

Supporting separated families; Securing children's futures.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, established in 2008, is responsible for child maintenance in Great Britain. The Commission's objective is to maximise the number of effective child maintenance arrangements in place. It has three functions:

- To promote the financial responsibility that separated parents have for their children
- To provide information and support: it does this through the Child Maintenance Options service
- To provide an efficient statutory maintenance service: it currently delivers this through the Child Support Agency, although a new service will be launched in 2011 to replace the CSA

The Commission has a far wider remit than the CSA, as it focuses on all 2.6m separated families, not just the 1.3m which use the statutory scheme.

Services and Achievements

In the last 12 months, the Commission has achieved the following:

- The Child Maintenance Options Service has made some 320,000 telephone contacts with an estimated 60,000 children benefiting from

private arrangements put in place following contact with the service since its launch in July 2008.

- On the statutory scheme:
 - Nearly 800,000 children in Great Britain are now benefiting from maintenance.
 - Over 73% of those who have a maintenance responsibility now have an arrangement in place.
 - 2,437,000 telephone calls were received in the year April 2009 to September 2009, with the calls answered from the queue in an average of eight seconds.

The Future

- Sustaining CSA performance improvements
- Preparing for the launch of the future statutory child maintenance scheme in 2011
- Tackling non-compliance and arrears with new enforcement powers
- Enhancing the Child Maintenance Options service
- Promoting the financial responsibility which separated parents have for their children.

