



Cafcass Family Forum Member information sheet: An opportunity to contribute and be part of the Cafcass Family Forum.

We currently looking for 10 parents, carers or wider family members to join the Cafcass Family Forum. Recruitment to the Cafcass Family Forum opens on Monday 10th June 2024 and closes Sunday 28th July 2024.

What is the Family Forum?

The objective of the Family Forum is to use feedback to better understand how families experience our service and use the learning to improve future practice. Our intention is for children and families to have a better experience with Cafcass as a direct result of the feedback received by the Family Forum. To achieve this, we have built a Family Forum comprising of family members who have experienced the Cafcass service and who are motivated to offer constructive challenge to help improve our service for future families

The role of a Family Forum member:

- ❖ Family Forum members work collaboratively with the Family Forum Manager and the project team to improve social work practice and our service offer for children and families in Cafcass.
- ❖ Family Forum members have the option to participate through group attendance or by communicating with us on a 1:1 basis and contribute by correspondence such as providing feedback on written materials.
- ❖ Should a Family Forum member wish to participate through group attendance, they will be required to attend at least three-four Family Forum meetings over a 12-month period (up to 3 hours including time to prepare for the meeting). Family Forum meetings are held every three months. Smaller working group take place every 6 weeks and members can choose to attend these.
- ❖ All members will be required to engage in an induction period, which take place over 3 months, September- December 2024, before engaging in the work of the Family Forum. The purpose of this induction period is to get to know you and your experience, build trust, and members will also learn about the improvements Cafcass has already made or are making in practice, prior to beginning working on the Family Forum. Members will attend group 3 group sessions and a 1:1 review meeting during the induction period.
- ❖ Member's involvement of the Forum which might include:
 - Work on the Family Forum Priorities- areas of practice in Cafcass which the Family Forum would like to influence.
 - Provide Input into the design of new services and resources for families
 - Attend meetings, staff training events and conferences to share your feedback on Cafcass service and promote the work of the Cafcass Family Forum.
- ❖ The duration of your membership with the Family Forum will be for **2 years and 3 months** (this includes the 3-month induction period) and we anticipate that your membership will begin in September 2024.



- ❖ If successful in your application, you will be required to attend the first **induction workshop** on **Tuesday 17th September 2024 10am-12pm via Zoom**. One further induction workshop will take place on **Wednesday 16th October 4pm-5.30pm** via Zoom, and a further session in November.

What will you receive in return?

- ❖ An opportunity to shape how Cafcass improves its service for future children and families.
- ❖ £15 per hour
- ❖ Support with your own learning and personal development.
- ❖ Most meetings will take place remotely and members will receive reimbursement of travel costs and expenses for any in-person events.

What are we looking for in a Family Forum member?

- ❖ Parents or carers who have been party to family court proceedings (public or private) involving Cafcass, but they cannot be involved in any ongoing family court proceedings. The Cafcass Family Forum is **not a means for parents to address their own personal circumstances** and it for this reason the **members must not currently be in proceedings**.
- ❖ Since the launch of our Together Practice Framework (how we work with children and families, and each other) in 2021, our practice has evolved and improved. Therefore, we are looking for parents, carers, and wider family members, **who have experienced the Cafcass service and court proceedings in the last 3 years**.
- ❖ Parents/carers will be motivated to offer constructive challenge to help improve our service for future families.
- ❖ There may be times when members do not agree with each other, and this is not an expectation of the Cafcass Family Forum. However, all members should always be able to listen to and be respectful of each other's opinions.

What will happen next?

- ❖ If you are interested in becoming a **Family Forum member**, please complete the 'Getting to know each other' form and send it to familyforum@cafcass.gov.uk
- ❖ You will then be invited to a '**Getting to know You**' conversation with the Cafcass Family Forum Manager and a member from the Family Justice Young People's Board. This is an informal discussion, and we will ask open ended questions to get to know more about you and your motivations for wanting to be a part of the Forum. Prior to the '**Getting to know You**' conversation, we will need to review your child's file so that we can prepare for our initial conversation and identify any safety concerns.
- ❖ You will be invited to attend a 30 minute '**Getting to know You**' conversation on a date between **31st July- 9th August 2024** and these will take place virtually by MS Teams or Zoom. You will be contacted after the closing date to arrange a '**Getting to know You**' conversation
- ❖ After your '**Getting to know You**' conversation, you will be contacted by the Family Forum Manager **within 7 days** to inform you of the outcome.



If you have any questions about the role, you are welcome to contact the Family Forum team by email, familyforum@cafcass.gov.uk

