

Excerpts from:

Supporting Families in Conflict: There is a better way.

An Address by Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division of Judiciary UK
to the Jersey International Family Law Conference 2021

<< I will maintain my aim of moving the Family Court out of a silo ...

... Whilst each of the endeavours that I have described has sought to develop different strategies by which the court might engage with and manage various categories of parental dispute once an application for a court order has been made, such strategies cannot and have not connected with separating parents at much earlier stage, 'upstream' as it were, before they even contemplate issuing an application in the Family Court. Such pre-court involvement can only be achieved, almost by definition, by those outside the court system. The universal call by all those who have looked at this down the decades has therefore been for greater provision, which is co-ordinated and signposted, of information, guidance and support to parents outside of the court setting and, at an even higher level, for there to be a general public education programme so that, in time, common knowledge develops as to the way parents who separate may best conduct themselves for the benefit of their children and their own emotional well-being. ...

... The report ... 'What About Me?' is, to my mind, absolutely spot on in identifying the gaps that currently exist in the provision... It was generally held to be 'a good thing' but, I fear, unless something more is done 'What About Me?' will simply be a further addition to the pile of worthy endeavours in this field which has grown throughout my professional lifetime. I began this address by explaining that my principal priority for the next 3 years was to press for and achieve real change in the field of Private Family Law. If asked to crystallise that priority into one sentence I can easily do so. My aim is to use the FSG report 'What About Me?' as the blueprint for radical change and to do all that I can to press for its recommendations to be implemented. ... >>

Full text here: <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Supporting-Families-in-Conflict-Jersey.pdf>