



FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD UPDATE

Cafcass Board Meeting

12 June 2019

Overview

The Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) currently has 59 members aged 8 – 25 years old. From January to June 2019 the FJYPB completed 25 commissions with a range of key stakeholders, 9 of which were for Cafcass.

FJYPB

1. Voice of the Child Conference 2019

The FJYPB are busily planning and preparing for their next annual Voice of the Child 2019 conference. We have been able to confirm guest speakers; The President of the Family Division, Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for Children and Families and Nav Mirza, Dad's Unlimited.

Invitations (appendix 1) have been sent to a range of stakeholders across England and Wales. The Board looks forward to hosting another high impact conference. Book your place soon!

2. Ofsted

The FJYPB are looking to establish a FJYPB Champion at Ofsted. Their role will enable us to strengthen our communication and ensure that regular updates are provided alongside seeking opportunities to work together.

FJYPB and Cafcass England

3. Recruitment – Cafcass Chief Executive

Three FJYPB members took part in the stakeholder interviews for the new Chief Executive role. They were joined by Fay Selvan and interviewed three candidates. At the end of the day, all members had the opportunity to feedback to the Senior Management Panel about what they thought about each candidate.

4. Cafcass Board Effectiveness Review

FJYPB members were asked to respond to the Cafcass Board Effectiveness Review. A number of members have responded with their thoughts, feedback and suggestions. Catherine Doran and Nicola Blakebrough will include FJYPB responses into the final report.

5. Cafcass Performance and Quality Committee

FJYPB members were invited to present to the Cafcass Performance and Quality Committee. The FJYPB shared their views on the impact of proceedings on the resilience and mental health of young people and included how the mental health of parents/carers and professionals impacts upon them.

6. Cafcass Office Takeovers

The FJYPB have been invited to 'Takeover' two Cafcass offices. The aim of these is to take over the waiting area and the family rooms, to make them more appealing and welcoming for the children and young people who visit. The FJYPB members will be supported by Jenn Gibbon-Lynch FJYPB Co-ordinator throughout the visit which will take place for approximately 3 hours. Members will be visiting Stafford office 29th May 2019 and the NBC 15th August 2019.

FJYPB and Wales

7. The FJYPB, Cafcass Cymru and NACCC (National Association of Child Contact Centres) are currently looking to continue the FJYPB child-led inspection programme of contact centres across Wales.

Further key updates

8. FJYPB contribution to President's working groups

At their last Board meeting the FJYPB produced a short set of top tips for professionals working with children and young people in pre-proceedings in public law to be submitted to the pre-proceedings working group.

The Public Law Working Group also included a number of top tips documents in their interim report for consultation, which will be published in May 2019.

9. HMCTS CYP Strategy Working Group

The FJYPB have been part of the HMCTS CYP Strategy Working Group. This strategy focuses on the commitment of HMCTS to engage children and young people in the design of future services.

Imogen, FJYPB member, was invited to chair a recent HMCTS Children and Young People's Working Group in February.

We are currently reviewing with HMCTS how the FJYPB will continue to contribute to policy developments.

10. National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) – Support Contact Centres

The FJYPB have now completed all 13 inspections of supported contact centres based in the north of England. Overall the findings of the recent inspection programme have been very positive with FJYPB members rating over 70% of the centre with a 4 Star good rating, with families generally rating their centres with 5 Stars (outstanding.) Staff were found to be welcoming of any recommendations that the FJYPB made regarding their centre and encouraged to give further considerations to what further changes they could implement to their service.

11. Department for Education

At our last meeting with Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for Children and Families, it was agreed that the updated FJYPB poster for schools and the top tips for parents would be circulated to schools. These have now been sent out via a newsletter.

It was also agreed to link the FJYPB up with the organisers for the annual conference for headteachers. We are unable to speak at the national conference, but we are currently waiting to hear if the FJYPB can present at a few regional events.

The FJYPB will continue to participate in policy development with the DfE and we hope this will be ongoing in 2019. The FJYPB will also be meeting with Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for Children and families, on 13 June 2019.

Forward Look

13 June 2019 - FJYPB members meeting with Nadhim Zahawi MP,

01 July 2019 - FJYPB members meeting with Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division

The Family Justice Young People's Board

Appendices:

Appendix 1: VOTC19 Invitation flyer