

Celebrating 30 Years of Partnership with the Children Act 1989

Friday 17th December 2021

Chair: James Blewett

Speakers:

Pam Shodeinde

Wendy Rose OBE

The Rt Hon Sir James Munby

The Rt Hon Sir Andrew McFarlane

Twitter: [@BASW_UK](https://twitter.com/BASW_UK) email: england@basw.co.uk

#Rightsmatter #ChildrenActBASW



BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers



BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers



Children Act 1989

James Blewett

Chair of BASW England Children & Families Group

with

Pam Shodeinde

Social Worker and member of the BASW Black
and Ethnic Minority Professional Symposium

[#Rightsmatter](#) [#ChildrenActBASW](#)



BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers

Wendy Rose OBE

[#Rightsmatter](#) [#ChildrenActBASW](#)



BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers



Children Act 1989



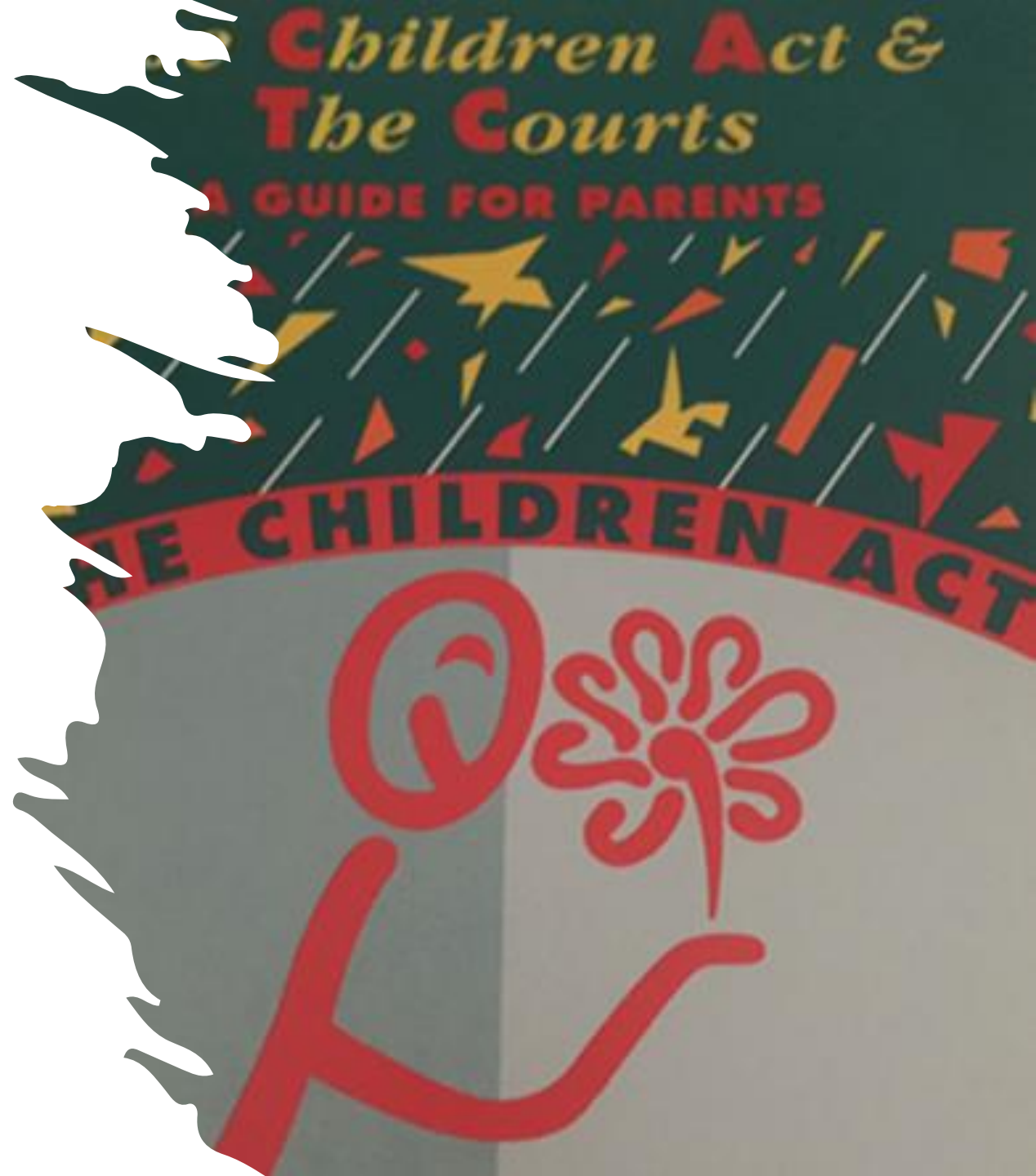
Department of Health MESSAGES FROM RESEARCH

Multiple copies sent to all local authorities

- 1991 Patterns and Outcomes in Child Placement
- 1995 Child Protection- Messages from Research
- 1998 Caring for Children Away from Home
- 1999 Adoption Now -Messages from Research
- 2001 The Children Act Now- Messages from Research
- 2004 Supporting Parents- Messages from Research
- 2013 Adoption for Looked After Children

INFORMATION AND TRAINING

- 1991 The Children Act and the Courts- A Guide for Parents
- 1991 The Children Act and Local Authorities- A Guide for Parents
- Introduction to the Children Act 1989 and Guidance on each section
- 1991 Principles and Practice in Regulations and Guidance
- 1992 Participation in Practice
- 1995 The Challenge of Partnership in Child Protection- Training Manual



Rt Hon Sir James Munby

Chair of the
Nuffield Family Justice Observatory

[#Rightsmatter](#) [#ChildrenActBASW](#)



BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers

Rt Hon Sir Andrew McFarlane

President of the Family Division and
Chair of the Family Justice Council

[#Rightsmatter](#) [#ChildrenActBASW](#)



BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers




Children Act 1989



Reflections

Jane Tunstall,
Emeritus
Professor of
Social Work,
Royal Holloway,
London
University

“Progressive legislation in the UK is rarely guaranteed the implementation context and resources it deserves. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989- provides depressing proof of governments failing to resource its valuable and inspirational call to promote, not merely safeguard the welfare of children in need. But we should still celebrate this call to action and continue to ensure the values it enshrines provide the foundation stone of all social work with children and families.”



Celia Atherton,
Mary Ryan &
Jo Tunnard
Family Rights
Group

“It is an example of the importance of not developing legislation on the basis of one – now two – cases, no matter how shocking their circumstances. The Act was informed by a lengthy period of consultation (over 3 years), by research evidence, and by lived experience. We must remain alert to the possible unintended consequences of hasty action to review and change law, policy and practice guidance. In all that we do, we should hold fast to the key principle of the Act – the importance of working in partnership with families – including the wider family network.”

*One of the important benefits of the then-Government’s approach to implementing the Children Act was the importance of a national programme of training, both before and after implementation, and a government-funded programme of research that monitored the impact of the new legislation and ensured wide dissemination of the messages from that research.”**

* Celia Atherton, Mary Ryan and Jo Tunnard were the social worker, lawyer and director of Family Rights Group before, during and for some time after the introduction of the Children Act 1989 and its implementation from October 1991.

Resources

[Children Act 1989](#)

[Children Act Guidance and Regulations](#)

[Children Act Guidance and Regulations \(BASW website\)](#)

[BASW England 80-20 Campaign](#)

[Top Tips for Remote Working in Childrens Social Work](#)

[10 Top Tips in Recording in Childrens Social Work](#)

[Support the BASW England 80-20 Pledge](#)

[The independent review of children's social care website](#)

[BASW England IRCSC Information Hub](#)

[BASW England Policy Statement on the IRCSC](#)

[BASW England's 10 priorities for the Review](#)

[BASW England's response to Case for Change](#)

[Social Work 2020-21 special ed](#)

[Care Review Watch Alliance](#)

[Article 39](#)

[Article 39/Together Trust Petition](#)

BASW England

The professional association for
social work and social workers



Children Act 1989

Thank You!