, Dudley, Stoke, Solihull, Wolverhampton and Staffordshire in various roles including Independent Reviewing Officer and Conference Chairman, Head of Child Protection, Head of Social Work Services, and Assistant Director for Safeguarding.

Deborah was appointed to the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit in October 2009 for a 12 month secondment. She was the Deputy Director for Practice in the NSDU until June 2010, when it was disbanded, managing a small team of cross Government secondees into the unit from the Department of Health, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, National Offender Management Service, including a retired Police Detective Chief Superintendent

and some civil servants. Deborah's secondment continued until February 2011 in the Department of Education Team supporting Professor Munro in her review of Child protection. Her substantial position is Assistant Director for Targeted Services which includes 19 Local Support Teams, Children's Centre Services and the Youth Offending Service in Staffordshire, which is a large County Council with a population of over 190,000 children

Malek Wan Daud: Barrister Member

Chairman of the Diversity Committee

Malek was called to the Bar in 1991 and specialises in the law relating to children. He is committed to the principles of social justice and equality for all before the law and pursues these aims not only through his professional work as a barrister but also in his spare time.

Malek was a founding member of the Bar Lesbian and Gay Group, a member of the Bar Council Equality and Diversity Committee for 8 years, was a Trustee of a Domestic Abuse Organisation and most recently was appointed to the Family Justice Council in 2011. Malek has written papers on Muslim Marriage, Same Sex Marriage and Dissolution, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Child Trafficking and Minority Children in the Care System.

Beverley Sayers: Family Mediator

Chairman of the ADR Committee

Beverley is a Family, Civil and Commercial mediator. She is a Director and co-founder of Family Mediation Manchester Ltd, one of the largest family mediation providers in the North-West of England.

Beverley is a trainer for FMA and Resolution, delivering mediation skills training for the Judicial Studies Board, and mediation awareness training to regional judiciary. Having been one of the original team assessing competence of mediators for the Legal Services Commission in 1997, she became a mediator competence assessor for the UK College of Family Mediators, and now The Family Mediation Council.

She sits on the Board of the Family Mediators Association (FMA) the FMA Complaints and FMA professional practice sub-committee's. She acts as a professional practice consultant (PPC) for the FMA and Resolution.

In January 2007 she became the mediation representative on the Family Justice Council and now co-chairs the FJC Pre-Proceedings/Dispute Resolution Group and sits on the FJC Executive Committee. She sees an essential part of her FJC role as keeping mediation at

the forefront of the family justice system, and is developing a dialogue with mediators from all lead bodies. She is committed to developing strong working links with other stakeholders in family justice.

Alison Russell QC: Barrister member

Chairman of the Domestic Violence Working Group and the Executive Committee

Alison practises at 1 Garden Court. She was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1983.

She has sat as a Recorder in Crime since 2004 and in the Family and Civil Courts since 2007. She took silk in 2008 and is authorised to sit as a Judge of the Family Division of the High Court under section 9 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

Ex-Officio members

Sue Berelowitz: Office of the Children's Commissioner for England

Sue has over 30 years' experience in children's services embracing health, education and social care. She is a speech and language therapist and has a Masters in Social Work from Sussex University. In 2008 Sue was appointed Deputy Children's Commissioner and Chief Executive of the Office of the Children's Commissioner having previously held a number of senior management roles in children's services across South East England.

Areas of particular interest for Sue include mental health, youth justice, safeguarding and family court proceedings. She sits on a number of national strategic bodies including the Family Justice Council and the Ministerial Board on Deaths in Custody. Sue regularly contributes to debates about children and young people on radio, television and in the press.

Sue is currently chairing a two year national Inquiry into child sexual exploitation in the context of gangs and groups.

Annabel Burns: Deputy Director, Family Law and Relationship Support, Department for Education

Annabel is a DfE Deputy Director responsible to Ministers for policy advice on relationship support, family law and Cafcass. Annabel has been a civil servant since 1994 and has worked in a range of roles on children's services and education policy

Nick Goodwin: Ministry of Justice

Nick is the Deputy Director responsible for Family Justice Policy within the MoJ. He has worked on a number of high profile policy areas since joining the civil service in 2000, mainly in the justice and constitutional fields. Nick also served as Private Secretary to three Lord Chancellors. In 2008-2009 Nick was seconded to a major children's charity.

Fiona Green: Cafcass

Fiona is a Head of Profession with Cafcass responsible for a number of functions within the Policy Directorate, leading on commissioning and delivery of child contact services on behalf of the DfE. Fiona has been with Cafcass in a national role since 2007 following previous work as a manager within the health and social care sector working for Local Authorities, Health Authorities and the Voluntary Sector.

Gillian Baranski: CAFCASS Cymru

Gillian was appointed as Chief Executive of CAFCASS Cymru on 1 November 2010. Prior to this, she worked from August 2005 as the Home Office Crime Director for Wales working with partners, such as the police and local authorities, to reduce crime. As a barrister with a Master degree in Business Administration, she joined the Magistrates' Courts Service in 1979 in Bristol. In 1996 she became the Justices' Clerk to the Cardiff Magistrates and the Justices' Chief Executive of South Wales Magistrates' Courts Committee in April 2000.

Born in the Rhondda Valley, she has lived in Cardiff since 1983, she is married to a Banking and Insolvency Lawyer and they have one daughter, Esther.

Julie Rogers: Director of policy, Children's Health & Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government

Julie has worked in a variety of roles within the (former) Welsh Office and Welsh Government. She is a qualified HR Practitioner, with wide experience of project management and social policy development. She has been Deputy Director for Social Services Policy & Legislation since February 2010, with responsibility for driving transformation of social services in Wales through the Social Services & Well-being Bill.

Julie is married with one son aged 10.

Keith Towler: Children's Commissioner for Wales

Keith is a respected children's rights expert with over 25 years' experience in social work, youth work and youth justice roles. After graduating from Exeter College of Art and Design with a degree in Fine Arts, Keith initially pursued a career in Social Work. A career in youth justice beckoned with a role as Head of NACRO Cymru (the crime reduction charity). He then went on to become NACRO Director of Crime Reduction (England and Wales) in 2001.

Prior to taking up the post of Children's Commissioner for Wales in March 2008, he was Programme Director for the Wales Programme of Save the Children for two years and Chair of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Monitoring Group for Wales. As the country's second children's commissioner, he has published reports on child trafficking young carers and looked after children. Keith was also member of the Welsh Government's national Children's Safeguarding Forum and a panel member of the Family Justice Review – an independent review commissioned by the Ministry of Justice, Department of Education and the Welsh Government - where he represented children's interests.

Annex C: Expenditure 2011-12 and Budget for 2012-13

Family Justice Council Expenditure 2011-12	£000's
Staffing Costs	£223
Staff Travel and Subsistence	£1
Members' Travel and Subsistence	£13
Research	£19
Consumables (Stationery, Telecoms, Computer, Catering)	£3
Events and Conferences	£34
Total:	£293

Local Family Justice Councils Expenditure 2011-12	£000's
Budget Amount	£150
Expenditure	£70
Income	£15

Family Justice Council Projected Spend for 2012-13	£000's
Staffing costs	£208
Staff travel and subsistence	£3
Members travel and subsistence	£12
Research, publications and publicity	£40
Public Appointments	£2
Training Judiciary	£18
Total:	£283

	£000's
Local Family Justice Councils Projected Spend for 2012-13	£132

Annex D: Report on Business Plan 2011-12

Activity: Family Justice Review	
Lead Committee(s): Children in Safeguarding Proceedings, Children in Families	
Time Scale	October 2011
Objective	Contributing to the Family Justice Review and the policy development in MoJ and DfE stemming from it.
Outcome: A high level of engagement with the Review and the MoJ and DfE on the development of the Review's proposals.	
<p>The written and oral evidence submitted by the Council was cited in both the interim and final reports of the Family Justice Review more than that of any other contributor. It is clear from the recommendations made in the final report that the Council's views had been given substantial weight.</p>	

Activity: Reform and Best Practice in family proceedings	
Lead Committee(s): Children in Safeguarding Proceedings, Working Group on Children Giving Evidence, Money and Property	
Timescale	December 2011
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To contribute to the Munro Review and the policy development in DfE stemming from it. 2. To develop, and submit to the President for approval, guidance on children giving evidence in family proceedings following the referral to the FJC from the Court of Appeal in Re W [2010] Civ 57. 3. To finalise, publish and disseminate guidance on FDR hearings in financial proceedings.

Outcome

- 1. A high level of engagement with the Munro Review and the DfE on the development of the Review’s proposals**
- 2. Publication of guidance on children giving evidence in family proceedings following the Supreme Court decision in Re W [2010] UKSC 12**
- 3. Publication and dissemination of guidance on conduct of Financial Dispute Resolution hearings in financial proceedings.**

- 1. The Council contributed to policy development stemming from the Munro Review by participating in the stakeholder group which was consulted on a number of workforce development issues throughout the year.
- 2. The Council published guidance on children giving evidence on the FJC pages of the Judiciary website in December 2011. The guidelines were fed into the Judicial College.
- 3. The Council published guidance on the conduct of Financial Dispute Resolution hearings in financial proceedings in December 2011

Activity: Dartington Conference on the Family Justice Review

Lead Committee(s) : Dartington Planning Committee

Time Scale

September 2011

Objective

To plan and prepare for the Biennial interdisciplinary conference at Dartington Hall in September 2011

Outcome: A successful conference on how the proposals in the Family Justice and Munro reviews can be made to work in practice and the identification of the key changes that will need to be made to facilitate this.

The Conference was attended by several members of the Family Justice Panel and presented a last opportunity for the Family Justice Council to influence the content of the Final Report which was published in November 2011. The conference programme was planned on the basis of the recommendations contained in the interim report published at the end of March 2011 and featured contributions from eminent academics, judges, legal and social work practitioners and policy makers.

Activity: Non-disclosure in Forced Marriage and HBV cases	
Lead Committee (s): Domestic Violence & Diversity Committees	
Time Scale	Nov 2011
Objectives	<p>1. To provide advice to the President on how best to balance the need for protecting victims with Article 6 rights of other parties</p> <p>2. To finalise and publish guidance for process servers on the effective service of non-molestation orders and injunctions</p>
Outcome:	
<p>1. Draft guidance to be produced for approval by the Council and then submitted to the President.</p> <p>2. The publication and dissemination of the guidance for process servers on the effective service of non-molestation orders.</p>	
<p>1. This project was not taken forward in this reporting year.</p> <p>2. Guidance for process servers on the effective service of non-molestation injunctions was published and disseminated in November 2011.</p>	

Activity: Chronic litigation in high conflict contact disputes	
Lead Committee(s): Children in Families Committee	
Time Scale	March 2012
Objective	Taking forward conclusions from the Joan Hunt & Liz Trinder research on chronic litigation in high conflict contact cases.
Outcome: Council to consider research and make appropriate recommendations to MoJ for change to the handling of high conflict contact cases.	
After consideration, the Council decided that this issue was not a priority for this reporting year.	

Activity: Experts reports in family proceedings	
Lead Committee(s): Experts Committee	
Time Scale	March 2012
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take forward conclusions from the Professor Ireland research into the quality of psychologists' reports in family proceedings. 2. To publish guidance on the use of overseas experts in family proceedings
Outcome:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council to consider research, make appropriate recommendations to MoJ for changes in the use of expert psychological evidence in family proceedings and to consider the implications for other areas of expert evidence. 2. Publication of guidance on overseas experts in family proceedings. 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council considered the findings of Professor Ireland's study and decided to work on identifying agreed standards for expert reports in family proceedings. This project will be a priority for the Council's 12-13 Business Plan 2. Guidance on the use of overseas experts in family proceedings was published in December 2011. The guidelines were shared with the Judicial College. 	

Activity: Use of multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACS) in the family courts	
Lead Committee(s): MARACs Working Party chaired by Hedley, J.	
Time Scale	Dec 2011
Objective	Establish Working Party to produce guidance on the use of MARACS in the family courts.
Outcome: Working party to submit draft guidance to the President on the use of MARACs in the family courts with a view to publication.	
The Council published guidance on the use of multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACS) in the family courts in December 2011. The material was shared with the Judicial College.	

Annex E: Family Justice Council: 2012-13 Business Plan

Activity: Projects referred by the Family Justice Board	
Lead Committee (s): Executive Committee	
Time Scale	tbc
Objective	The Family Justice Board is scheduled to have its first meeting in April 2012 where it will identify its priorities for the coming year. The Board is expected to refer projects to the Council to assist it in making progress against the priorities it identifies. The Executive Committee will review the Council's Business Plan during the course of the year to accommodate projects referred to it by the Family Justice Board.
Outcome: tbc	

Activity: Family Justice Review	
Lead Committee(s): Children in Safeguarding Proceedings, Children in Families, ADR, Experts	
Time Scale	April 2013
Objective	To work with the MoJ & DfE in contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of the Family Justice Review.
Outcome: To influence the MoJ & DfE implementation plans to promote an effective introduction of the recommendations of the FJR.	

Activity: Family Justice Modernisation Programme	
Lead Committee(s): Children in Safeguarding Proceedings, Children in Families, Experts, ADR, Pre-Proceedings, Parents & Relatives	
Time Scale	July 2012
Objective	Contributing to the work streams of the modernisation programme led by Mr Justice Ryder
Outcome: To influence the recommendations arising from Ryder J's modernisation programme.	

Activity: Family Justice Modernisation Programme**Lead Committee(s) : Children in Safeguarding Proceedings, Children in Families, Experts, ADR, Pre-Proceedings, Parents & Relatives****Time Scale** **tbc****Objective** To work with the President, the Judicial Office, MoJ and DfE in contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of the Modernisation Programme**Outcome: To influence the implementation plans for the modernisation programme.****Activity: Parenting Coordination Scoping Study****Lead Committee(s): Children in Families****Time Scale** **March 2013****Objective** To commission a scoping study into feasibility of adopting the parenting coordination model in England and Wales**Outcome: A report of the study to be delivered to the Council by end March 2013****Activity: Cross-Government Definition of Domestic Violence****Lead Committee (s): Domestic Abuse & Diversity Committees****Time Scale** **April 2012****Objective** To prepare and submit a response to the Home Office Consultation seeking views on the desirability of widening the current cross-government definition of domestic violence**Outcome: To influence a change to the Government's current definition of Domestic Violence**

Activity: Feedback to judiciary in public law cases on outcomes for children of final orders**Lead Committee (s): Children in Safeguarding Proceedings****Time Scale** **October 2013****Objective**
To commission research into feedback to the judiciary on outcomes for children of final orders made in public law cases and on how this could be achieved.**Outcome: A report of the research to be submitted to the Council. Council to consider and make recommendations.****Activity: Promoting Cross-Jurisdictional Co-operation & Understanding Between Family Courts and Tribunal Service Immigration Appeals Chamber****Lead Committee (s): Voice of the Child****Time Scale** **April 2012****Objective**
To circulate an updated Immigration/ Family Interface Information Document to family judiciary by end of April 2012.**Outcome: To reduce the number of adjournments in cases involving children, where there are concurrent proceedings, as a result of improving the flow of relevant information between the two jurisdictions.****Activity: Family Court Expectations Documents****Lead Committee (s): Parents and Relatives, ADR****Time Scale** **June 2012****Objective**
To seek agreement from the President and HMCTS to introduce a revised 'What the Family Courts expect from Parents' document and to introduce a corresponding 'What can Parents expect from the Family Courts' document across England and Wales.**Outcome: Final drafts of both documents to be submitted to the President for approval having first consulted with judiciary and HMCTS.**