

FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD UPDATE



Cafcass Board Meeting – January 2021

FJYPB

1. FJYPB Support Team

We have recently interviewed candidates for the role of the FJYPB apprentice and are excited for them starting in February and for the additional work this will enable us to do.

2. FJYPB December Board Meeting

Jacky Tiotto and Sophie Humphries joined us for some FJYPB updates and workshops in the morning, followed by an afternoon of fun and festive games!



3. FJYPB Equality & Diversity Report

We, the FJYPB members, have been sharing our information to create a report to show the makeup and diversity of the board. We want to ensure we reflect the diversity of children and young people within the family courts.

4. FJYPB Communications

We are very excited to continue our work with the Cafcass Comms team to develop a social media profile for the FJYPB! We are also working with Microsoft Teams to develop a Microsoft Teams site to help us stay in touch better and keep updated about commissions.

5. Voice of the Child live webinars – October 2020

The Voice of the Child Live Webinars took place from 26th October – 30th October 2020. This was the first time the FJYPB have hosted live webinars and the feedback collected shows these were a huge success, both with attendees and us members. One of our members said: *"I think the VOTC Live Webinars went really well and it was great to be able to see everyone's reactions and comments to the individual presentations"*.

Following the success of the October webinars, we will be hosting two further webinars this year. These will focus on the highlights of the previous webinars. For the full details of the October webinars please visit our [website](#) to see the summary report.

FJYPB and Cafcass

6. Equality Diversity & Inclusion

We have collected all of the responses from Cafcass to our questions put forward to staff regarding Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. Our findings were presented at the Thinking CMT meeting in November. We have also received a written response as to what actions have been taken by Cafcass. We will continue to work with senior leadership teams to progress any actions. We are also looking forward to meeting with the newly appointed Cafcass Equality, Diversity & Inclusion lead Katrina Igbinovia in January.

7. Recruitment

We have been part of the recruitment process for the position of the new chair of the Cafcass Board. We look forward to working with the chair in the future.

8. Family Forum

Members with a lead role with the Family Forum have now completed their training. 2 members also attended the Family Forum Development Partners Event. Members Ben and Katie attended the Family Forum development day on 26th November 2020. They commented:

- *"I'm really looking forward to getting involved and meeting with children and young people to use their experience to build a better service"*
- *"I hope that the 'how was it for you' conversations empowers children and young people to feel that their voice matters, even though that may have not been the case during their proceedings."*

9. Learning review moderation

2 FJYPB members took part in the learning review moderation of cases involving domestic abuse. Members Katie and Shanti took part in auditing a selection of case files including court orders and section 7 welfare reports. Katie commented: *"Our role was to assess how effective FCA's drafted their recommendations and translated the wishes and feelings of CYP We felt really privileged to have been given such an opportunity and hope that our contributions assisted"*.

10. Co-Parent Hub Workshop

We are continuing to support the development of the Co-Parent Hub. Two workshops have been held with us.

11. Feedback

We have contributed to several working strategic priorities with Cafcass. These include:

- Resource packs
- Closure letters and feedback informed practice
- Receiving feedback from children & families

FJYPB and the wider sector

- 12. FJYPB & OFSTED** – Some of us joined OFSTED to provide feedback on their proposals for changes to the way OFSTED inspect Cafcass.
- 13. Family Justice Board meeting** – 2 FJYPB members provided a presentation at the Family Justice Board meeting in October on the recent work that we have undertaken.
- 14. Cafcass Cymru** – Some of us attended a workshop to review the Cafcass Cymru Internet page, as well as their diversity forms. We have also continued to join the interview panels for Cafcass Cymru recruitment.
- 15. MoJ** – We are working with the MoJ as part of their User Representation Panel looking at their recent Data First Project. Some members also met with MP Alex Chalk, to discuss the recent work of the MoJ and future work with the FJYPB.
- 16. DWP** – FJYPB members Fatimah and Molly presented at the DWP Reducing Parental Conflict Programme online webinar. The presentation shared the work of the FJYPB and the importance of the voice of the child.