

# Design Group Terms of Reference

## Background

On 15 January 2021 the government launched the independent review of children's social care. This review is independently led by Josh MacAlister and offers a once in a generation opportunity to tackle the issues which affect children, young people and families with lived experience of children's social care.

The terms of reference for the review are available [here](#).

## Aims and Objectives

The Design Group will reflect the range of public services already working to provide children with safety and stability, as well as those with other relevant expertise. The group will operate in an advisory capacity, adding their own insight and views to the work of the review.

The Group will be responsible for:

1. Helping the review capture the views of those currently delivering parts of the system.
2. Testing and refining emerging findings throughout the review.
3. Guiding the review on its overall approach to designing recommendations.

Members of the group will be expected to treat emerging findings of the review confidentially. They will not be expected to endorse specific findings or recommendations of the review. Decisions on the review will be taken by the lead reviewer and so the group will not have a decision-making role.

## Governance

The group will be chaired by Josh MacAlister. The secretariat will be provided by the care review team. Positions on the group will not be paid, although members will be entitled to claim any reasonable expenses incurred as part of the role, in line with guidelines that will be issued upon appointment.

## Frequency

The group will meet virtually (until any changes in Covid-19 restrictions), roughly once every quarter. The frequency and dates of meetings will be determined by the independent reviewer based on the work of the review and so may be more or less frequent. In between meetings members may be asked to meet in smaller groups or contribute to specific aspects of the review.

## Membership

### **Rashida Baig MBE, Director of Children's Safeguarding and Social Work, London Borough of Camden.**

Rashida is a qualified social worker and has over 20 years' experience in all aspects of children and families work leading councils through periods of significant structural change to transform services from inadequate to good, including more recently in Croydon. She has a particular interest in making sure that the lived experience of children, young people and their families is understood and reflected in the design and delivery of services through an anti-racist lens.

### **Councillor Judith Blake CBE, Baroness Blake of Leeds**

Baroness Blake was Leader of Leeds City Council until February 2021, having previously overseen the improvement of the council's children's services department from "inadequate" to "good" as the Executive Member for Children and Families. She chaired the Local Government Association's Children and Young People Board from 2019-2021 and became a Labour peer in the House of Lords in March 2021.

**Stuart Carlton, Director of Children's Services, North Yorkshire**

Stuart has over 30 years' experience of varied operational and strategic management across children's services, for Local Authorities and national charities. Stuart is Director of Children's Services in North Yorkshire, which was the first Authority in the country to be rated by Ofsted as outstanding in all judgements in July 2018. He is also a Board Member for the Association of Directors of Children's Services currently holding the post of Honorary Treasurer.

**Carol Culley OBE, Deputy Chief Executive of Manchester City Council**

Carol is the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer at Manchester City Council. As well as being the section 151 officer, she has responsibility for the Corporate Core and for driving a number of priorities such as the leading on the Council's Zero Carbon Action Plan and as senior responsible officer for The Factory and Town Hall projects. She was previously Deputy City Treasurer responsible for Finance and Performance and ICT as well as being a member of the Health & Social Care Devolution Team. Earlier roles included as Assistant Chief Executive overseeing Finance and Performance and as the Assistant Director of Finance and Commissioning for Social Services. She is also chair of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Local Government Board.

**Dr Claire Diamond, Consultant Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatrist**

Dr Diamond has extensive senior clinical and management experience in the NHS working in community and secure contexts. Embracing the challenges and complexities she has chosen to work with children and young people who have experienced abuse and/or trauma, their families/carers and professional networks remaining hopeful about change noting that emerging neuroscience evidences that significant brain development occurs into the early 20s

**Gareth Edwards, Director of Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP), National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC)**

Gareth Edwards is the Director of the VKPP working to the head of the Violence and Public Protection (VPP) portfolio within the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC). The VKPP lead on the delivery of a number of workstreams across the vulnerability threat including the NPCC National Vulnerability Action Plan (NVAP), drawing out learning from safeguarding statutory reviews and supporting implementation of local child strategic safeguarding reforms.

**Lord Farmer**

Lord Farmer grew up in what would be thought of now as a 'troubled family', on the edge of care, but went on to build a successful career in commodities trading. His main policy interest is in strengthening families, preventing the breakdown of family relationships and mitigating the harms this causes: he co-founded the Family Hubs Network with his Parliamentary Adviser, Dr Samantha Callan, to help achieve these ends.

**Angela Frazer-Wicks**

Angela is a member of the review's Experts by Experience board. She is a Trustee of the charity Family Rights Group and a founding member of their parents' panel, which comprises parents with lived experience of the Child Welfare and Family Justice System. Angela sits on many Boards and Panels and advocates for the voices of those with lived experience to form part of service design and implementation.

**Donna Hall, Chair New Local and Bolton NHS Foundation Trust**

Professor Donna Hall is Chair New Local & Bolton NHS Foundation Trust she is a former local government CEO.

**Paul Kissack, Former Director General Department for Education and Deputy Chief Executive for Policy and Organisational Strategy at the Ministry for Children in New Zealand**



Paul was a Director, and then the Director General, for children's social care policy at the Department for Education between 2011 and 2016, and Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Organisational Strategy, for the New Zealand Ministry for Children between 2017 and 2019. He worked on the Children (leaving Care) Act 2000, and was, for almost a decade, a Trustee of a voluntary sector organisation providing foster and residential care. Since 2020 he has been Group Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust.

#### **Mrs Justice Gwynneth Knowles**

Mrs Justice Gwynneth Knowles is a High Court Judge who sits in the Family Division. Before becoming a lawyer, she worked as a children and families social worker.

#### **Margaret Mulowska**

Mags is a member of the review's Experts by Experience Board. Mags is care experienced and has supported her siblings through their care experiences, and for the last 5 years has been a children and families social worker. She is also a community organiser and helps coordinate various grassroots projects looking to build resilient, caring and connected communities.

#### **Nick Pendry, Deputy Director, Children's Services, London Borough of Wandsworth.**

Nick is a social worker and family therapist who has worked in both NHS CAMHS services and Local Authority Children's Services. Nick currently has operational responsibility in Wandsworth for Children's social care, early help, adolescent services and the youth offending service.

#### **Ms Jenny Thompson, Principal of Dixons Trinity Academy**

Jenny Thompson is Principal of Dixons Trinity Academy in Bradford and an Executive Principal at Dixons Academies Trust. She was previously a Special Educational Needs Coordinator, Designated Safeguarding Lead and English teacher; she is also a Behaviour Adviser with the DfE.

#### **Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for England (children & families)**

Isabelle is a senior civil servant, having previously worked for many years in local services for children and families. She is also a Trustee of the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care and a member of the National Panel for Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Isabelle is currently undertaking a national case review of mothers in prison and their babies.

#### **Charlotte Ramsden OBE, Strategic Director, Salford, President of Association of Directors of Children's Services**

Charlotte qualified as a social work over 30 years ago, Charlotte's passion then is her passion now – making a difference for children, particularly children who are vulnerable because of their special educational needs, their disability, their physical, emotional and mental health needs, their poverty, or if they are in care or are a care leaver. This review offers a once in a career opportunity to make a difference to the lives of children in the social care system and those on the edge of it.

#### **Councillor Robert Waltham MBE, Leader North Lincolnshire Council**

Councillor Rob Waltham MBE has been an elected member in North Lincolnshire since 2007 and is the Leader of the Council with Cabinet responsibility for Placing Shaping. Rob has been a Local Education Authority governor at Brigg Primary School since 2010, and previously held the cabinet portfolio for People (Adult & Children's Services). At the heart of these roles, is Rob's desire to ensure our local young people get the best possible start and opportunities to aspire to anything they want to do. Rob is a regular attender of the North Lincolnshire Youth Council and works closely to promote the role of the Young Mayor of North Lincolnshire.



