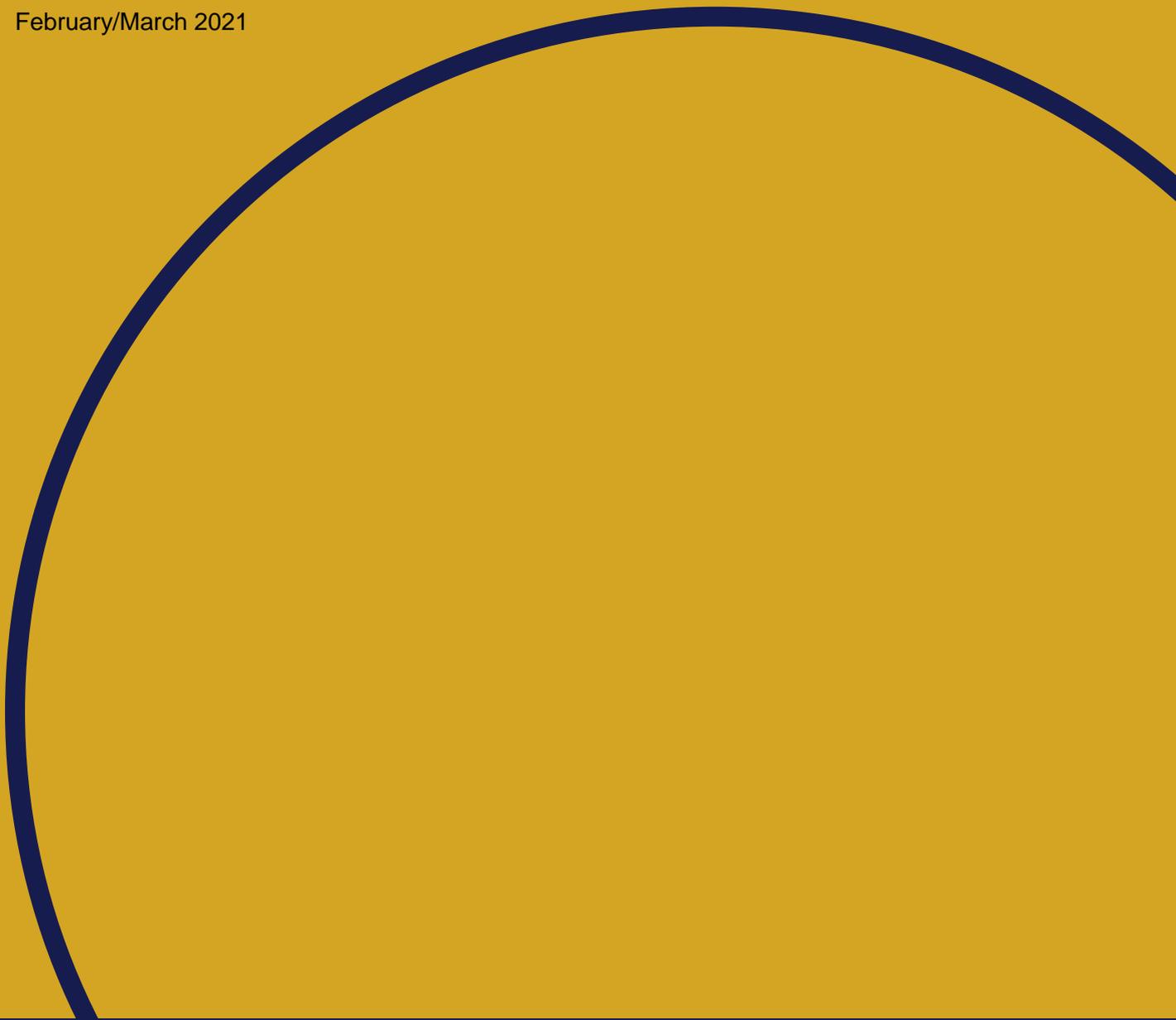




# **Supervision orders in care proceedings: survey questions**

February/March 2021



## About the survey

The questions in this document formed a survey into the use of supervision orders in care proceedings. The focus of the survey was on standalone supervision orders made in relation to children who had returned home at the end of care proceedings or who had stayed at home or been returned during proceedings. The survey ran for three weeks from 15 February to 8 March 2021. Responses to the survey came from a range of legal and children's social care professionals, as well as parents.

A summary and full report on the findings can be found at:

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/supervision-orders-care-proceedings-survey>

The report will contribute to the current review of supervision orders being carried out by a sub-group of the President of the Family Division's Public Law Working Group.

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## About the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory

Nuffield Family Justice Observatory (Nuffield FJO) aims to support the best possible decisions for children by improving the use of data and research evidence in the family justice system in England and Wales. Covering both public and private law, Nuffield FJO provides accessible analysis and research for professionals working in the family courts.

Nuffield FJO was established by the Nuffield Foundation, an independent charitable trust with a mission to advance social well-being. The Foundation funds research that informs social policy, primarily in education, welfare, and justice. It also funds student programmes for young people to develop skills and confidence in quantitative and scientific methods. The Nuffield Foundation is the founder and co-funder of the Ada Lovelace Institute and the Nuffield Council on Bioethics.

Nuffield FJO has funded this project, but the views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Nuffield FJO or the Foundation.

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## Survey questions

### Identity

**Q1: Which of the following best describes you**

*Depending on your answer you will be directed to the relevant part of the survey for you.*

Parent

Other relative

Judge

Magistrate

Barrister

Local authority lawyer

Solicitor (private practice)

Independent social worker

Social worker

Social work manager

Independent reviewing officer

Director of children's services

Family support worker

Cafcass

Cafcass Cymru

Legal adviser (magistrates court)

Third sector organisation

Advocate

Other – give details

## Judges, magistrates, solicitors, barristers, legal advisers, Cafcass, and Cafcass Cymru

**Q2. Which of the area or areas below do you work in?**

*If you sit as a judge or magistrate, or represent or otherwise support parents or children, across different areas, please tick all that apply.*

North West

North East

Yorkshire and the Humber

West Midlands

East Midlands

East of England

South East

South West

London

Wales

**Q3. Have you been involved in care proceedings in the last six years where a standalone supervision order was made in relation to at least one of the children involved in the proceedings? (In other words, the supervision order was not attached to another order such as a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.)**

Yes/No

*If answers NO to Q3 taken to free text box to give any relevant info and end of survey: As you have not been involved in care proceedings where a standalone supervision order was made in the last six years the remaining survey questions are not relevant. If there is anything you wish to make the researchers aware of about the use of supervision orders, please give details below.*

**Q4. In how many of the cases that you have heard, or been involved with, in the last six years was a supervision order applied for by the local authority when the proceedings were issued?**

None

1–5

6–10

More than 10

Don't know

**Q5. In how many of the cases that you have heard, or been involved with, in the last six years was a supervision order NOT applied for by the local authority when the proceedings were issued, but the order was subsequently sought in an amended care plan?**

None

1–5

6–10

More than 10

Don't know/unsure

**Q6. If you have experience of courts in different areas, have you experienced different attitudes towards the use of supervision orders in different areas?**

Yes/No

Don't know

N/A

**Q7. If you answered yes to the above question, please explain what the differences are in the box below.**

**Q8. In the cases that you have been involved in, why have supervision orders been made?**  
*Please tick all that apply*

To ensure that contact between children and other family members is promoted

To ensure that children receive the support and services they need

To ensure that parents receive the services and support they need

To enable the local authority to monitor the safety of the child

Don't know/unsure

Other – give details

**Q9. Please use the box below if you wish to expand on your answer to the question above (on why supervision orders have been made).**

**Q10. When you make (or recommend or advocate for) a supervision order for a child who is returning home at the end of care proceedings, what do you hope the order will achieve?**  
*Please answer briefly in the box below.*

**Q11. At the end of proceedings how often do you see a preamble to the order setting out expectations?**

Always/Often/Rarely/Never

**Q12. At the end of proceedings how often do you see a written agreement?**

Always/Often/Rarely/Never

**Q13. At the end of proceedings how often do you see a support plan?**

Always/Often/Rarely/Never

**Q14. In your experience, are requirements imposed on either the local authority or the parent(s) for the duration of the supervision order? *If yes, please explain what these are.***

**Q15. In your opinion, what kind of cases are most suitable for the making of a supervision order? *Please answer briefly in the box below, including an indication of the reason for your answer.***

**Q16. In thinking about the most recent case where a supervision order was made, how clear were you about the purpose of the order?**

Very clear

Fairly clear

Unsure

Not clear at all

**Q17. In the last six years, have you made, or had experience of a family assistance order being made when children return home at the end of care proceedings?**

Yes/No

**Q18. If you answered yes to the above question, please give details about the reasons for this order.**

**Q19. In general, do you think supervision orders are helpful or unhelpful? *Please explain your answer.***

**Q20. Do you think supervision orders should be retained as an option in care proceedings?**

Yes

Yes, but with changes

No

**Q21. Please add any comments in the box below to expand on your answer above. If you answered yes but with changes, please given an indication of the changes you would like to see.**

**Social workers, senior managers, independent reviewing officers, DCS, family support staff**

**Q2. Which of the area or areas below do you work in?**

North West

North East

Yorkshire and the Humber

West Midlands

East Midlands

East of England

South East

South West

London

Wales

**Q3. Have you been involved in care proceedings or with a child and family in the last six years where a standalone supervision order was made in relation to at least one of the children involved in the proceedings? (In other words, the supervision order was not attached to another order such as a special guardianship order or child arrangements order).**

Yes/No

*If answers NO to Q3 taken to free text box to give any relevant info and end of survey: As you have not been involved in care proceedings where a standalone supervision order was made in the last six years the remaining survey questions are not relevant. If there is anything you wish to make the researchers aware of about the use of supervision orders, please give details below.*

**Q4. During the last six years, have you been involved in care proceedings or involved with a child and family, or had managerial responsibility for staff, in cases where a stand-alone supervision order was made in relation to at least one of the children involved in the proceedings?**

None

1–5

6–10

More than 10

Don't know/Unsure

**Q5. In how many of the cases that you have been involved with, in the last six, years was a supervision order NOT applied for by the local authority when the proceedings were issued, but was the order sought in an amended care plan?**

None

1–5

6–10

More than 10

Don't know/Unsure

**Q6. In the cases that you have been involved in, why have supervision orders been made?**

To ensure that contact between children and other family members is promoted

To ensure that children receive the support and services they need

To ensure that parents receive the services and support they need

To enable the local authority to monitor the safety of the child

Don't know/Unsure

Other – give details

**Q7. Please use the box below if you wish to expand on your answer to the question above (on why supervision orders have been made).**

**Q8. In your opinion, what kind of cases are most suitable for the making of a supervision order? Please answer briefly in the box below, giving reasons:**

**Q9. In thinking about your most recent case where a supervision order was made, how clear were you about the purpose of the order?**

Very clear

Fairly clear

Unsure

Not clear at all

**Q10. Does your local authority have a protocol or guidance for practice when a supervision order is made in relation to a child returning home at the end of care proceedings?**

Yes/No

Don't know/unsure

**Q11. In your opinion, should the child have a new social worker when a supervision order is made?**

Yes

No

Don't know/unsure

**Q12. When a child returns home at the end of care proceedings under a supervision order is the child:**

A child in need (England)

A child on a care and support plan (Wales)

A child subject to a child protection plan

Either, depending on the circumstances

**Q13. Do you have data systems in place which allow you to easily identify children who are under a supervision order in your local area?**

Yes/No

Don't know

**Q14. Please add any further comments about your answer to the above question.**

**Q15. How many children in your area are currently under a supervision order? Please provide an approximate answer if unsure of an exact figure.**

**Q16. How frequently is the plan for a child under a supervision order reviewed in your area?**

Every three months

Every six months

As needed

Other – give details

**Q17. Who carries out the review and does it involve the parents and children?**

**Q18. Is the review process for children under a supervision order separate from review processes for children in need or child protection cases?**

Yes/No

Don't know

**Q19. If you answered yes to the above question, please explain.**

**Q20. Please add any additional comments about the review process and how effective you feel this is.**

**Q21. In general, do you think supervision orders are helpful or unhelpful? Please explain your answer.**

**Q22. Do you think supervision orders should be retained as an option in care proceedings?**

Yes

Yes, but with changes

No

**Q23. Please explain your answer to the above question. If you answered yes but with changes, please give an indication of the changes you would like to see.**

### Third sector organisations, advocates, others

|  |
|--|
| <b>Q2. Which of the area or areas below do you work in?</b>  |
| North West   |
| North East   |
| Yorkshire and the Humber   |
| West Midlands  |
| East Midlands  |
| East of England  |
| South East   |
| South West   |
| London   |
| Wales  |
| <b>Q3. In the last six years, have you supported or assisted the parents of children or children themselves who are subject to a supervision order when the children return home following care proceedings?</b>   |
| Yes/No   |
| <i>If answers NO to Q3 taken to free text box to give any relevant info and end of survey: As you have not been involved in care proceedings where a standalone supervision order was made in the last six years the remaining survey questions are not relevant. If there is anything you wish to make the researchers aware of about the use of supervision orders, please give details below.</i> |
| <b>Q4. In the cases that you have been involved in, why have supervision orders been made? Please select all that apply.</b>   |
| To ensure that contact between children and other family members is promoted   |
| To ensure that children receive the support and services they need   |
| To ensure that parents receive the services and support they need  |
| To enable the local authority to monitor the safety of the child   |
| Don't know   |
| Other – give details   |
| <b>Q5. Please add any further comments about the reasons why supervision orders have been made.</b>  |
| <b>Q6. In your opinion, how far have families understood the purpose and nature of the supervision order?</b>  |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Q7. In your opinion, do children, parents, families receive the support they need while supervision orders are in force?</b>                                      |
| Yes  |
| No   |
| Partially  |
| <b>Q8. Please expand on your answer to the above question.</b>   |
| <b>Q9. In your opinion, which cases are most suitable for supervision orders to be made? Please answer briefly in the box below, giving reasons:</b>                 |
| <b>Q10. In general, do you think supervision orders are helpful or unhelpful? Please explain your answer.</b>  |
| <b>Q11. Do you think supervision orders should be retained as an option in care proceedings?</b>   |
| Yes  |
| Yes, but with changes  |
| No   |
| <b>Q12. Please explain your answer to the above question. If you answered yes but with changes, please given an indication of the changes you would like to see.</b> |

### Parents and other relatives

*Explanatory note: Care proceedings are brought by local authorities when they think that children are suffering or are at risk of suffering harm while in the care of their parents. In some care proceedings the court decides that children should return to their parents, but that there should be a supervision order in place to ensure that the child is kept safe.*

|   |
|---|
| <b>Q2. Which of the areas below do you live in?</b> |
| North West  |
| North East  |
| Yorkshire and the Humber                            |
| West Midlands                                       |
| East Midlands                                       |
| East of England                                     |
| South East  |
| South West  |
| London  |
| Wales   |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Q3. Have you been involved in care proceedings in the last six years where a supervision order was made on at least one of your children involved in the proceedings?</b>   |
| Yes/No   |
| <i>If answers NO to Q3 taken to free text box to give any relevant info and end of survey: As you have not been involved in care proceedings where a standalone supervision order was made in the last six years the remaining survey questions are not relevant. If there is anything you wish to make the researchers aware of about the use of supervision orders, please give details below.</i> |
| <b>Q4. Do you understand why the supervision order was made?</b>   |
| Yes/No   |
| <b>Q5. If yes, can you tell us why the supervision order was made?</b>   |
| <b>Q6. How long did the supervision order last for?</b>  |
| 6 months   |
| 1 year   |
| 18 months  |
| 2 years  |
| More than 2 years  |
| <b>Q7. Did you get the support and help you needed from the local authority while the supervision order was in force?</b>  |
| Yes  |
| No   |
| Somewhat   |
| We didn't need any help  |
| <b>Q8. What support or services did you get from the local authority while the supervision order was in force?</b>   |
| <b>Q9. How often were you and/or your child visited by the social worker while the supervision order was in force?</b>   |
| <b>Q10. When your child was under a supervision order were they regarded as a child in need by the local authority or were they under a child protection plan?</b>   |
| Child in need (England)  |
| Child on a care and support plan (Wales)   |
| Child protection   |
| Don't know   |

**Q11. Reflecting on your own experience, do you think a supervision order is helpful or unhelpful for other families in a similar position to your own?**

Very helpful

Fairly helpful

Not at all helpful

**Q.12 If you would like to comment on your answer to the above question, please do so here.**

### About you (for all respondents)

**Q1. How do you identify your ethnicity?**

*Categories and descriptions are based on the 2011 England Census. If you do not wish to disclose your ethnicity, please select 'Prefer not to say'.*

**Q2. Would you define yourself as having a disability?**

Yes

No

Prefer not to say