



FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD UPDATE

Cafcass Board Meeting



1st July 2020

FJYPB

1. FJYPB Workshops and FJYPB response to COVID 19

- Commissions have been impacted by Covid-19 with many conference and training events being cancelled or postponed. FJYPB members are embracing remote working via virtual meetings and workshops and we are keeping busy!
- A thank you video for Cafcass staff and stakeholders has been prepared from the FJYPB, which will be cascaded throughout Cafcass shortly. The FJYPB have also prepared messages for Cafcass staff that will be placed on the intranet.
- The FJYPB has published a new **COVID-19 information booklet** for children and young people which is packed full of great advice. The booklet includes 'top tips' for keeping in touch with family and friends, how to make the best of being at home, and what to do if feeling unsafe or unwell. FJYPB members also give their thoughts on how COVID-19 is affecting them.

2. FJYPB Support Team

- There have been a lot of changes over the last few months to the support team for the FJYPB.
- We have welcomed Sophie Humphries OBE as the new Cafcass Board member link replacing Fay Selvan. Sophie has had an introductory meeting to the FJYPB, has prepared a video introducing herself to FJYPB members and has participated in a recent induction session.
- We have welcomed a Family Court Advisor, who has recently taken up a secondment to the post of FJYPB Co-Ordinator. We have appointed a new FJYPB Business Services Support officer and will be welcoming a new Head of Practice link for the FJYPB.

3. FJYPB Recruitment

- We have recently recruited 27 new board members, most of whom underwent inductions on 28th and 29th May 2020. We have one final induction session to run. We are happy to report that we have recruited more Welsh members and those with experience of public law proceedings. We are very excited to have new members joining us.
- We will be reviewing the diverse make-up of the FJYPB including the new members considering location, cultural background, ages, gender, personal experiences and

whether they were involved in public or private law proceedings. We will present this to the next board meeting.

4. Voice of the Child Conference 2020 – Domestic Abuse

- The planned annual VoTC conference has been cancelled but is to be replaced by a number of live webinars.
- We are keeping the same theme of domestic abuse and its impact upon children and young people. FJYPB members have decided they would like to offer several different webinars around this theme with participation across stakeholders.
- We are planning the webinars for October and November so watch this space!

5. Recruitment

- We have participated in the interviews for a Head of Practice, an Assistant Director post and for the Head of Human Resources for Cafcass.
- FJYPB members were a key part of the interview team for the FJYPB support roles.
- We have also helped provide feedback and comments on interview questions for the role of Practice Supervisor and Service Managers within CAF/CASS.
- We have taken part in a workshop with HR to consider best ways of us taking part in interviews both remotely and in person.
- We have been involved in a workshop with Penna.

6. Cafcass Welcome FCA profile letters

Members of the FJYPB have reviewed and provided feedback, suggestions and comments on the development of a welcome leaflet for family court advisors to be sent to children and young people.

7. FJYPB statement and message for CAF/CASS- Diversity and Inclusion

We have recently shared our experiences and views on the death of George Floyd, the racial injustice and the identified greater risk to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities as a result of COVID 19. The FJYPB have contributed to a leaflet for staff.

FJYPB and the wider sector

8. NACCC- National Association of Child Contact Centres

We have recently undertaken a remote workshop with NACCC and provided feedback, comments and suggestions on developing images, storybooks and information for children and young people on contact centres.

9. Cardiff University- CASCADE research- Supporting Separated Families Alliance study

We have recently participated in a research study for a review of available services in Wales for children and young people experiencing parental separation and contributed to providing interviews for this vital piece of research.

The Family Justice Young People's Board

June 2020