



FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD

Update for Cafcass Board Meeting

20th October 2017

1. Voice of the Child Conference 2017

The FJYPB held another successful Voice of the Child conference on 27th July 2017 in London. The theme of this year's conference was diversity and inclusion.

Stakeholders were well represented and the conference included keynote speeches by the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield OBE and Sir James Munby, the President of the Family Division and Anthony Douglas.

A highlight of the day was the 'In My Shoes' segment, during which members of the board shared moving stories of their experiences in the family justice system. The members' recollections revealed how an understanding of diversity and inclusion is essential to respecting children as individuals.

Feedback from delegates was very positive with 93% of delegates rating the conference as 'excellent'. One example of feedback is:

"This event has been so well organised and a really well set out day. The speeches and segments put together and presented by the young people have been really impactful and highlight the steps we need to put into practice to work with young people."

You can find full coverage of the conference in Channel C - <http://intranet4cafcass/news/Pages/August-Channel-C-now-out.aspx>

2. North West Voice of the Child Conference – 15th February 2018

The FJYPB have started arrangements for their first regional North West Voice of the Child conference which we hope will take place in Liverpool on Thursday 15th February 2018. Diversity and Inclusion will be the theme.

3. Our new webpage and FJYPB Top Tips

The FJYPB webpage on the Cafcass website has recently been updated to include up to date information about the board which now features our new top tips and accompanying videos. The FJYPB have also recently produced a new set of top tips focussing on diversity and inclusion. You can check out our new page here - <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/about-cafcass/how-we-are-organised/family-justice-young-peoples-board.aspx>

4. The FJYPB take over Channel C

The FJYPB members took over Channel C for August 2017 which is available at <http://intranet4cafcass/news/Pages/August-Channel-C-now-out.aspx>

5. Women's Aid

The FJYPB have been invited by Women's Aid to help develop a strategy for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse or where the young person is in an abusive relationship. This is to commence with a multi-agency round table discussion on 11th October 2017 in Nottingham.

6. Siblings Relationships Research Focus Group (August 2017)

10 members of the Board recently took part in a research focus group looking at the extent of and the ways in which sibling relationships are understood and taken into account in private and public legal processes and proceedings. The Nuffield Foundation with Birkbeck University are carrying out the research and this focus group session will help inform the questions that will be asked to practitioners and other professionals working in family justice.

The involvement of the FJYPB will try to ensure that the findings are informed by their experiences and their own views about legal processes and decisions that impact on the sibling relationship.

7. Wales

The Board continue to work closely with Cafcass Cymru and the Welsh Government. The FJYPB have recently been commissioned to:

- Attend and deliver training workshops in the 5 service areas in Wales over the next 12 months for Cafcass Cymru;
- Present and deliver a workshop at the first Cafcass Cymru conference in May 2018;
- Participate in a workshop with Cafcass Cymru to design of some items to promote the UNCRC to our young service users in Wales.

Costs are covered by the Welsh Government and Cafcass Cymru.

8. E-learning

The Board and NIS are continuing to work together to complete the final stages of the e-learning product aimed at all stakeholders, but will be useful for new FCAs. Before the e-learning is launched we will seek feedback from selected staff. It is hoped that the e-learning module will go live by December 2017.

9. Court Reviews

The FJYPB have commenced the review of the further nine family courts areas across DFJ areas in England (Central Family Court (London), West London Court, Gloucester, Stoke on Trent, Nottingham, Teeside, Kent, Cumbria and Plymouth). To date the FJYPB have reviewed 6 areas in August 2017 and hope to complete all reviews by the end of November 2017. Assistant Directors will be sent copies of the court review reports within their service area.

10. National Association of Child Contact Centre (NACCC) Inspections – 2018

The FJYPB have confirmed they will complete reviews of a further 15 supported contact centres in the north west. Following these a training workshop will be held for all volunteers and staff from the inspected centres to take forward the learning.

11. Training for Magistrates

In conjunction with the judicial college and other stakeholders the FJYPB have developed a training video on the impact of domestic abuse of children and young people. The next step is to undertake the final editing before it is distributed.

12. HMCTS

We await the final version of the elearning package for HMCTS staff about supporting children and young people who go to the family courts which was developed by the FJYPB.

The board are now supporting the development of a training package for HMCTS staff about supporting child witnesses and children meeting judges.

13. Offices

The FJYPB have been requested to review three Cafcass offices to consider whether facilities are child friendly. They are also in the process of producing four leaflets for Cafcass reception areas:

- Information leaflet about the FJYPB
- Parents/carers responsibility for children visiting the office
- You say : We did – poster for responding to children’s feedback
- You say : We did – poster for responding to adults feedback

The Family Justice Young People’s Board

6 October 2017