

Annual report | July 2021

# Annual Report 2020/21



This annual report summarises Nuffield Family Justice Observatory's activity during the second year of its pilot phase (July 2020 to July 2021).

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# Introduction

Nuffield Family Justice Observatory (Nuffield FJO) improves the lives of children and their families by putting data and evidence at the heart of the family justice system. We were established by the Nuffield Foundation in 2019 following an extensive scoping and development phase.

We contribute to the Nuffield Foundation's mission to advance social well-being by investing in high quality research and convening and connecting expertise and insight to inform policy and practice. Building on a longstanding commitment to funding research relating to family justice, the Nuffield Foundation agreed to fund and incubate Nuffield FJO during its pilot phase (2019–2023).

All of the people who work within the family justice system—judges, lawyers, social workers, Cafcass guardians, policy makers and more—share a common goal: helping children and families to thrive in the future. But understanding how to achieve that ambition is limited by a lack of readily available data and research evidence. Too few opportunities also exist for those involved to share their knowledge and experiences.

Nuffield FJO exists to find and fill the gaps in our understanding of the family justice system, to highlight the areas where change will have the biggest impact, and to foster collaboration to make that change happen. A bridge between the academic community and frontline practitioners, we are independent and relentless in our focus on ensuring children get the best support based on the best available information. In everything we do, our work is guided by the experiences of children and families right across England and Wales.

In just two years Nuffield FJO has become recognised as being (in the words of the President of the Family Division) 'on the family law map in indelible ink'. We have rapidly grown our reputation, profile and reach. In the past year we have started to demonstrate the potential impact that Nuffield FJO can have on the lives of children and families who come into contact with the family justice system.

# Approach

Nuffield FJO analyses and shares data and research in an accessible way so that people can see the bigger picture. We shine a spotlight on key issues, bring people together, convene conversations and empower professionals to come up with solutions.

The centre of our lens is on the family courts, but our focus extends far beyond this to understand the support that children and families need before they reach family courts, and what happens when they have been through the family justice system.

Nuffield FJO is entirely independent, working with leading academics, reviewing evidence from around the world, and commissioning new research where it is needed.

An important part of our work is connecting with judges, lawyers, social workers, parents and others, and convening conversations between them to try to bring about changes in policy and practice, informed by high quality research and data analysis. This ‘catalyst’ role involves building and maintaining close relationships with frontline practice.

**Figure 1: Nuffield Foundation’s success framework**



In working to improve the evidence base, to convene and connect groups of professionals, and with a focus on improving the lives of children and families through changes in policy and practice, there is a highly valuable symbiotic relationship between the Nuffield Foundation’s justice programme and Nuffield FJO. The Nuffield Foundation’s justice programme brings depth and credibility to family justice issues. Nuffield FJO brings reach and impact.

# Key activities in the last year

We have worked on a number of critical family justice issues over the course of the last year. A consolidated list of events and publications is included in the appendix.

## Work during the pandemic

At the beginning of the pandemic we quickly pivoted our work to support a rapid understanding of how the social distancing restrictions were affecting court users.

We ran two extensive consultations in April 2020 and September 2020 on behalf of the President of the Family Division.<sup>1</sup> In total over 2,300 individuals (including 150 parents) took part. The consultations documented the challenges faced by judges, lawyers, social workers, Cafcass workers, parents and many others in terms of attending court by video or telephone. They also documented where remote working was proving effective and identified recommendations for good practice. The subsequent reports were used by the President as guidance for judges and magistrates. They also directly informed the wider practice of lawyers, Cafcass workers and local authorities.

### **Sir Andrew MacFarlane, President of the Family Division, November 2020**

‘[Remote hearings in the family justice system (September 2020)] is plainly a ‘must read’ for all those currently involved in conducting or taking part in hearings before the Family Court ... the process of reading it should, itself, produce a corrective impetus for better practice in the system. Rather than producing a revised version of Chapter 8 and repackaging it as ‘Presidential Guidance’, I propose to endorse each of the NFJO recommendations and, working with HMCTS [HM Courts & Tribunals Service], commend the application of the advice in Chapter 8 to all courts and court users.’

There continues to be extensive interest in the survey findings. These were summarised and widely shared via a short animation.<sup>2</sup> A webinar on remote hearings run by Nuffield FJO on behalf of the Judicial College in February 2021 attracted over

<sup>1</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/remote-hearings-rapid-consultation>; and <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/remote-hearings-september-2020>

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/project/remote-hearings-in-the-family-justice-system>

1,000 participants.<sup>3</sup> In June 2021 a further consultation was launched to identify the practices that should continue once social distancing restrictions are eased.<sup>4</sup>

We also investigated how child protection conferences were operating during the pandemic.<sup>6</sup> More than 500 parents and professionals took part in our consultation on the implications of ‘virtual’ (or ‘remote’) child protection conferences. The study was carried out by King’s College London and highlighted a disconnect between the positive experiences of professionals and the concerns of parents.

#### **Family Rights Group, Twitter, 14 December 2020<sup>5</sup>**

‘Important study on ‘virtual’ child protection conferences. Findings are consistent with the experience of callers to our advice service: families often having to join by phone; not clear about nature of children’s services’ concerns; & finding it harder to contribute their views.’

## **Separating families**

The family court has a role in resolving disputes between separating parents over child arrangements—known as ‘private law’. More than twice as many private law applications are started in England and Wales each year than public law applications. Yet little is known about the children and families appearing in the system, their backgrounds or particular issues, or the services available to them on their journey towards court.

In 2020/21 we published the first population-based empirical evidence on the profile of children and families entering private law proceedings in England and Wales. The studies, undertaken by the Family Justice Data Partnership, uncovered links with deprivation and significant variations in the volumes of applications across the regions.<sup>7</sup> These findings were widely debated in a webinar in February 2021.

Looking beyond the data, we commissioned qualitative research (due to be published in early 2022) to explore the experiences of separating families more closely. As well as providing more insights into the wishes and experiences of separating families, this research will also be used to inform new Ministry of Justice pilots, which are testing new approaches to delivering family justice in private law proceedings.

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svu2s2NuOE4>

<sup>4</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/news/rapid-consultation-family-justice-recovery-plans>

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://twitter.com/familyrightsgp/status/1338561922053132288>

<sup>6</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/child-protection-conference-practice-covid-19>

<sup>7</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/private-family-law-whos-coming-to-court-england>; and <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/private-family-law-whos-coming-to-court-wales>

By providing new evidence and convening expertise we are prompting debates about ways to manage private law cases both in and out of court, including directly informing the work of the President’s Private Law Advisory Group and the Ministry of Justice’s domestic abuse review.

### **Feedback on Who is Coming to Court, February 2021**

‘As a lawyer, it was extremely insightful and it highlights major changes that need to be made’ (Solicitor).

‘A brilliant and engaging event’ (Organisation providing specialist support to Black and minoritised women and children).

‘Absolutely in awe of that evening. Created amazing tone and a relaxed conversation between so many Thank you!’ (Solicitor and Mediator).

‘That [report] for me was genuinely illuminating and made me think about things in a different way. Lower economic groups’ domination in the private law system was genuinely new information... As research goes, you can't ask for more than that!’ (Stakeholder interviewed for Mid-Term Review)

## **Contact arrangements**

There is increasing recognition of the importance of supporting children to understand their history and identity to maximise healthy well-being and development. Despite this, decision-making about how contact is managed between children and their birth families when they are placed for adoption, removed from home through care proceedings, or voluntarily looked after by local authorities, has evolved very little in recent years.

In July 2020 we published a research review that examined what is known about the implications of contact for the well-being of children and young people who have been separated from their birth parents in public law contexts.<sup>8</sup> The review synthesised findings from 49 studies, including international academic and grey literature, published between 2000 and 2020. We used several methods to disseminate the findings of this review, including a short animation, a briefing paper that highlighted six key messages from the research, and a series of webinars attended by over 850 professionals.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/contact-well-being>

<sup>9</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/our-work/contact>; <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/contact-six-key-messages>; and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wuSRv9rW3s&t=6s>



### **Feedback from webinar on contact, January 2021**

‘As a social worker involved in SGO [special guardianship order] assessments and support plans, the session helped me think more carefully and holistically about the nature of contact.’

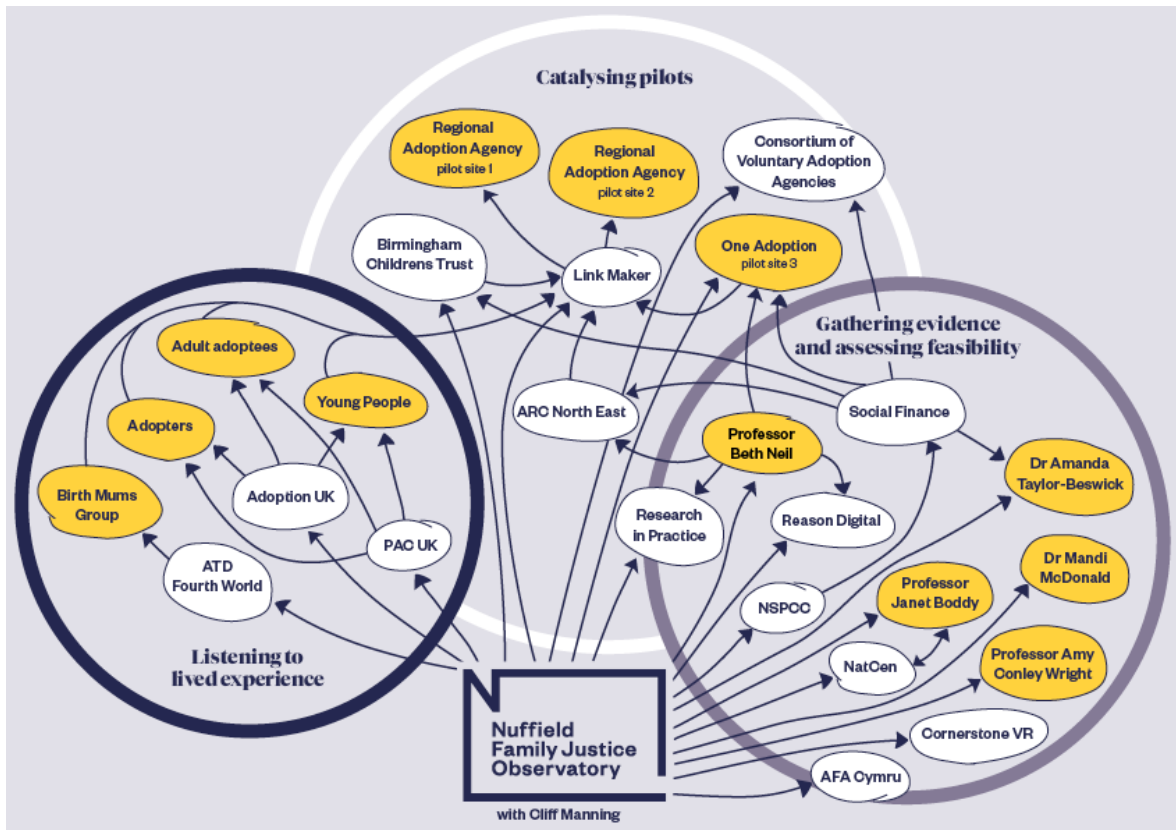
‘Really excellent and very relevant to practitioners thinking about best practice for children and young people's contact—so useful to have an evidence base to be able to draw from and quote.’

However, we know that dissemination of evidence is not enough to close the gap between ‘what we know’ and ‘what we do’. So we then turned our attention to contact arrangements post adoption, which are often rigid and outdated. ‘Letterbox’ contact—the most common arrangement for the vast majority of adopted children—was designed for a pre-digital age, is often inflexible, and the arrangements are rarely revisited as children grow older.

Through discussions with academics and practitioners, we identified a potential solution—an online system to manage contact, automating some of the functions, providing a broader ‘menu’ of contact options, and freeing up social workers’ time to focus on the most high-risk cases.

We developed a simple digital prototype based on the evidence about what matters to children, and we tested this with birth parents, adopters, young people, adoption agencies and local authorities. Following extensive work to connect and convene insights and expertise (see Figure 2, overleaf) we were approached by Link Maker (a social enterprise founded and run by adoptive parents) who expressed an interest in developing and piloting a digital tool, building on our prototype. This tool is now in the process of being piloted by several adoption agencies. We have been able to play a catalyst role in improving contact arrangements post adoption.

Figure 2: Mapping Nuffield FJO activity to improve contact post adoption



## Infants in care proceedings

Nuffield FJO research, carried out by the Family Justice Data Partnership as part of the *Born into Care* series, has revealed the increasing numbers of newborn babies subject to care proceedings in England and Wales.

In June 2020 we published a study of 1,000 mothers in Wales, which explored the health histories of mothers whose children were subsequently subject to care proceedings.<sup>10</sup> This highlighted very high levels of mental health problems. In March 2021, subsequent analysis uncovered the type of mental health disorders experienced by these mothers, including common disorders such as anxiety and depression.<sup>11</sup> The work has placed a particular spotlight on the need for improved mental health support.

Feedback from services in Wales suggests that the *Born into Care* research has helped inform how and when they support families. Encouragingly, analysis published by Nuffield FJO shows a small decline in the number of infant removals in Wales in 2019/20, which may indicate that early intervention services are beginning to have an impact.

Further analysis published in June 2021 revealed the extent to which hearings relating to newborn babies are being heard at short notice, raising questions as to

<sup>10</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/1000-mothers-care-proceedings-wales>

<sup>11</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/born-into-care-maternal-mental-health>

whether mothers can meaningfully participate.<sup>12</sup> The study also revealed significant geographical differences in the extent of short-notice hearings. Further qualitative work is now under way to explore the reasons for these differences. With researchers at Lancaster University and the Rees Centre at the University of Oxford, led by Professor Karen Broadhurst, we are now developing the first national, evidence-informed good practice guidelines for professionals involved in the process of removing newborn babies from their mothers at birth.

There is also growing national and international recognition of what is commonly termed the ‘repeat removals’ problem. For a proportion of birth mothers—and also fathers—history can repeat itself and result in the successive removal of children from their care through family court proceedings.

Our 2020 report examined this ‘recurrence’ issue in Wales, finding that one in every four birth mothers in Wales who had appeared in a first set of care proceedings were at risk of returning to the family court.<sup>13</sup> In May 2021 we published a briefing paper summarising the key messages from research on recurrent care proceedings and outlined points for reflection for judges, magistrates, lawyers and social workers.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/newborn-babies-urgent-care-proceedings>

<sup>13</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/women-in-recurrent-care-proceedings-in-wales-a-first-benchmarking-report>

<sup>14</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/recurrent-care-proceedings>

# Family Justice Data Partnership

The Family Justice Data Partnership—a collaboration between the University of Lancaster and the University of Swansea—was established to provide a bespoke service as the ‘data engine’ for Nuffield FJO. It was also envisaged to meet a wider need, since there was no straightforward mechanism for academics to access and analyse Cafcass or Cafcass Cymru data.

Since Cafcass data provides the ‘spine’ for all family justice cases (against which other datasets could be linked) its acquisition by the Family Justice Data Partnership in 2019 (and subsequent updates) was a significant step forward for family justice research.

In the last year the work of the Family Justice Data Partnership has enabled us to publish groundbreaking new analysis (for example, a profile of families in private law proceedings,<sup>15</sup> and trends and regional differences in the number of infants in care proceedings<sup>16</sup>), including work involving innovative data linkage studies using Welsh datasets (for example, the mental health histories of mothers whose infants are subject to care proceedings,<sup>17</sup> and the (forthcoming) characteristics of parents who are in public law proceedings). This is enabling us to start filling in some significant evidence gaps and to influence policy and practice discussions.

## Feedback from webinar to introduce the SAIL Databank, January 2021

‘The event has provided me with considerably clearer information about the secondary data that is available, and key areas for future research and funding.’

Our ambition is to extend such analyses to better understand the profile and experiences of children and parents involved in the family justice system in England, as well as Wales. Later in 2021 FamilyMan (court data for England and Wales) will become available for analysis via the SAIL Databank. However, we remain constrained by limited access to other administrative data in England and continue to press government agencies to share data in a safe and anonymised way so that important insights can be gleaned to inform better ways to support children and families.

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<sup>15</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/our-work/private-law>

<sup>16</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/our-work/newborn-babies>

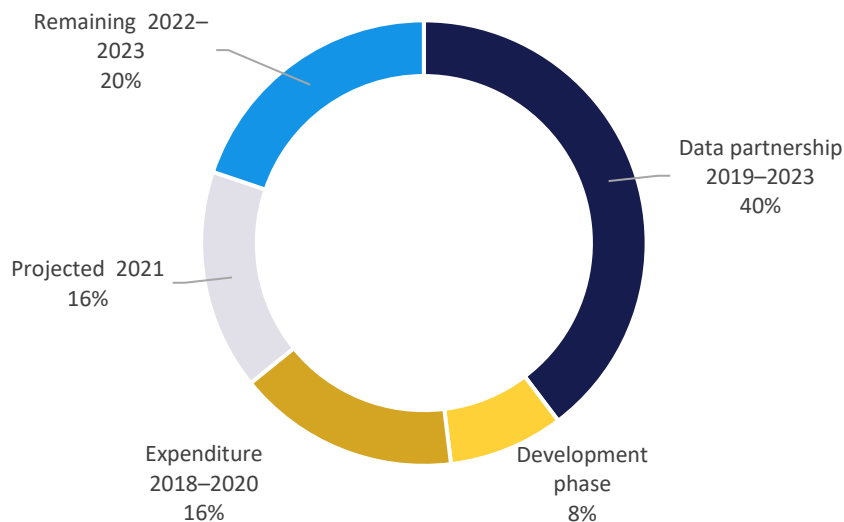
<sup>17</sup> See: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/born-into-care-maternal-mental-health>

# Financial position

Of the £5.5 million set aside by the Nuffield Foundation trustees in July 2019:

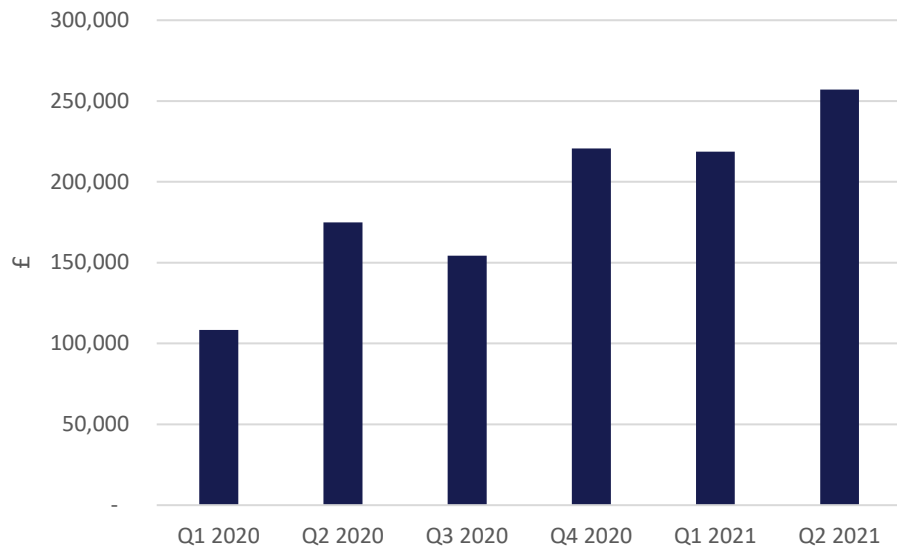
- £460,000 (8%) was allocated to the Nuffield FJO development phase (2018–2019)
- just under £2.2 million (40%) was allocated to the Family Justice Data Partnership (2019–2023)
- £2.9 million (52%) was allocated to Nuffield FJO operating and other costs for 2019–2023.

**Figure 3: Breakdown of initial expenditure on Nuffield FJO by year**



As at April 2021, expenditure of £1.2 million had been incurred against the £2.9 million allocation (41%), leaving just under £1.7 million remaining in the current allocation.

Unsurprisingly as a start-up, we have yet to reach a ‘steady state’ in terms of our annual expenditure. Both the team and activities have steadily increased, and this is reflected in a rising level of expenditure each quarter.

**Figure 4: Quarterly expenditure, 2021/22**

# Reach and impact

We have rapidly increased our profile and reach in the last year. The number of people attending our events, downloading reports and subscribing to our regular newsletter continues to grow.

Our public events have regularly attracted several hundred people and sometimes closer to one thousand (see appendix). During the pandemic we took advantage of the fact that professionals such as judges and lawyers could access video conference events where they may previously have been unable to attend in person. Our webinars organised on behalf of the Judicial College have been particularly successful in this regard.

## **Feedback on Judicial College webinar, February 2021**

'It is astounding how what we thought would be a modest offering to fill the gap left by the pandemic has grown into one of the largest events the College has been involved in ... my very grateful thanks to everyone ... One of the Tribunal training leads said that the webinar was the best she had ever attended and its content, although aimed at Family [judges], was something she had used that day. Her comments drew universal agreement' (Joint Dean, Judicial College).

'I wish to express my thanks to you and to your team, for hosting and organising such an informative and interesting Webinar yesterday evening. I really appreciated the quality of the guest speakers, and the various issues and advice discussed, and for me it alleviated the feeling of "isolation" that can occur when adjudicating on remote Family Panel cases during this pandemic! I am now signed up to receive updates from the FJO, which I look forward to receiving' (Attendee).

While our webinars have helped to substantially increase our reach, they have also been valuable in convening conversations between different family justice professionals, offering a unique forum for debate and discussion.

### Feedback on webinars held in 2021

‘This was an invaluable opportunity to learn from those who had already experienced doing pilots in the family justice system. So much easier to learn from your peers ... I am fortunate to have engaged with most people before but have less experience of legal advisers and psychologists so really helpful to have their input.’

‘It was interesting and informative and provided many different viewpoints, from the respondent mothers to the head of the Family Division.’

‘Gathering experiences from experts, practitioners and judiciary outside of your own circuit is very helpful when trying to consider ways to approach and adopt good practice is dealing with family cases.’

During 2020/21 our reports have regularly featured in mainstream media including Radio 4’s Today Programme, Woman’s Hour and the World at One, The Guardian, The Sunday Times, as well as specialist media such as Community Care, Children and Young People Now and Family Law. Along with social media, this has helped to drive up interest and engagement with our work, as evidenced by rising number of subscribers to our newsletter and website users (see Figure 5).

### Sunday Times, 23 May 2021<sup>18</sup>

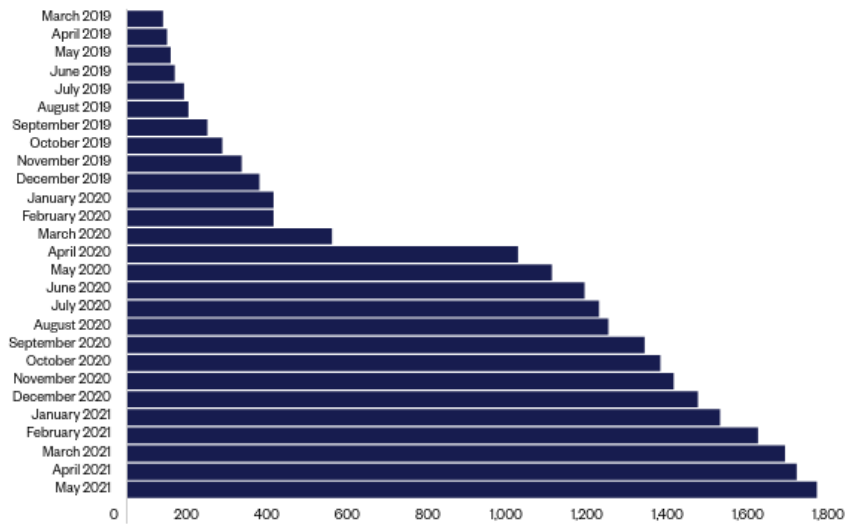
‘The average number of newborn babies in care proceedings in England rose 20 per cent between 2012–16 and 2017–20, according to research from the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory to be published next month. Each year between 2017 and 2020, an average of 2,914 babies were subject to a care hearing in the first two weeks of their life. Most were “urgent hearings”, with parents given little notice.’

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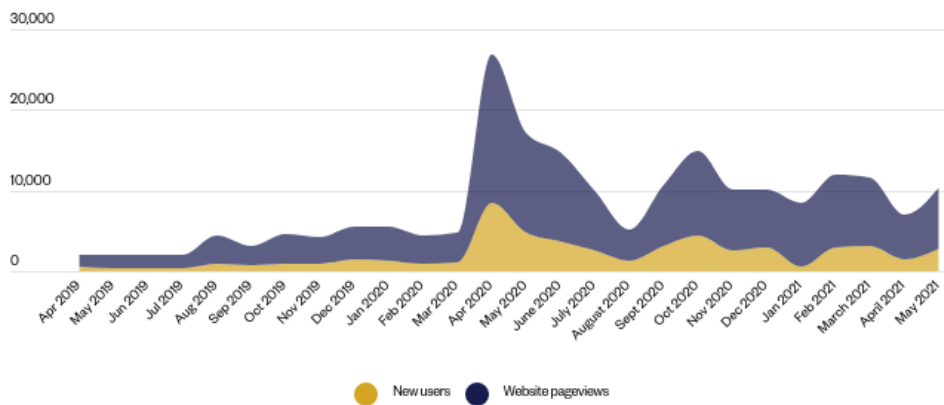
<sup>18</sup> See: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/family-court-privacy-laws-put-judges-needs-first-cnjrsldb8>



**Figure 5: Total newsletter subscribers, 2019–2021**



**Figure 6: Website users and page views, 2019–2021**



## Independent mid-term review

In early 2021 our progress was reviewed by an independent organisation, Impact Works.<sup>19</sup> The review involved an analysis of Nuffield FJO’s written documentation, including records of our impact and reach, interviews with 11 internal and 15 external stakeholders, and a workshop with the Nuffield FJO team.

The final report produced by Impact Works noted that the Nuffield FJO had:

- established itself as a knowledgeable and influential organisation with some key audiences—the review noted that this reputation has been primarily won through the rapid response to the pandemic and the publication of high quality and robust research reports

<sup>19</sup> See: <https://www.impact-works.co.uk/>

- done a very good job of building positive and trusted relationships with stakeholders, particularly with the senior judiciary
- started to empower frontline practitioners to change their practice, although it was more difficult to track at this early stage—however, the review did hear individual stories of how Nuffield FJO’s work had helped to change practice, which was encouraging.

### **Feedback from stakeholders interviewed by Impact Works**

‘It can be tokenistic to use lived experience people, I have seen this with other organisations, but not with NFJO...they pay particular attention to this and the detail of doing it well.’

‘[The team is] knowledgeable and have an authority... [and are also] really practical too, with no airs and graces, no egos or organisational posturing.’

The review undertaken by Impact Works also highlighted some important areas for development.

- Develop some practical descriptions of what the family justice system should and could look like in 10 years’ time, in order to strengthen and consolidate Nuffield FJO’s systems change approach.
- Use these descriptions of the family justice system of the future to identify a set of ‘movements’ and longer-term changes that would be needed in order to achieve this vision.
- Build a strategic evaluation framework based on this 10-year vision and set of key changes and use it to plan and monitor Nuffield FJO’s work.
- Develop a way that Nuffield FJO and the Family Justice Data Partnership can operate as ‘better partners’ in the short term and explore alternative models that address structural obstacles for the longer term.
- Deepen the commitment to, and methodologies for, involving people with lived experience in research, dissemination and communications.
- Develop strategic partnerships that enable Nuffield FJO to increase the scale of its reach and improve relationships and reputation in parts of the system where impact has been weaker so far.

**Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award, June 2021<sup>20</sup>**

In June 2021, Nuffield FJO was delighted to receive the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award.

The award was created by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (United States) to recognise outstanding research and/or research achievements in the field of family and divorce.

In receiving the award, Nuffield FJO was praised for its work during the pandemic, its publications on private law and infants in care proceedings, and its work to convene debate and discussion across the entire family justice system.

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<sup>20</sup> See: <https://www.afccnet.org/About/Awards/ctl/ViewAward/AwardID/2/mid/543>

# A forward look

In the next year we will continue to provide evidence and convene discussions to influence policy and practice relating to post-pandemic recovery and support for separating families and infants who are subject to care proceedings.

We will also be placing a spotlight on the experience of older children who come into contact with the family justice system, with a series of reports and in-depth work with a wide range of stakeholders.

As we enter the second half of our pilot phase we will be acting on the recommendations of the mid-term review and developing the organisation's strategy for the next three to five years.

## **Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division, February 2021**

'We could not be more fortunate to have a free resource, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, that's able to provide the research that it has on remote hearings, babies into care, on other topics, and now this major study of private law, so I'm very grateful to the Family Justice Observatory for all that they have done and all they are going to do in taking this work forward.'

# Appendix: Events and publications

## Events

6 October 2020	Balancing fairness and justice in remote hearings	121 attendees
18 November 2020	Adoption contact	38 attendees
14 December 2020	What does research tell us about contact?	120 attendees
16 December 2020	What does research tell us about contact?	55 attendees
8 January 2021	What does research tell us about contact?	332 attendees
19 January 2021	Introduction to the SAIL databank	66 attendees
8 February 2021	Who is coming to court in England?	124 attendees
18 February 2021	Judicial College webinar on remote hearings	1,021 attendees
15 March 2021	Learning from previous pilots in family justice	26 attendees
22 March 2021	Judicial College webinar on contact	238 attendees
12 May 2021	Young people expert group think-in	15 attendees
7 June 2021	Judicial College webinar on infants in care proceedings	305 attendees
9 June 2021	Open invitation webinar on infants in care proceedings	848 attendees

## Publications

Baginsky, M., Eyre, J., and Roe, A. (2020). *Child protection conference practice during COVID-19. Reflections and experiences (rapid consultation September–October 2020)*.

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/child-protection-conference-practice-covid-19>

Cusworth, L. et al. (2020). *Uncovering private family law: Who's coming to court in Wales?*

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/private-family-law-whos-coming-to-court-wales>

Cusworth, L. et al. (2021). *Uncovering private family law: Who's coming to court in*

*England?* <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/private-family-law-whos-coming-to-court-england>

Griffiths, L.J. et al. (2021). *Born into care: One thousand mothers in care proceedings in Wales. A focus on maternal mental health.*

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/born-into-care-maternal-mental-health>

Iyer, P., Boddy, J., Hammelsbeck, R., and Lynch-Huggins, S. (2020). *Contact following placement in care, adoption, or special guardianship: implications for children and young people's well-being.* Evidence review.

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/contact-well-being>

Mason, C. and Broadhurst, K. (2020). *Discussion paper: What explains marked regional variations in infant care proceedings?*

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/regional-variations-infant-care-proceedings>

Pattinson, R. et al. (2021). *Born into care: Newborn babies in urgent care proceedings in England and Wales.*

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/newborn-babies-urgent-care-proceedings>

Rehill, J. and Roe, A. (2020; 2021). *Children in the family justice system [infographic].*

Available from: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/our-work/children-family-justice-system-infographic>

Retter, E., Wallace, C., and Masson, J. (2020). *The impact of child protection mediation in public law proceedings on outcomes for children and families.* Rapid evidence review.

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/child-protection-mediation-public-law-outcomes>

Ryan, M. (2020). *Contact between children in care or adopted and their families: six key messages from research.*

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/contact-six-key-messages>

Ryan, M. (2021). *Recurrent care proceedings: five key areas for reflection from the research.* Spotlight series. <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/recurrent-care-proceedings>

Ryan, M., Harker, L., and Rothera, S. (2020). *Remote hearings in the family justice system: reflections and experiences (September 2020)*.

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/remote-hearings-september-2020>

Ryan, M., Roe, A., and Rehill, J. (2021). *Supervision orders in care proceedings: survey findings*.

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

Sacker, A., Lacey, R., Maughan, B., and Murray, E. (2021). *Looked-after children grown up* [infographic]. Available from: <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/news/census-later-life-outcomes-children-care>

# 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.