



Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) Report to the Cafcass Board

Recommendations

1. The Cafcass Board is asked to:
 - i) Consider and where desired, ask for further information on the updates below:

Noteworthy updates since 5th December 2014:

1. The Board have now met with all agencies represented at the Family Justice Board to discuss implementation of the National Charter, including representatives from Wales. The Board met with the President of the Family Division, Sir James Munby, to discuss the Charter and Transparency. Further developments with the Charter are currently on hold as the outcome of the Vulnerable Persons' Working Party is to determine the judiciary's commitments within the charter.
2. FJYPB members have helped NACCC to re-develop their website, leaflets and have devised a method for feedback for children and young people. NACCC commissioned FJYPB to inspect 33 accredited child contact centres across the country over a 3 year period. To date, the Board have completed six inspections and submitted findings and recommendations to NACCC.
3. The Board are busy planning their third annual 'Voice of the Child' conference. The date has been confirmed for the 23rd July 2015 in London. This year's theme is Effective Participation: Make it Happen - Make it Better. Invitations are being prepared and will be sent out in early February 2015.
4. In November 2014 the FJYPB were invited by the Ministry of Justice to join the Dispute Resolution Working Group to advise on Child Inclusive Mediation. Members have met with Professor Jan Walker and Angela Lake-Carroll to discuss our views. Their report which is inclusive of the Board's views is to be submitted to the Minister Simon Hughes by early February 2015.
5. The FJYPB are represented on the Vulnerable Person's Working Party and have submitted a written response for this group in December 2014.
6. A survey has been completed by board members, which collates their views on transparency. A report has been completed and submitted to the President.
7. The Board has successfully been nominated for a Diana 'Active Campaigner' Award, which is awarded to young people who work hard to ensure that the voice of children and young people are heard. Simon Hughes, Minister for Justice will be attending the next FJYPB board meeting in February 2015 and has agreed to present the awards to members. Four members, accompanied by Jenn Lynch, FJYPB Co-ordinator, will attend the official Diana Award ceremony on the 10th March 2015 in London.
8. FJYPB members have been involved in developing the two pilot schemes for judges meeting with children and young people and have contributed to training the judiciary and family court advisors in these areas.
9. A member of the FJYPB and Marie Gittins attended the Welsh Family Justice Network Conference to lead three workshops on participation. These were very well received.

RESTRICTED

Sophia Fraser, Associate Board Member
30 January 2015