



## **Nuffield Family Justice Observatory Governing Board Terms of Reference**

The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory (Nuffield FJO) Governing Board is not a separate legal entity but reports to the Nuffield Foundation Board on an annual basis. It works in a flexible and responsive way to support the Observatory to establish itself as a trusted and dynamic organisation, incubated by and working closely with the Nuffield Foundation team.

The Board aims to reflect the needs of the organisation. It needs to:

The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory's goal is to support the best possible decisions for children by improving the use of data and research evidence in the family justice system. Board members play an instrumental role in establishing this new organisation, building its role, reputation and reach alongside the executive team and key partners. Central to this is maintaining a focus on improving the outcomes for children and families.

The Chair will work closely with Board members to:

- adhere to good governance principles,
- ensure that the Board's main focus is on strategy, performance and assurance, rather than operational matters, and reflects this in what it delegates
- set the strategy to fulfil the mission and remit of the Nuffield FJO, ensuring that the Nuffield FJO aims are delivered effectively and sustainably,
- agree the work programme and budget and ensure they are in line with the purpose of the Nuffield FJO,
- monitor performance against strategic aims, including actively managing risk and financial operations,
- review the sustainability of income and operating model in the short, medium and long term,
- act as ambassadors for the Nuffield FJO.

The Nuffield FJO reports annually to the Board of trustees of the Nuffield Foundation. In doing so it will outline its main activities and impact in a report that would be approved by the Nuffield FJO governing board beforehand. Where appropriate, its contents will be made public.

Board members will be expected to work closely with the Chair to:

- adhere to good governance principles,
- set the strategy to fulfil the mission and remit of the Nuffield FJO, ensuring that the Nuffield FJO aims are delivered effectively and sustainably,
- agree the work programme and budget and ensure they are in line with the purpose of the Nuffield FJO,
- monitor performance against strategic aims, including actively managing risk and financial operations,
- review the sustainability of income and operating model in the short, medium and long term,
- act as ambassadors for the Nuffield FJO, including attending or leading Nuffield FJO events if required.

Board members must have:

- a commitment and in-depth understanding of the aims and vision of the organisation



- a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- strategic vision
- integrity, good and independent judgement
- an ability to think creatively
- a willingness to speak their mind
- an ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- tact and diplomacy
- good communication and interpersonal skills
- impartiality, fairness and the ability to respect confidences.