

## Further information

### Board members for the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory

The decisions taken in family justice system can be momentous and life-long for children and their families. All of those working in or around the family justice system want to secure the best possible future for those children. Research evidence and data have great potential to support and enhance decision-making in family justice, but this is an underused resource. The **Nuffield Family Justice Observatory** will address this unfulfilled potential. Its aim is to support the best possible decisions for children by improving the use of data and research evidence in the family justice system. The Nuffield Foundation has committed a fund of £5m to support the development phase and four-year pilot (until 2023). The Observatory will cover public and private family law issues in England and Wales and will be relevant to a range of professionals working right across the family justice system. Local engagement is an important feature of the Observatory, to ensure that its work is grounded in everyday realities and has the widest impact.

The newly appointed Chair of the Observatory, Sir James Munby, former President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales, is looking to recruit members to a new governing board to support the creation and development of this important organisation. We would like to appoint up to six talented and committed board members with a wealth of experience in one or more of the following fields:

- legal or judicial practice in family justice,
- senior practice in Children's Services [or related areas],
- mobilising research and data into practice,
- communications and engagement,
- operational, finance, and fundraising experience relevant to small organisations.

We are looking for board members from both England and Wales and a diverse range of backgrounds, with a real ability and commitment to keeping an eye on the ultimate goal of the Observatory – improving the outcomes for children and families. All members will be appointed in an individual capacity.

It is anticipated that the time commitment will be in the region of 10 days per year to include up to five meetings per year and preparation time. There is an honorarium of £2,000 per annum. Board members will be appointed initially for three years, with the possibility of a further extension of one to two years.

Further information about the role of the Governing Board is set out below.

## **Background on the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory's Governing Board**

The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory (FJO) governing board is not a separate legal entity, but reports to the Nuffield Foundation Board on an annual basis. We anticipate that it will work 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 will also be supported by a Stakeholder Advisory Group with representatives from relevant policy bodies, front-line practice, and families and children, as well as an Expert Panel of academics and practitioners who will guide the Observatory on quality standards for research and evidence. Key partners include Cafcass England and Cymru, who have committed to sharing their data to establish an FJO Data Platform and Analytics Service.

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

- demonstrate independence,
- resonate with the wider Family Justice Sector,
- reflect its England and Wales remit,
- give funders assurance that their money is well spent and demonstrates impact,
- operate in a proportionate way so as not to overburden a small organisation,
- have a diversity of backgrounds and demonstrate relevant experience.

The Nuffield Foundation will be represented on the Board.

## **Job Description for FJO Board Members**

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. As founder board members you will 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. We are looking for individuals who are adept at understanding a range of views which are sometimes sharply at odds with each other and being able to steer the FJO through these so that it is seen as truly representative and independent.

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 FJO, ensuring that the FJO aims are delivered effectively and sustainably,
- agree the work programme and budget and ensure they are in line with the purpose of the 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 FJO.

Alongside the specific expertise that we are searching for, 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.

To apply please send a CV and covering letter to [Recruitment@nuffieldfoundation.org](mailto:Recruitment@nuffieldfoundation.org) to reach us by 7 December 12.00pm