



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

### Recommendations

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

### Noteworthy updates since 6 February 2014:

1. Planning for the Voice of the Child Conference is on target. It will be held at The Grand Connaught Rooms in London on 24 July 2014. To date, we have secured the President of the Family Division, Sir James Munby P, and the Minister, Simon Hughes MP, to give key-note addresses and confirmed speakers for our five workshops, including a raft of the High Court bench, the Deputy Children's Commissioner (Sue Berelowitz) and Vice-President of the Family Mediators Association (Prof. Chris Barton).
2. The Board has met to discuss implementation of the National Charter with most agencies represented at the Family Justice Board, including HMCTS, the Legal Aid Agency, the Office of the Official Solicitor, Cafcass, and the Department for Education. The Board will meet with Sir James Munby, and the Ministry of Justice later this month. All agency commitments will be signed off at the following FJB meeting and in time for presentation at the VOTC conference.
3. The first FJYPB / National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) inspection took place in Blackburn in May 2014. This is a joint venture, funded by NACCC, and the Blackburn centre is the first of 32 contact centres to be inspected over a three year period.
4. The Board's link with the Ministry of Justice continues to work well at Ministerial and organisational level. FJYPB members have had a very successful meeting with the Minister; Holly Simpson has attended our February meeting and will be attending our next meeting; and we have drawn on the MoJ experiences to aid our planning for the VOTC conference.
5. The FJYPB have taken part in a North Yorkshire Court Pilot Scheme to enable courts to become more child-friendly and ensure the voice of the child remains at the front of the mind of everyone involved in family justice. Two members recently inspected all family courts in the York & North Yorkshire area and have produced a report, which will be sent to HHJ Finnerty. It has also been agreed that two members will run a judicial training session on judges meeting children later this month in this area.

**Luke Berry**  
**13 June 2014**