



Department  
for Education

## **Children with Complex Trauma Task and Finish Group**

### **Notes of meeting on 16 September 2025**

Held 10:00-12:00, virtually via MS Teams

#### **Chair**

Sarah Jennings: Deputy Director, Looked After Children Division, Department for Education

#### **Attendees**

- Sarah Jennings – Department for Education
- Caroline Twitchett National Health Service England
- Sheila O'Shea (NHS North Central London ICB)
- Research in Practice Officials
- Nuffield Family Justice Observatory Officials
- Department for Education Officials
- Department of Health and Social Care Officials
- Ministry of Justice Officials
- NHS England Officials
- Children's Commissioner's Office Officials
- Association of Directors of Children's Services Officials
- Newcastle City Council Officials
- Additional colleagues from other RCCs and organisations

#### **Introductions**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

#### **Programme Updates**

A DfE official gave an overview of the progress on the various activities covered in the update paper before giving members the opportunities to raise any points.

## **Research Presentation**

Guest speaker from Research in Practice gave a presentation on their research, presenting their findings and highlighted next steps. Members were given the opportunity to discuss and raise any points.

## **Peer Collaborative Presentation**

Guest speaker from NFJO gave an overview on the peer collaborative work and identified six systemic challenges in the sector. A new ecosystem of care was also presented. Members were given the opportunity to discuss and raise any points.

## **AOB and Next Steps**

- The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.
- Publication of research report pending ministerial approval.
- Launch of community of practice in coming weeks.
- Continued cross-sector dialogue and stakeholder engagement.