

# North London Fostering Consortium Parent and Child Fostering Scheme THE ROLE OF CAFCASS

Cafcass ( Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) work with children and families that are involved in family proceedings. In the course of its work, Cafcass will identify a Children's Guardian who will be appointed by the Court. They will instruct a solicitor for the child in the case.

As part of Cafcass' work they obtain information to assist them in evaluating the child's circumstances. They will be required to inform the court on their analysis of the situation.

"In respect of family proceedings in which the welfare of children is or may be in question, it is a function of [Cafcass] to:

- (a) safeguard and promote the welfare of the children
- (b) give advice to any court about any application made to it in such proceedings
- (c) make provision for the children to be represented in such proceedings
- (d) provide information, advice and other support for the children and their families."

If a parent and child is placed in a placement under the Parent and Child Fostering Scheme, Cafcass may become involved by liaising with the allocated social worker for the child; meeting the parent and child; liaising with the foster carer; contacting the Independent Reviewing Officer; and reading all papers filed in the proceedings.

During the course of a placement under the Parent and Child Fostering Scheme, reviews will be undertaken - it would be necessary for the Children's Guardian name to be added to the invite list. This is not to suggest that they will attend all such reviews but rather that they can access the outcomes of such reviews i.e. decisions/minutes.

It is the responsibility of the child's allocated Social Worker to keep the Cafcass Guardian informed of changes to the placement or to plans.

Phyllis Dyer,  
Senior Service Manager. Cafcass.  
January 2014.