

# CARE CRISIS REVIEW

## JUNE 2018

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD  
Helen Watson Executive Director Children's Services

# CONTEXT

A 'coalition of the willing' following Sir James Munby President of the Family Division statement " We are facing a crisis and truth be told we have no very clear strategy for meeting the crisis. What is to be done?" (2016)

A seven month inclusive listening exercise

A rapid academic review of evidence about contributory factors to the crisis

A separate examination of options for change

# FINDINGS

2017 number of Care Order applications reached a record high

A sector that is overstretched and overwhelmed

"A palpable sense of unease about how lack of resources, poverty and deprivation are making it harder for families and the system to cope"

" A culture of blame, shame and fear has permeated the system....a mistrusting and increasingly risk averse environment...which prompts...refuge in procedural responses"

Many overlapping factors and a very complex picture with no single solution

# THE WAY FORWARD

20 options for change

Consensus that relationship building has been and is at the heart of good practice...the need for good relationships to flourish everywhere across the system

A significant untapped resource of wider family and community.....

The Children Act 1989 has stood the test of time as has its underlying principles of partnership with families

Next stage: for all of us to own the problem, reflect on messages from the Review, and consider the commitments we can make to safely tackle the crisis and improve the experiences of children, families and practitioners

# QUESTIONS?