



FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD UPDATE

1. Voice of the Child Conference 2017

The Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) will shortly be starting to plan for the Voice of the Child conference which will take place on 27th July 2017 in London. The FJYPB invites all Cafcass Board members to attend. The FJYPB are happy to take into consideration any ideas and suggestions for the event you may have.

2. Update on membership and recruitment

The FJYPB have reviewed and finalised the recruitment processes and supporting paperwork with HR and Fay Selvan, Cafcass Board member, to maximise safeguarding for the Board. This includes more in-depth checks with local authorities if a child or young person is known to a LA, a review of Cafcass files and also an expectation that the board secretariat are informed if any concerns arise regarding a child or young person once they are a member of the Board. The FJYPB handbook is also being finalised to reflect these changes.

There is a current recruitment campaign which will focus on engaging more younger members and more male members for the FJYPB.

3. Working with NIS on E-Learning Module (Voice of the Child)

The E-learning module being developed for all stakeholders is progressing with support from NIS.

4. Sibling relationships

a) FJYPB Factsheet

The board may remember that the FJYPB produced a leaflet/factsheet for organisations on sibling relationships. Fay Selvan has asked that Quality Committee look at doing a thematic audit on Cafcass practice in relation to this. The factsheet has been shared with Cafcass staff at training events and via the Cafcass intranet.

b) Research - Siblings Relationships (January 2017)

The FJYPB have been approached by Daniel Monk from the University of London to support the Siblings and Child Law project. The aim of the research is to

examine the extent to which and the ways in which sibling relationships are understood and taken into account in private and public legal processes and proceedings. The proposal for this research has now been accepted by the Nuffield Foundation. The FJYPB will be involved in the project from April 2017.

5. Cafcass Cymru

The FJYPB have been commissioned to take part in delivering two training events in Wales during the February half term. They will be being held on Merthyr Tydfil on the 23.02.2017 and Wrexham 24.02.2017. The focus on the workshops is to review and develop the Cafcass Cymru – Children and Young People packs and to deliver a group session on how children and young people provide feedback.

6. MOJ

The MOJ have requested that the FJYPB take part in the Private Law Reforms. We are discussing the framework and timescale with the MOJ.

Feedback from Children and Young People

Fay Selvan joined the FJYPB meeting on 10th December 2016. She undertook a session with the board exploring the best ways of potentially achieving feedback from children and young people which has been shared with the ADs responsible for the AQR and obtaining feedback from children and young people.

Jack Perring

Member, Family Justice Young People's Board