



FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD UPDATE

Cafcass Board Meeting

22 January 2020

Overview

The Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) currently has 48 members aged 8 – 25 years old. From April 2019 to December 2019 the FJYPB have completed a total of 78 commissions with a range of key stakeholders. 28 were for Cafcass.

FJYPB

1. FJYPB Meeting – December 2019

The recent FJYPB meeting was a great success combining several workshops alongside some fun and festive party games. We also recognised the contributions made to the FJYPB by members through achievement awards. Jacky Tiotto, Chief Executive, joined us for the day to learn more about the FJYPB, but to also hear from members about their views on language used by professionals and how case outcomes are shared with children and young people. Other workshops also included:

- Developing top tips for teachers working with children and young people in family court proceedings. Once finalised in January, the top tips will be shared at an upcoming NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers) event in London on 6 February.
- Choosing our 2020 FJYPB priorities which will be shared with our stakeholders and made available on our website shortly;
- Reviewing the FJYPB social media policy. The policy will be finalised by February 2020.
- Developing a communications strategy for the FJYPB. We hope to bring a final version to the next FJYP Board meeting in February 2020.

2. FJYPB Recruitment and membership

The FJYPB will open recruitment for new members across England and Wales on 20 January 2020. The recruitment campaign will focus on engaging more younger members, more male members and more Welsh-speaking members for the FJYPB.

We have shared our recruitment poster (appendix 1) internally with staff via a number of different channels such as the newsletter. We have also shared with a number of key partners including ADCS, Cafcass Cymru and other young people's groups.

Deadline for all applications will be 20 March 2020 and we are hoping to interview applicants in early April. The recruitment days are led by existing members to ensure we get the best from all candidates.

If you know of any young people who would like to join our board or any organisations who can help promote recruitment, please do let us know.

3. Voice of the Child Conference 2020

The FJYPB have started planning for the annual Voice of the Child 2020 conference. Members' and delegate feedback from the last conference has been reviewed and considered to ensure that next year's conference has even more impact.

The FJYPB have agreed on the following:

- The conference will take place on 22 July 2020 in London (venue TBC);
- The theme of conference will centre around Domestic Abuse and the impact on children and families in family courts;
- The FJYPB will look to seek sponsorship for the conference;
- To invite a range of speakers and stakeholders, such as the President of the Family Division and young people's groups.

'Save the Date' invitations for Cafcass staff will be sent out in the usual way via Assistant Directors by early March.

4. Updated Family Law Glossary

The FJYPB have updated their Glossary of Terms (appendix 2). Members have redesigned the layout and reviewed its content. The FJYPB will share their Glossary across Cafcass via the Intranet from staff and through Business Services Teams to make them available in reception areas. It will also be made available to all our key stakeholders.

5. Social Worker of the Year Awards

The Board of Trustees at the Social Worker of the Year Awards invited members of the FJYPB, who have been supported by social workers, to be part of a judging panel for a number of categories for this year's awards.

Five members of the Board were selected to judge a variety of categories, including 'Children's Social Worker of the Year'. Members fed back on each entry and some member attended the judging session in London on 27th September. Four FJYPB members also attended the Awards Ceremony at the Royal Lancaster (London) on 29th November 2019. Members found the whole process very inclusive and interesting.

FJYPB and Cafcass England

6. Cafcass Board Member Recruitment

FJYPB members have recently taken part in the recruitment of new Cafcass Board members. A few members sat on a panel over two days asking a list of tailored questions to each candidate. The views of the FJYPB have been shared with the final interview panellists for consideration.

7. CEO Roadshows

Members of the FJYPB joined most of the roadshows. They played an invaluable role in co-presenting the sessions and adding a touch of fun to the day. Maha, who co-presented the Manchester roadshow, said:

“As an FJYPB member, my usual focus is the effect of social work on my life as a child. The roadshow was an incredible chance to understand the effect of social work on actual social workers and other staff that work in that world and what they need to do to tackle the struggles they face in helping people like me. I learnt so much”

8. Cafcass FJYPB Champions

The FJYPB continue to exchange and share ideas and learning via our Cafcass FJYPB champions. We hope to grow and develop the FJYPB champion role even further in 2020. A recent challenge we have set champions is to ask them questions around gathering feedback from children and their families. We will also be asking champions to promote the FJYPB board recruitment campaign which launched on 20 January 2020.

FJYPB and Wales

9. Cafcass Cymru

The FJYPB and Cafcass Cymru continue to work closely together. FJYPB members have been actively involved in Cafcass Cymru recruitment panels and reviewing documents such as the annual review.

In December 2019, the FJYPB staff team also met with Gemma Phillips and Matthew Pinnell from Cafcass Cymru to review our joint workplan for 2020. There are some exciting projects which the FJYPB hope to get involved with over the next 12 months. These include:

- FJYPB ‘Takeover’ days in Cafcass Cymru offices;
- Delivering training to business services across Cafcass Cymru;
- To be part of their Strategy plan development;
- Continuing to attend Welsh Family Network Meetings;
- Continuing to sit on recruitment panels for new FCAs, etc.
- Presenting at the Cafcass Cymru staff conference in May 2020

Further key updates

10. Private Law Working Group

A number of FJYPB members attended a workshop with Lolita and Justice Cobb to discuss the findings of the Private Law Working Group and to share their views.

11. Ministry of Justice Private Law Team Development Day

On the 19th December 2019 the FJYPB were asked to attend and present to the MoJ Private Law Team as part of their Development Day. We were asked to deliver In My Shoes from FJYPB members and to talk on the issues of domestic abuse and its impact on children and young people involved in private law proceedings. The aim of the day was to enable the team to think about how their work impacts directly upon children and young people and bringing the child’s voice to life.

Feedback from the day included, 'Everyone said it was so helpful to see the direct experience of children and young people, and to frame their thinking to be on the individual, rather than just high-level.'

Forward Look

6 February - NAHT Conference

21 February – Voice of the Child conference planning meeting

21-22nd February – FJYPB Training

The Family Justice Young People's Board

Appendices:

Appendix 1: FJYPB Poster

Appendix 2: FJYPB Glossary