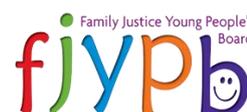


FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD UPDATE



Cafcass Board Meeting

21st October 2020

FJYPB

1. FJYPB Lead members

- Members of the FJYPB devised a list of key lead roles for board members to undertake. All members had an opportunity to express an interest in the lead roles and to have that lead responsibility for 12 months.
- The Lead roles are: **National Family Justice Board, Welsh Family Justice Network, Cafcass Board, Cafcass, Cafcass Cymru, MoJ, HMCTS, LA's** and the **Children's Commissioner**.



These members will attend board meetings, provide updates on the work of the FJYPB, and appropriately challenge and question and identify any possible working projects between the FJYPB and the stakeholder.

- Additional specialist FJYPB Lead roles include, **Cafcass Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Cafcass Family Forum, Mental Health** and **Domestic Abuse**. These members will act as a representative with stakeholders on matters related to their role, share some of their personal experience to support others knowledge and understanding and to be a point of contact on matters relate to their role.

2. Covid-19

- The FJYPB members continue to embrace remote working.
- The FJYPB has purchased a Zoom account to facilitate meetings and webinars.

3. FJYPB Equality & Diversity Report

- Our FJYPB members have been sharing their views on which characteristics they would like to be reflected in this report. The next stage will be to collect this information from the board members, to produce the report which we will share at the next Cafcass Board meeting.

4. Voice of the Child live webinars – October 2020

- Planning is well underway, and members are busy producing scripts, videos, games and presentations with the help from the FJYPB support team for the Voice of the Child live webinars.
- The invitations for the webinars have now been shared across our stakeholders and places are filling up fast.
- The President of the Family Division, the Rt Hon. Robert Buckland QC MP, Vicky Ford MP and Jacky Tiotto are all to make a contribution to one of the webinars.

- **WEBINAR 1: Covid-19 and domestic abuse: The impact on children and young people.**

Exploring the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people experiencing domestic abuse and the response of services and professionals who support them during this time. Date: Monday 26th October, 10:00am-12:00noon

- **WEBINAR 2: Domestic abuse: The effects and impact on children and young people.**

Understanding the short-term and long-term effects of domestic abuse and how professionals and services reduce the impact on children and young people within family law proceedings. Date: Wednesday 28th October, 14:00-16:00

- **WEBINAR 3: Domestic Abuse: The family court's responsibilities for children and young people.**

Reflecting upon the Harm Panel report. Reviewing the responsibilities of professionals working with children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse in family court proceedings. Date: Friday 30th October, 10:00am-12noon

- The FJYPB will be recording each webinar and will be producing a video that collates all the key messages and can be shared wider across our stakeholders.

FJYPB and Cafcass

1. Black History Month

- Those members who identify as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic will be sharing with Cafcass their experiences in the family justice system as part of Black History Month in October 2020. Additionally, two of our members are writing a blog for the Cafcass Intranet about their experiences of societal race inequality in the family justice system.

2. Equality Diversity & Inclusion

- 2 members took part in interviews on 22nd September for the role of the Cafcass Equality, Diversity and Inclusion lead.
- Some members who identify as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic gave their views on the acronyms used when describing children and young people's ethnicity and diversity.
- The FJYPB put 2 questions to Cafcass staff regarding Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. The board are currently collating and working in collaboration with the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Working Group.

3. Learning & Improvement board

- Members of the board were invited to join the first Learning & Development board meeting on 17th September, to oversee and feedback on the proposed actions in response to the MOJ's Harm Panel report and the findings of an internal Learning Review. The lead roles for Domestic Abuse will attend alongside other shadowing members to all meetings.

4. Research Advisory committee

- FJYPB members have committed to continuous attendance to the Research Advisory Committee meetings on a bi-monthly basis. Members have recently shared their views on the proposed research applications received by Cafcass over previous months.

5. Family Forum

- We have 5 FJYPB members who have come forward as the lead roles for the Family Forum. Members have met with Jennifer Okoro-Thompson, the Family Forum Facilitator. Training for these 5 members will take place on the 14th November.

6. Work Experience at Cafcass – Meet the Teams

- Several of our members met with the Cafcass work experience candidates, over a 3-week period in August. 2 FJYPB members also completed the weeks work experience with Cafcass.

7. Feedback

FJYPB members have contributed to several working priorities with Cafcass. These include:

- Subject access request review;
- Cafcass annual report;
- Workshop on obtaining feedback from children and young people
- Accessible case recording;
- Domestic abuse resources;
- Adolescents Review Report

FJYPB and the wider sector

1. **IDAC (Integrated Domestic Abuse Courts)** – FJYPB members are part of the steering group to ensure that the pilot objectives remain child centred.
2. **Harm Panel Report** – the FJYPB have read and drafted a response to the Harm Panel Report.
3. **MoJ & Private Law – Repeat applications** – The FJYPB met with members of the MoJ Private Law team to share their views and personal experiences of being subject to a number of Family Law applications. They explored the impact of repeat proceedings and also shared ideas on how to discourage parents making multiple applications.