



## **FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD**

### **Update for Cafcass Board Meeting**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2018

#### **1. FJYPB Priorities for 2018 and FJYPB Annual Review**

The FJYPB set their key priorities for 2018 at their special Board meeting in December 2017. The FJYPB priorities for 2018 will feature in the FJYPB's 2017 annual review and will help shape the FJYPB's work plan and strategy for the year.

The annual review and priorities (see appendix 1) will be launched in January 2018 and will feature in the Cafcass External Newsletter.

#### **2. FJYPB Meeting – December 2017**

Fay Selvan and Anthony Douglas attended part of the FJYPB December board meeting/Christmas party. This combined a working session with party games and recognised the contributions made to the board by members through of achievement awards.

#### **3. Wales**

The FJYPB have taken a lead role to develop impact from children and young people in Wales. The FJYPB recently met with Ben Eaton and Matthew Pinnell from Cafcass Cymru, which is part of the Welsh Government, to agree a joint workplan for 2018/19. Representatives from Cafcass Cymru also attended the recent FJYPB meeting in December 2017 to run a workshop in which members helped design some items to promote the UNCRC to young service users across Wales. The FJYPB have recently been commissioned to present and deliver a workshop at the first Cafcass Cymru conference in May 2018. (Costs for services within Wales are covered by Cafcass Cymru and the MoJ.)

#### **4. Voice of the Child Conference 2018**

The FJYPB have started planning and preparation for the annual Voice of the Child 2018 conference to consider a theme, speakers and a venue. Members' and delegate feedback from the last conference has been reviewed and considered to ensure that next year's conference has even more impact.

The Board have agreed on the following:

- The conference will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in either Manchester or London.
- To seek sponsorship or to work in partnership for the conference;
- To invite a range of speakers and stakeholders, such as the President of the Family Division and young people's groups.

'Save the Date' invitations for Cafcass staff will be sent out in the usual way via Assistant Directors in February 2018.

## **5. Feedback on Children's Complaint Procedure**

The FJYPB have reviewed the draft revised complaints procedure and suggested some amendments. The collation of feedback from children and young people using these mechanisms and the children's feedback forms is being undertaken by the National Business Centre linked to the Business Services Managers across the country.

## **6. Women's Aid**

The FJYPB were invited to attend a Women's Aid round table meeting last October 2017 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. FJYPB members, Bethany and Advone, attended the meeting with Marie Gittins (Assistant Director, Cafcass). The event was a success due, in part, to the quality of experiences the FJYPB were all able to share on the day.

The FJYPB have been invited to be members of the steering group to pull together the ideas and thoughts on what a 'Change that Lasts' strategy for children and young people would look like. The next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in London.

## **7. FJYPB Recruitment**

The FJYPB are currently recruiting for new members to join the Board. Recruitment opened on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and the deadline for all applications is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The Board currently have 50 members.

Posters advertising recruitment have been circulated to all stakeholders. The FJYPB hope to receive a number of applications from all over the country with a particular focus on recruiting more Welsh members and more boys. We will be holding the interview days in March 2018.

## **8. E-learning – Voice of the Child**

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 Cafcass 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 in Spring 2018.

## **9. Court Reviews**

The FJYPB have started reviews of a further nine family court areas across DFJ (Designated Family Judge) areas in England. These include the Central Family Court (London), West London Court, Gloucester, Stoke on Trent, Nottingham, Teeside, Kent, Cumbria and Plymouth.

The FJYPB have reviewed 8 areas so far with only Plymouth remaining to complete. Once all 9 courts have been reviewed, the FJYPB will produce an overall report highlighting the key findings and recommendations. The overall report will be shared with the Ministry of Justice, HMCTs and Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division for consideration. Individual court review reports will be shared with local Designated Family Judges and Cafcass Assistant Directors.

## **10. Child-inclusive Mediation**

The FJYPB have recently delivered two training events for mediators, one for Relate in North London in December 2017 and the second for National Family Mediation (NFM) earlier in November 2017. Both were very successful and the FJYPB has received some very positive feedback.

Relate are developing some child friendly literature that they may wish the FJYPB review in the future months.

In November 2017, the FJYPB delivered a training workshop to 19 Mediation Centre Managers. The aim of the workshop was to stress the significance of effectively promoting child inclusive mediation and the value that the voice of the child can have on the whole family. NFM are hoping that we can deliver the training again to the north of England, dependant on their 2018/19 budget.

## **11. Buzz My Feelings Article (January 2018)**

Following recommendations provided by the FJYPB, a Yorkshire Children's Centre have worked together with us, taken on our views and have developed their "buzz my feeling" boxes. Please see appendix 2 which will be going in NACCC's online newsletter spotlight in January.

## **12. HMCTS Child Witness Liaison Officer's training**

In partnership with HMCTs, the FJYPB have designed a training module for court staff providing best practice tips and scenarios when working with children and young people who visit court.

It was agreed at the last HMCTs Family Courts Operational Forum meeting that the Child Witness Liaison Officer's training brief should be delivered to family court ushers and family court staff by the end of June 2018 with the option to extend the training to all court staff.

The training will be delivered in-house by business skills trainers and/or delivery managers. In terms of the FJYPB's materials for court noticeboards, local managers will liaise with Designated Family Judges to agree which materials should be displayed in courts.

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

### **13. Children and Young People Engagement Strategy Group**

Marie Gittins and an FJYPB member attended the inaugural HMCTS Children and Young People Engagement Strategy Group meeting on 8 December 2017. This strategy will focus on the commitment of HMCTS to engage children and young people in the design of future services. The FJYPB have been invited to be part of the working group and will attend the next meeting in January 2018.

### **14. National Association of Child Contact Centre (NACCC) Inspections – 2018**

The FJYPB have started the programme to carry out reviews of a further 7 supported contact centres in the North West. The FJYPB have inspected with 1 centres so far with more visits booked in for the next few months. Following these inspections, a training workshop will be held for all volunteers and staff from the inspected centres to take forward the learning.

### **15. 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.

### **16. Takeover Challenge – Cafcass Office Makeovers**

Every year, the FJYPB take part in the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge. The Takeover Challenge is a fun, imaginative and exciting activity to encourage organisations across England to open their doors to children and young people to take over adult roles.

This year, the FJYPB's **Take Over Challenge** involved members of the FJYPB taking over the reception and family areas of three identified Cafcass offices: Blackburn, Manchester and Nottingham. The aim of the challenge was to make improvements and suggestions as to who the areas can be more child friendly and welcoming. A short briefing summary of findings and further suggestions was provided to all three offices.

One FCA in Blackburn said "*I am very impressed, the reception area and the family room look much more welcoming to children and families. It looks great!*"

Full coverage of the takeover in all three offices can be found on Cafcass Twitter and in December's issue of Channel C magazine.

## **17. FJYPB posters for offices**

The FJYPB have produced and circulated four posters for Cafcass office/touchdown reception areas to promote the FJYPB and encourage feedback from adults and children. These are:

- An information poster 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

## **18. Update on Top Tips**

The Board have also sent hard copies of all of the Top Tips to all offices to be displayed on notice boards. The Top Tips for 'keeping children and young people informed and keeping them at the centre of their case' have now been finalised and will be promoted and distributed by email and Channel C.

The Board have also completed their Top Tips for working with brothers and sisters (see appendix 3).

Further Top Tips are also currently being developed:

- Top Tips for practitioners working with LGBTQ children and young people is currently being developed jointly with Cafcass and;
- Top Tips for working with refugee and migrant children and young people.

## **The Family Justice Young People's Board**

**Appendix 1:** Draft FJYPB Annual Review 2017

**Appendix 2:** Buzz My Feelings article

**Appendix 3:** Top Tips for working with brothers and sisters