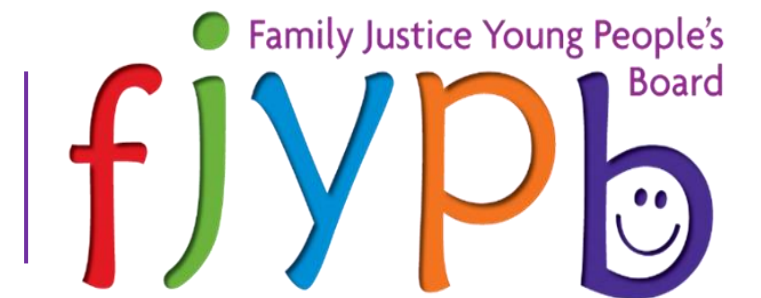




FJYPB UPDATE



# FJYPB PRIORITIES 2022

## Communication

- **Extend our focus on improving language and communications with children and young people to outside Cafcass too - involving local authorities, the judiciary and local charities.**
- **To challenge stakeholders to reduce the delays in the family courts.**
- The new FJYPB website to be live in 2022 and to develop an FJYPB social media platform.
- To continue to promote and distribute the FJYPB Book 'In Our Shoes' across all stakeholders in family justice.

## Information

- **Continuing the work developing our PSHE Lesson for children and young people to understand the family court and what they can expect from proceedings.**
- **Make subject access requests understandable and accessible to all children and young people.**
- Working with local authorities to encourage social workers to share their recommendations with children and young people before they are submitted to the family court.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- **Launch our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion National Charter.**
- Improve the diversity and information to be improved especially around collecting data which might impact research and improve service.
- **To continue to raise the awareness of the uniqueness of every child and young person and why it is important to respectfully discuss diversity with each child and young person.**

## Domestic Abuse

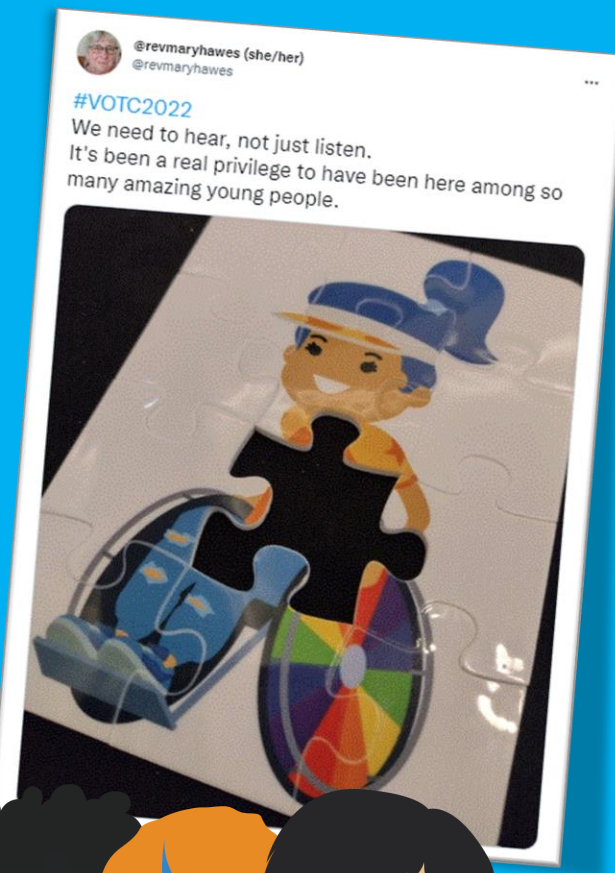
- **To continue to raise the awareness of the impact domestic abuse on children and young people.**
- Launch our Domestic Abuse (impact on children and young people) National Charter.

## Promote the Voice of the Child

- **Working with stakeholder to ensure that the voice of the child is embedded into policy and practice.**
- **To host our 10<sup>th</sup> Voice of the Child Conference.**

# VOICE OF THE CHILD CONFERENCE: DELAYS IN THE FAMILY COURTS

*“The conference was really well ran, with a strong sense of young peoples voice. I have left with a better understanding of the current issues in the family law system and how it affected young people.”*



# HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY MESSAGES





In a recent survey with  
FJYPB members...

80%

Of them said that they had delays  
in their proceedings, did not feel  
they were kept up to date or  
understood why their proceedings  
took so long.





Living with uncertainty

Effect on mental health

Not being able to see important people in their life

Living with anxiety

Being made to see people they don't feel safe with

Effect on school work

Constantly living with professionals in their life

Living with conflict within the family

Affects the ability to make and maintain relationships

**Did you know that most mental health support services won't consider a referral or offer any support if a child or young person is in court proceedings?**

*Family court proceedings can mean that children and young people can struggle more with their mental health and leave them even more vulnerable. Delays in the family courts, means there is a delay in a young person getting the specialist support they need.*





# THE NATIONAL PICTURE



## women's aid

**1 in 7** children and young people under the age of 18 will have lived with domestic abuse at some point in their childhood (Women's Aid).

SafeLives estimate that at least **one child in every reception school class** has been living with abuse since they were born.

They also reveal that **2 in 5 children (41%)** in families where there is domestic abuse have been living with that abuse since they were born. For some children, this not only starts early, but persists into later childhood. Of all the children who had been living with abuse for their whole lives, over a third (37%) were more than five years old.



**POLICE**

Police in England and Wales made almost **245,000** referrals to social services for domestic abuse in 2020/21, an **8%** increase on the previous year (NSPCC).

# CHALLENGE

1

How long does 50 weeks feel to you? Really *think about this and put yourself in the child's shoes: how would 50 weeks feel to them?*

2

How can you really **get to know** the children and young people you work with and understand the impact delays are having on them?

3

How do **YOU explain** the delay to the child or young person?  
*We all have a collective responsibility for this.*

4

**Ask** the children and young people you work with about how the delays are affecting them and take action.

5

Think about how **YOU** as an individual contribute to the delays: is that expert report *really* going to add value; are your reports filed on time; is that additional assessment going to really make a difference; is a 16.4 appointment really necessary; is the case management in proceedings robust enough?

6

**THINK:** Am I putting the needs of the child before the rights of the parent?

7

**DO NOT NORMALISE DELAY!**

**ALWAYS** consider the impact this is going to have on the child.