



FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD UPDATE

1. Budget and the Voice of the Child Conference 2016

The Family Justice Young People's Board (the FJYPB) has reviewed its expenditure for 2016-2017 in line with the spending controls and potential savings to be made. The FJYPB are currently thinking creatively about the 2016 Voice of the Child Conference as the previous venue and format will need to change in response to budget management.

2. National Charter

The National Charter aims to reinforce professional practice and sets out the standards and expectations that children and young people should receive from family justice services. The decision has been taken to take the Charter forward as a list of aspirations from the FJYPB. The supporting document is being updated and simplified after recent discussions with key agencies and after being reviewed again by members of the FJYPB. The President is awaiting the outcome of the rule committee arising from the VWWG (Vulnerable Witnesses Working Group) before confirming the judicial commitments.

3. Court Reviews

Between September 2014 and October 2015, the FJYPB visited 12 identified DFJ areas. Overall, the key findings of the reviews have identified that there is a general lack of information for children and young people in court and that while many court buildings do offer some great resources for children and young people, some courts have very little or even none.

A final overall report of key findings and recommendations of all of the court reviews has recently been drafted. The FJYPB intends to circulate this further this month and it is hoped that the findings and suggestions made in the report can be implemented into all courts across England and Wales.

HMCTS are already responding to some of the learning as the FJYPB have devised a notice board for children and young people in courts and a feedback form to be made available in all family courts.

4. National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) Inspections

The FJYPB have now completed a total of 19 out of the 25 scheduled inspections of NACCC accredited contact centres. The FJYPB is committed to complete all of the inspections by the end of March 2017.

5. Mediation

The FJYPB have been commissioned by the National Family mediation service (NFM) to help them become more child inclusive. We will be assisting them with:

- Child friendly information about family mediation;
- Child friendly feedback forms;
- Undertaking 2-3 inspections of the mediation centres to identify areas they can improve on to make them more child friendly and welcoming;
- Developing a resource pack that can be sent to all NFM centres that will include our recommendations from the inspections and child friendly leaflets;
- Reviewing their training for mediators that meet with children and young people;
- Possible training video.

The first inspection will take place in Manchester on 17 February 2016 by two members of the FJYPB.

6. FJYPB newly recruited members and Welsh Representation

The FJYPB held a recruitment event on the 14th November 2015. From the event, the board accepted 16 new members to the FJYPB, one of which is our first Welsh representative. The FJYPB hope to recruit two further Welsh members in February 2016 to help further represent children and young people in Wales.

7. FJYPB video

The FJYPB is planning to produce a video that will be aimed at providing external stakeholders with an overview of the FJYPB, the work we do and its impact. It is anticipated this video will inspire stakeholders to take forward the voice of the child in family justice. The government of Western Australian has also commissioned the Board to produce a video, therefore there is a possibility that the production of this video will be entirely or partially funded by them.