

## Family Justice Board Terms of Reference

1. The Board is the primary forum for setting direction for the family justice system and overseeing performance. It will work towards a system that is user centred and focused on the best possible outcomes for the children and families that come into contact with it and more responsive to their different needs. It will achieve this through:
  - a) the effective use of data and research
  - b) by bringing together more effectively the resources and knowledge of organisations and agencies in both the public and the private sectors
  - c) the creation of a system that shares learning and experience across England and Wales.
2. Specifically it will:
  - a) Drive the development of greater understanding of family justice and its effectiveness
  - b) Promote the appropriate use of alternatives to court processes in both public and private law
  - c) Work further to reduce delay
  - d) Increase understanding of cost effectiveness and use that greater understanding to improve decision making and give better value for money.
3. It will set objectives, defining performance in terms of how effective (and efficient) the system is in supporting the delivery of the best possible outcomes for the children and families who come into contact with it.
4. It will bring together the most senior leaders in the family justice system and others to monitor performance, hold institutions to account and drive reform.
5. The Board will do this by establishing and holding to account programme and management boards where necessary.
6. The Board will not have direct responsibility for budget setting, management and related resourcing decisions
7. The Board will at all times respect and act in a manner which promotes the rule of law, protects judicial independence both in relation to the judiciary generally and in relation to individual judicial decisions.