

# Care Crisis Review

## A SECTOR-LED REVIEW OF THE RISE IN APPLICATIONS FOR CARE ORDERS AND THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CARE

*“We are facing a crisis and, truth be told, we have no very clear strategy for meeting the crisis.”*

Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division of the High Court

*“A review that considers changes that could be made nationally and locally to safely reduce the number of children coming into care is long overdue.”*

Alison Michalska, ADCS President

### Purpose of the review

- To identify specific changes to local authority and court systems and national and local policies and practices that will help safely stem the increase in the number of care cases coming before the family courts and the number of children in the care system.
- To do so in a way that retains focus on achieving the best outcomes for children and families and takes account of the current national economic, financial, legal and policy context that impacts on families and on local authority and court practice.

### Why a sector-led review?

- The crisis has an impact on children, young people and families and on those working in the child welfare and family justice systems.
- All stakeholders have knowledge and expertise about the service responses that can make a difference to children and families and may help to safely avert the need for care proceedings.
- There is a groundswell of opinion that those most affected by the crisis should take a combined lead in promoting ways of supporting families to avoid problems escalating.

### Strands of activity

- Collating evidence on the drivers for the increase in care proceedings.
- Scrutinising research findings about the policies and practices that may safely lead to reductions in care applications and children coming into or remaining in care.
- Calling for information and emerging evidence about effective approaches (used by local authorities, courts and voluntary organisations) to engaging positively with families at an early stage and enhancing the chances of resolving family difficulties.
- Consulting with children, young people, parents and kinship carers.
- Consulting with sector leaders and legal and social work practitioners in England and Wales, to explore and prioritise actions for change.
- Reporting, with recommendations, on ways of reducing demands on the family justice and child welfare systems and improving outcomes for children and families.

### Arrangements for the review

- Scheduled for November 2017 to June 2018
- Funded by the Nuffield Foundation
- Chaired by Nigel Richardson, recently retired Children's Services Director, Leeds City Council
- Scoped and planned by family justice and child welfare stakeholders
- Advised by a Stakeholder Group and academics

### How to get involved

Check <https://www.frg.org.uk/involving-families/reforming-law-and-practice/care-crisis-review> for more information about the review's activities.

The dedicated email address for the review is [carecrisis@frg.org.uk](mailto:carecrisis@frg.org.uk)

This review is being facilitated by:



**FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP**  
Keeping children safe in their families