

INTERDISCIPLINARY ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN

JOINT POSITION STATEMENT ON THE DELIVERY OF COURT SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN FAMILY PROCEEDINGS

PRESS RELEASE

30 July 2010

A powerful Alliance of eighteen legal, medical and child care organisations have come together to issue the attached joint position statement which sets out their grave concerns about the services currently being provided by the Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS).

The Alliance questions whether the CAFCASS model of service delivery is either the most effective in terms of outcomes for the vulnerable children involved or the most cost effective use of all the available resources both human and financial.

This week's publication of the results of a National Audit Office review of CAFCASS and the announcement of the referral to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee reinforces the concerns of the Alliance. The Alliance calls on the Government to act quickly as matters are now too serious to await the outcome of the forthcoming Family Justice Review.

The Alliance offers to assist the Government in initiating a constructive exploration of possible alternative arrangements which do not pose a serious threat to the statutory framework protecting children's welfare and rights - painstakingly developed through research and evidence-based clinical practice over the last four decades.

NOTES TO EDITORS

For media enquiries contact:

NAGALRO - ALISON PADDLE (Press Officer) 01539 737 232 (mobile 07789 252453) or NAGALRO office, Karen Harris - 01372 818504, or
ALC - BARBARA HOPKIN (Press Officer) (m) 07970 620156, or ALC office, Julia Higgins - 0208 224 7071