The Future of Adoption

Meeting the Increased Demand on the System

# Avoiding delays in adoption outcomes for children 10th July 2012

Anthony Douglas CBE
Chief Executive
Cafcass

The problems are clearer than the solutions to them



Emotional factors
e.g, conflict
between
professionals,
lack of
confidence,
process fests

The main problems

The nature of the work and the nature of the families we work with

Social work
knowledge and
performance gaps —
the difficulty
obtaining a single
indisputable
assessment to base
decisions on
resource shortfalls

'The child's
journey' through
being in care is
often not
understood,
particularly with the
noise from adults

## Some solutions



There are part-solutions, not a 'solution'

Concurrent, parallel planning, not sequential

Active case tracking

Round table meetings interrogating local performance information and then using the data

Reversing problems e.g, confidence, dispute resolution between professionals, more defined knowledge areas Developing family court social work as a specific professional discipline, emphasising child development principles



## Risk reduction & development pathway for a child



### **DEVELOPMENT**

A degree of normal development restored



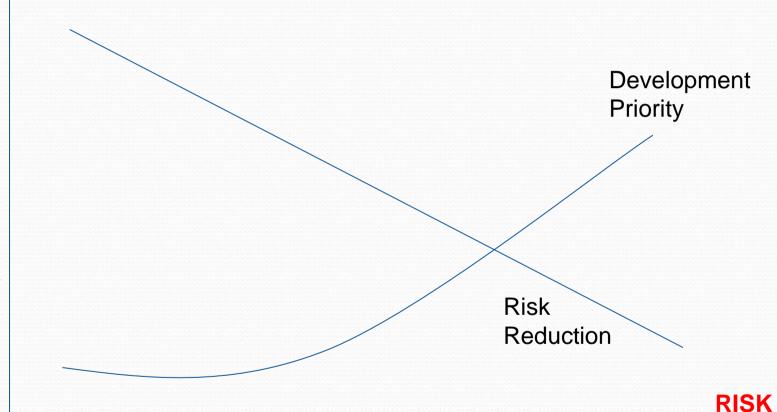
Signs of safety & growth



Development stabilised

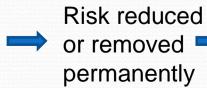


Development thwarted, reversed



Risk high with Live threat

**Immediate** threat taken out



Child can lead a risk free life



The Future of Adoption

Meeting the Increased Demand on the System

# Avoiding delays in adoption outcomes for children 10th July 2012

Anthony Douglas CBE
Chief Executive
Cafcass