



research  
in practice

# The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory A Collaborative Project

Nuffield FJO Regional Research Symposium

25<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Rob Street, Director of Justice, Nuffield Foundation & Claire Mason, Centre for Child and Family Justice  
Research, Lancaster University;



# The Nuffield Foundation

- The **Nuffield Foundation** is an independent charitable trust that seeks to advance social wellbeing through funding research and analysis in the Education, Welfare, and Justice domains, to develop or influence workable proposals for improving policy and practice
- We are a key funder of research into Family Justice issues. As well as a portfolio of research projects on Family Justice, since 2015 we have been developing the **Nuffield Family Justice Observatory**

- The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory aims **to support best possible outcomes for children who come into contact with the Family Justice system in England & Wales, by improving the use of data and research evidence.**
- In practice this means working with stakeholders to identify priority issues for action, generating new evidence and insights, and making more use of existing evidence through translation and mobilisation
- We have committed to the FJO for a five year pilot period, starting this year as a development phase led by the Lancaster Univ team

# Towards a pilot observatory



**Scoping study** – established needs/remit/main functions

**Development phase** – implement governance, organisation and delivery models, establish data platform and analytics service & year 1 work plan

**Pilot phase** – deliver the year 1 work plan, develop and deliver future work plans, evaluate and assess sustainable future model for Observatory

**Main phase?**

**We are here**



# The Development Team

To take the development phase forward (April 2017 – March 2018);

- Karen Broadhurst and Claire Mason (Centre for Child and Family Justice Research, Lancaster University)
- Carey Oppenheim – (Independent consultant to the NF, former CEO Early Intervention Foundation)
- Susannah Bowyer and Mary Ryan, (Research in Practice)
- Lisa Holmes - (Rees Centre, Oxford University)

# Development phase, what are we doing?

## Eight work streams running concurrently

1. Establish and implement a **governing body and chair**
2. Confirm a leadership and organisational model
3. Establish a methodology to increase **safe and secure access to controlled family justice data** together with a **programme of analytic work** for England and Wales (initial priority is Cafcass data)
4. Work with an expert task-group to develop a **position statement on evidence standards**
5. **Co-produce with stakeholders a first special interest study** “Infants in the FJ system” and criteria for further projects (public and private law – stakeholder event September 2018)
6. Work with **Greater Manchester** to understand mechanisms for **regional engagement**; including a judicial reference group
7. Produce a national **website, a series of insight papers and showcase FJ innovation & good practice**
8. Produce a work plan for year 1 of the Pilot FJO



# Find Out More

- Nuffield FJO website will be launched on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- Sign up to receive ongoing information, access to events and free resources

<http://nuffieldfjo.co.uk>