

### Attendees

#### Design Group members:

- Rashida Baig MBE
- Nick Pendry
- Angela Frazer-Wicks
- Gareth Edwards
- Mrs Justice Gwyneth Knowles
- Stuart Carlton
- Baroness Blake of Leeds
- Lord Farmer
- Councillor Robert Waltham MBE
- Margaret Mulowska
- Carol Culley OBE
- Dr Claire Dimond
- Charlotte Ramsden OBE
- Isabelle Trowler

#### Review Team:

- Josh MacAlister, Chair
- Review Team members
- Duncan Dunlop, Independent Adviser to the Review

#### Observing:

- Dr Samantha Callan
- Louise Smith

#### Apologies:

- Donna Hall
- Paul Kissack
- Jenny Thompson

### **Agenda Item 1: Update and reflections on the Case for Change**

- Review team member provided an overview of feedback we have received so far on the Case for Change, including a consensus behind its principal themes. There have been requests for more detail on disabled children, UASC and the role of schools. The primary points of debate have centred around: the help versus protection argument; unregulated and semi-independent provision; and the future of residential care.

#### Discussion:

- Impressive piece of work delivered in a tight timeframe.
- Need to be careful how we present issues to the workforce – it is easy for criticisms of the system to be perceived as blaming of social workers for systemic issues and challenges.
- Simultaneously, there needs to be non-defensive discussion about both practice and systems. Need to consider how we create spaces for robust discussions and uncomfortable questions.
- Emphasis on supporting families is important and the whole family view is crucial, particularly in tackling domestic abuse.
- We need to think about how we have the support vs protection debate that genuinely gets at the question of what the public appetite is for changing how we manage risk to children.

### Agenda Item 2: Discussion on plans for the remainder of the review

- Review team member outlined the approach to the next stage of the review. The review has been looking at the “Three Horizons” model, which looks at how we can stabilise current problems, move towards future change, and develop an aspirational vision for the future. The review will need to balance recommendations across these three horizons.
- The review is moving beyond problem definition and will be consulting on our big vision statements alongside more detailed work on the key themes, including through local design and fieldwork; workforce engagement; Open Space events; and lived experience engagement.
- Initial plans for recommendations are to develop key principles for the system with specific recommendations underpinning each.
- The review will have a role to play in outlining the role of different actors in the system.
- Recommendations will include a clear articulation of costs and benefits, including the cost of adverse outcomes and of recommendations themselves.
- The review is not planning major public outputs ahead of final recommendations, but will consider how to keep updating the public and stakeholders on progress to ensure the review is transparent.
- The review is considering how we drive implementation of recommendations beyond publication.
- In the next phase, the review will bring together perspectives from those delivering the current system, those with lived experience, and experts and academics, including across membership of our groups.

#### Discussion:

- Members were positive about the “Three Horizons” model and resonance to session on New Zealand and Scottish Care reviews.
- Need to consider throughout engagement how to reach those who have had both poor and positive experiences – easy when doing open events to only hear from a small number with the loudest voices.
- Space and consideration needs to be given to what is right as well as what is wrong, but without losing focus of the fact there are significant issues in the system which need to be addressed.
- Discussion of how to approach some of the specific issues in the Case for Change – e.g. the legislative requirements that underpin bureaucracy and risk aversion; looking at other public service models when thinking about social work progression; and understanding the complexity of cases that child protection social workers are dealing with.
- Importance throughout of making sure that we are talking about work being child centred.
- Need to think ahead to implementation and having the right people on side, including generating cross-party support.

**Action:** Design Group members to contact Review team member with areas of the review they would be interested in being involved in in greater depth throughout the design process.

**Please complete the attached doodle poll (see email) for the next Design Group meeting in October.**