

Family Justice Network for Wales
Summary Note of Meeting
Monday 18 November 2013

The fifth meeting of the Family Justice Network (FJN) took place on 18 November 2013, chaired by Albert Heaney, Director of Social Services and Integration, Wales.

Paul Apreda of Families need Fathers: Both Parents Matter Wales attended this meeting to give a presentation on Parental Alienation. He also requested that the Network consider recognising Parental Alienation and it was agreed that the Network would consider the request. Mr Apreda left immediately following his presentation.

The final report on the family justice data analytical project had been compiled. It was agreed to forward the final version to Network members for comment.

A number of multi-disciplinary events had taken place in Wales leading to a discussion at this meeting of how to take this forward. It was agreed that a small group convene to produce a scoping paper to be presented at the next meeting.

A sub-group of the Network will continue to monitor, in Wales, the system wide pilot of the revised Public Law Outline, it will also consider 'best practice' in the discharge of care orders.

An update was provided on the proposals for workforce development which, in the shorter term, are focussed on equipping social workers in readiness for system reform. ADSS Cymru will be approached with a view to ensuring that social workers are available for training courses.

The FJN noted progress against actions in the current Action Plan and will consider future key actions in the development of a refreshed Action Plan at its next meeting in light of private law developments that are being considered.

An issue had arisen concerning safeguarding reports; clarification has been sought and will be reported back to the next meeting.

It was noted that the revised PLO had now been issued and was available on the Ministry of Justice website. Model templates had been developed in England and similar templates were under consideration in Wales.

In order to ensure that the voice of children and young people is heard it is proposed that the newly created citizen's panel is used as the vehicle for this with a recognition that there is a need to recruit more children and young people. A further update on the development of this will be provided at the next meeting.

The network agreed to the formation of a task and finish group to create a suite of data that could focus on intelligence rather than key performance indicators. This would look at discrete parts of the system to ensure that they were working as expected.

Following the creation of a Wales wide care application template a similar template for connected persons was proposed. Further work will be undertaken to take this forward.

Membership of the network was discussed and the consensus was that the membership should not be opened up further at this time.