



The Family Justice Data Partnership: The use of Cafcass administrative Data for research

Claire Hargreaves, Bachar Alrouh
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Population Data Science
at Swansea University



The Family Justice Data Partnership

Multi-disciplinary team

Core objectives

- improve intelligence about how the family justice system is working
- demonstrate the value of data harmonisation and data linkage within the family justice system
- increase capacity and capability of researchers/data analysts to use population-level family justice data
- increase the capacity of policy and practice stakeholders to understand, interpret and apply data

Streams

- Infants
- Children and Young People
- Adult Vulnerabilities
- Private Law
- Deprivation
- Building Capacity and Capability

The Family Justice Data Partnership

Data sources

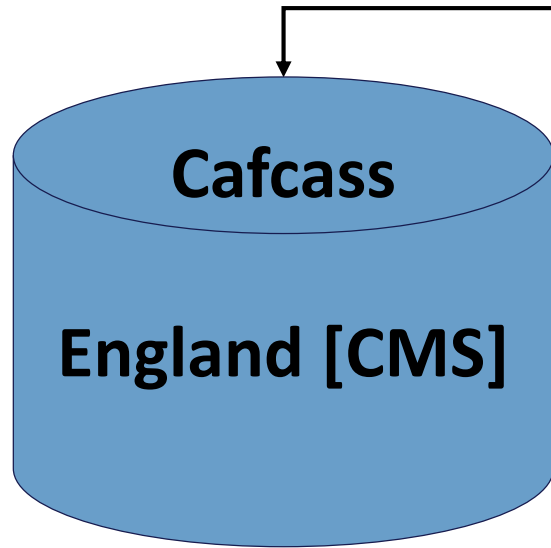
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass)

- Cafcass England
- Cafcass Cymru

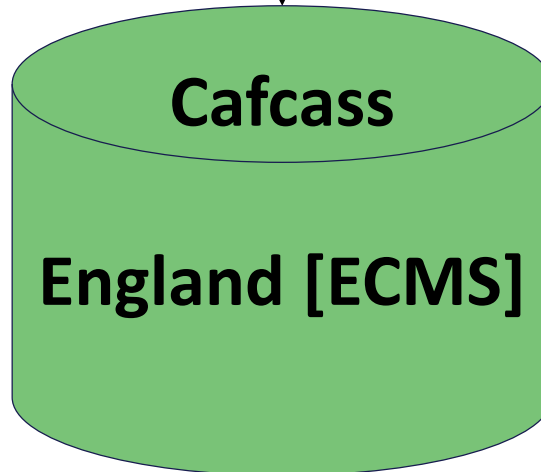
Multiple questions can be answered about Welsh families in public and private law cases using linked data – before, during and beyond family justice involvement. For example

- Health, wellbeing and educational characteristics and outcomes of children in public and private law cases
- Health service utilisation of children and adults
- Broader life chances of children involved in public and private law
- Physical and mental health of adults

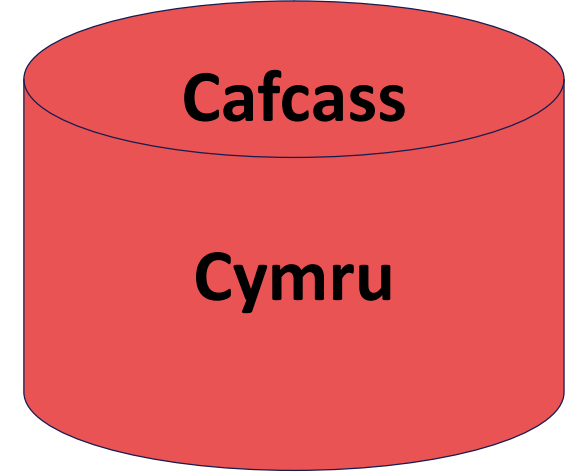
Cafcass data (source databases)



Application data:
from April 2007 – July 2014
Legal outcomes:
from April 2011 – July 2014

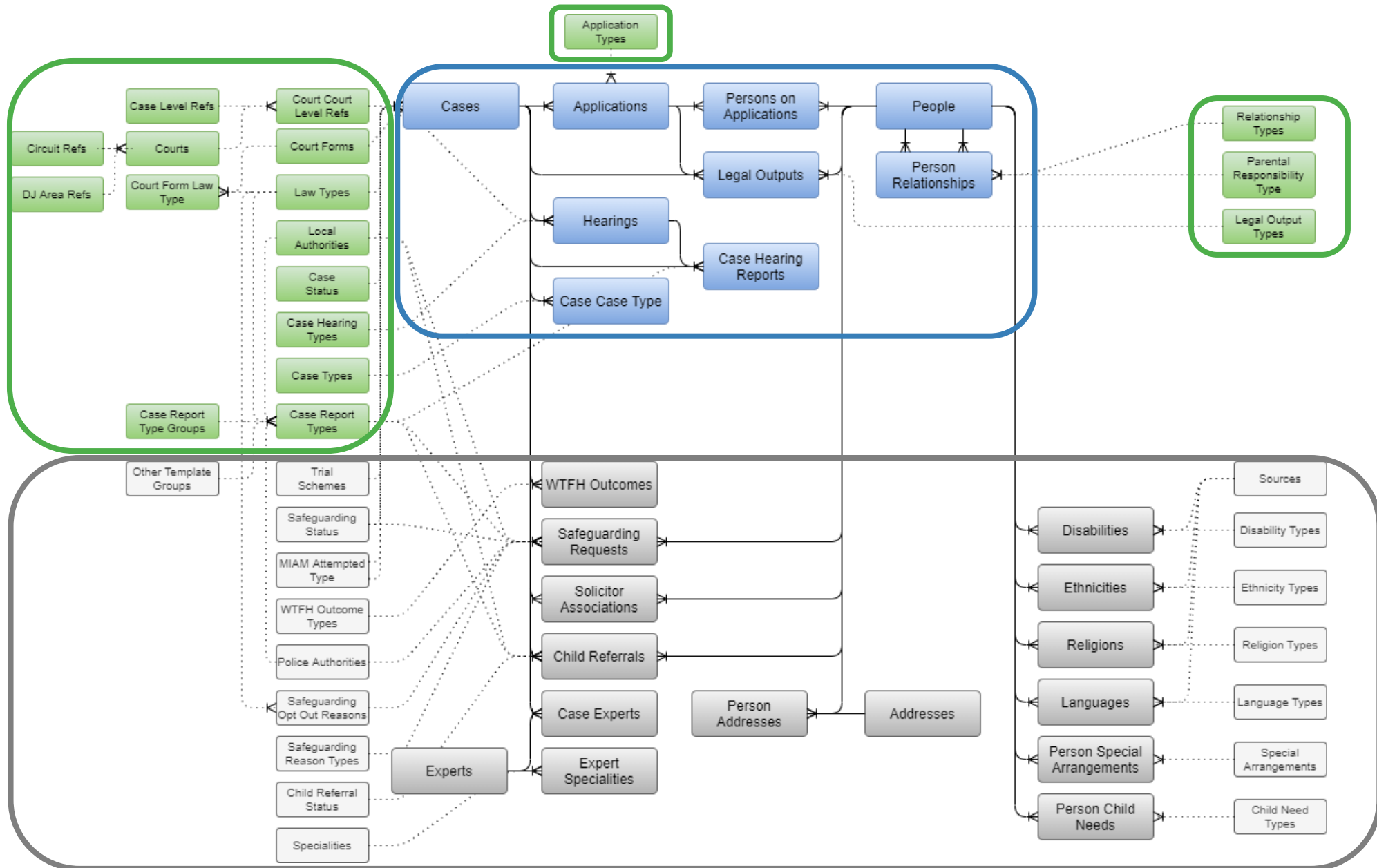


From: July 2014 – December 2021
Including ongoing cases since July 2014
Regular refreshes (6 months)

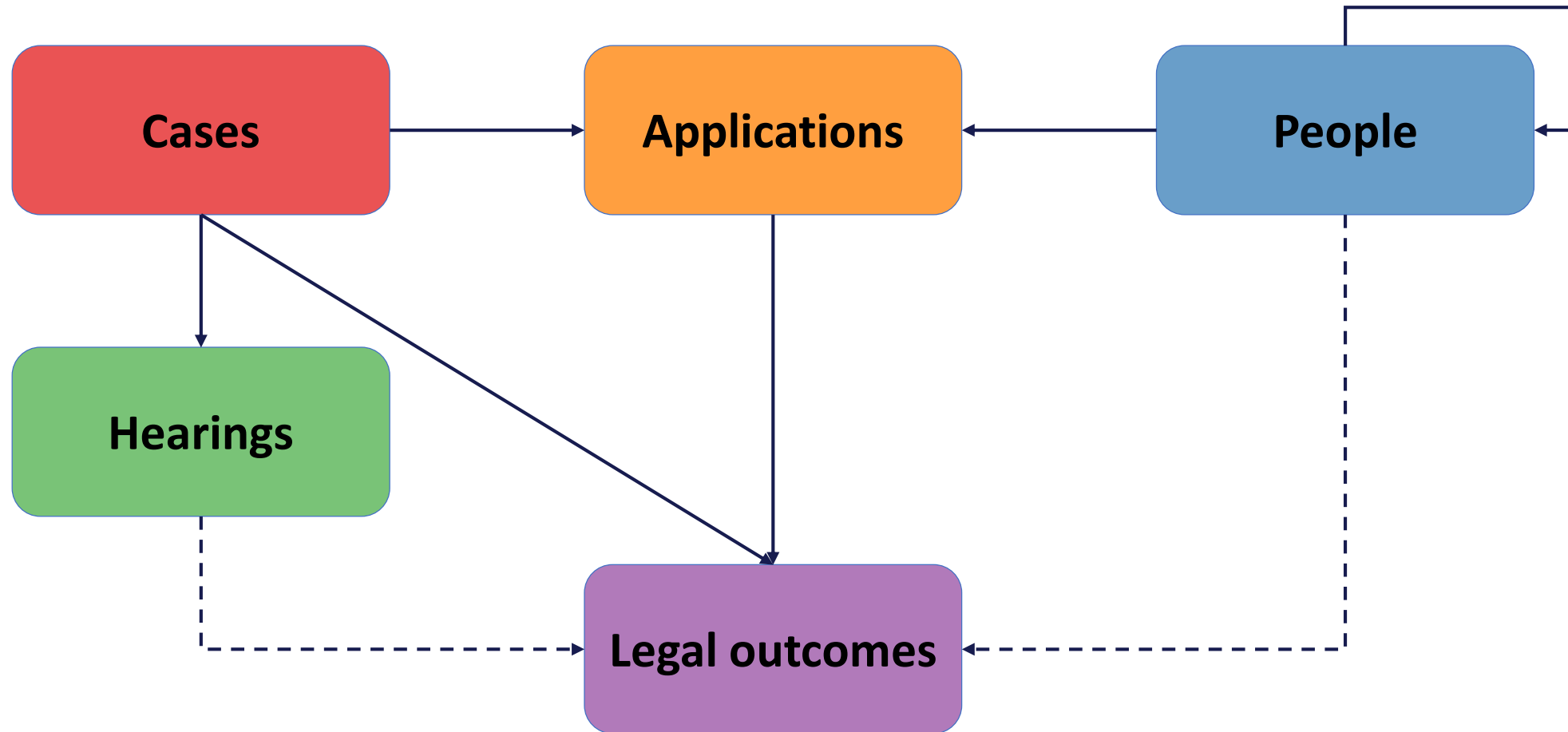


From: 2005 – August 2021
Useable records from 2011
Regular refreshes (6 months)

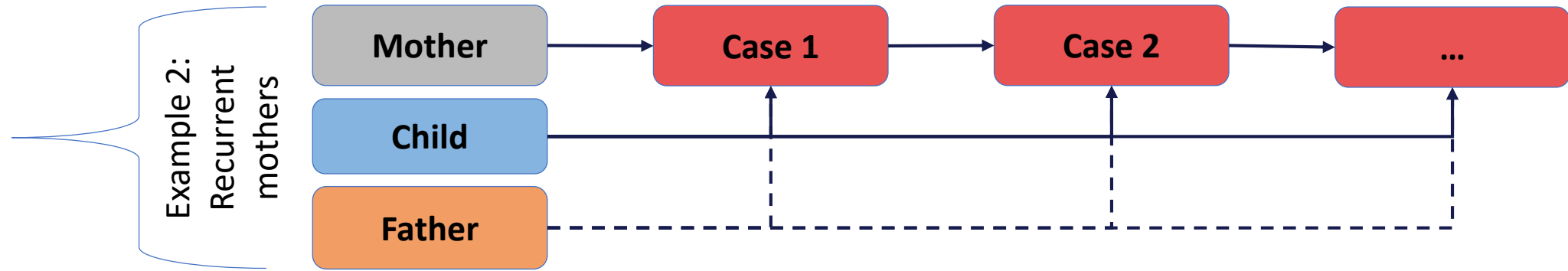
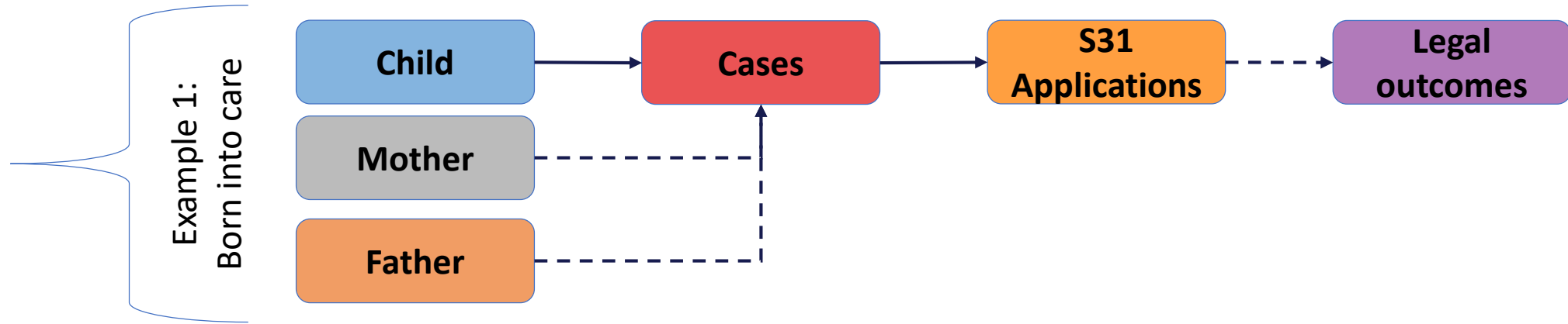
Cafcass (ECMS) – ERD



Cafcass data (main tables)



Cafcass data (restructuring data for research)



Cafcass data resources

Bedston S, Pearson RA, Jay MA, Broadhurst K, Gilbert R, Wijlaars L. Data Resource: Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) public family law administrative records in England. *Int J Popul Data Sci.* 2020;5(1):1159.

Johnson RD, Ford DV, Broadhurst K, Cusworth L, Jones KH, Akbari A, et al. Data resource: population level family justice administrative data with opportunities for data linkage. *Int J Popul Data Sci.* 2020;9:1339.

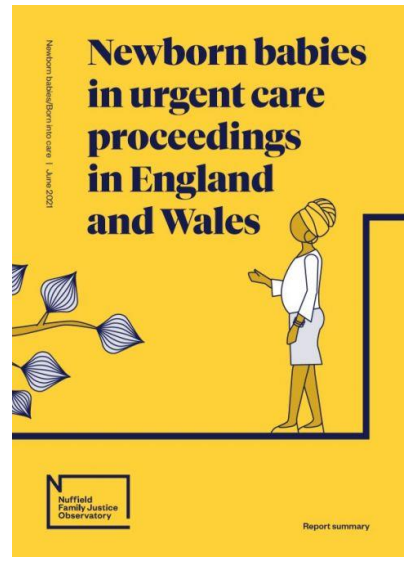
Born into Care

Urgent hearings

- Analysis of legal order outcomes
- Predictors of placement for adoption

Women in recurrent care proceedings

- Updated benchmarking statistics (England and Wales)
- Predictors of recurrence (Wales)
- Parent vulnerabilities: mental health and substance misuse following care proceedings (Wales)
- Multiple repeaters (England)



Children and Young People

Welsh Looked After Children Census

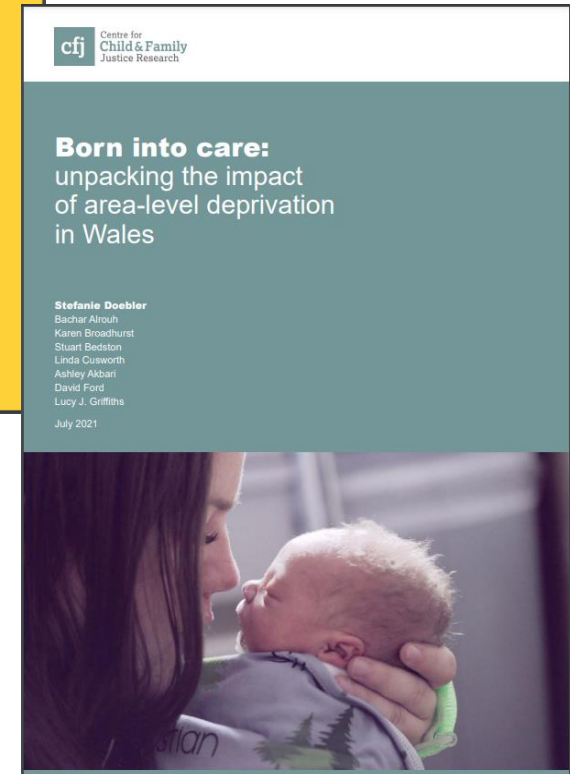
- Scoping of this new data asset
- Cohort design
- Pathways and multiple care placements

Parental vulnerabilities

Health vulnerabilities of parents in care proceedings in Wales

Deprivation

Unpacking the impact of area-level deprivation in England and Wales



Private law

Ongoing work

- A focus on non-parent private law ('the 10%') in England and Wales
- Children in private law, including characteristics, experiences and pathways
- Adult pathways, including returns to court (England)
- Adult pathways and vulnerability profiles (Wales)

Engagement with policy and system re-design



Building Capacity and Capability

Exploratory Analyses to examine the quality and availability of ethnicity data

- Public law and private law
- Adults and children
- England (Cafcass) and Wales (linkage of multiple datasets)

Full data dictionary and data guide

Research-ready datasets

Support to Nuffield FJO researchers and external users, including the Welsh Children's Social Care and Family Justice Data Users Group

Cafcass Data catalogues:

- <https://catalogue.sail.ukserp.ac.uk>
- <https://web.www.healthdatagateway.org>

FJDP project details:

- <https://www.cfj-lancaster.org.uk/projects/fjdp>
- <https://popdatasci.swan.ac.uk/centres-of-excellence/family-justice-data-partnership>

Contact us:

- CFJ@lancaster.ac.uk
- FJDP@swansea.ac.uk



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DATA PARTNERSHIP

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at Swansea University

