

**Involved local authorities:**

- Kensington & Chelsea
- Westminster
- Hammersmith & Fulham
- Southwark
- Camden
- Greenwich
- Hackney
- Islington
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- City of London
- Richmond & Wandsworth



**Baseline information:**



**32-93 weeks**

Average Section 31 case duration

National average: 44 weeks



**9-27**

Section 31 care applications per 10,000 children

National average: 9.2

Based on Cafcass statistics for 2023-24

# Central London

## DFJ Trailblazer Pilot Area

**Key intervention themes:**

System governance ✓

Pre-proceedings practice ✓

Improving data ✓

Experience of children and families ✓

Multi-agency collaboration ✓

**Local challenges and the rationale for change:**

- A lack of confidence in social work assessments and their place in court
- An increase in the use of expert assessments and a limited availability of suitably qualified experts
- A lack of clear and robust data to understand demand and outcomes for children and families in pre and care proceedings.
- Limited court availability

**Implemented solutions:**

<b>A regional approach to care proceedings</b>	A more shared regional approach to care proceedings, with more collaboration through leadership, practice, data and front line family support.
<b>An improved regional data collection</b>	Regionalising data collection approaches through a shared data set and analysis tool. Exploration of how to automate elements of data collection.
<b>Good practice handbook</b>	A hands on good practice handbook for practitioners across the system, with clear examples of elements of good practices through all stages of proceedings.
<b>Expand pool of ParentAssess-trained practitioners</b>	The ParentAssess methodology further helps parents with additional needs navigate and understand the process.

