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CFAB's Research and Advocacy Project on International Children and Families Cases

More than 13% of the UK population are foreign born. The challenges around migration to and from Britain are, as a result, greater than ever. With funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, we are undertaking new research to identify and share examples of best practice regarding social work cases that cross international borders. In an increasingly globalised world, cases of child protection has become more complicated from both a political and regulatory perspective – at the same time children services within local authorities have fewer resources to navigate these complexities. The findings of this research will examine precisely where decision-making may falter and how child placements could be improved.

The first phase of the project will consist of a research audit into best practice and challenges in inter-country children and families cases, focusing on cases where children at risk travel across international borders and where children in care are placed with family abroad. CFAB will utilise its large casework data base to examine where the challenges and solutions lie. We will also invite local authorities and other agencies to contribute data for a better understanding of how to ensure these cases are resolved in the best interest of children.

In the second phase, CFAB will use the knowledge gained from research to lead on advocacy initiatives that will improve policy and practice. This will include the creation of a Working Group to improve multi-agency collaboration and enable changes to policy to better serve children. In addition, CFAB will take its knowledge of best practice “on the ground” by creating practical resources and delivering training to front-line social workers and other multi-agency professionals.

CFAB is immensely grateful to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for funding this ambitious and much-needed initiative. We also welcome anyone who is interested in the project to contact 020 7735 8941 or info@cfab.org.uk.

Updates on the project progress will be shared here on the CFAB website and in Highlights - our e-newsletter which is sent once every two months. Make sure you stay at the forefront of research and advocacy in international social work by subscribing using the 'Mailing List' button above.

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