



Cafcass Board Meeting 8th November 2023

FJYPB UPDATE



VOTC 2023

Building trust

To enable children and young people to participate in their family court proceedings in the context of delay



- We had a total of 434 attendees to this year hybrid VOTC 2023.
- FJYPB members live streamed from the Cafcass office in Croydon.

"Thank you all so much for telling your stories, they were so insightful and articulately spoken. I am going to work harder to created Family Justice systems that enable Cafcass to work with the child in a way that is bespoke to them". (Ministry of Justice)



"It has reaffirmed how important the child's voice is during proceedings. I am going to be feeding back from today to the rest of my team, I will be sharing the challenges with them also". (East Riding of Yorkshire Council)

"Trust of/with children takes patience, communication and consistency. Being open and honest is key to successful outcomes for the child and their family. I will certainly embed the importance of this message into training I deliver to practitioners". (Metropolitan Police)



"What an amazing session - thanks so much. I was impressed with all the speakers. I will encourage family justice colleagues to take on board what's been said today and use some of the ideas in promoting children's rights" (Department for Educations)





THE PARTNERSHIP WORKING AWARD

This award is open to an organisation who can demonstrate excellence in multi-agency working, transcending boundaries in order to ensure the best interest of children, young people and families. Evidence that the child is more important than the agency working on their behalf is paramount.



"It has been a privilege to be here tonight and an absolute honour to represent our diverse Board of children and young people with experience in public and private law."
- Andrew



FJYPB MEETING 07TH OCTOBER 2023

- Cafcass Diversity Wheel
- FJYPB Room at new Cafcass National Office
- FJYPB priorities 2024
- Invite to Ministers
- CAFLON 2023



CAFCASS NEW LONDON OFFICE

"It was amazing to look around the family rooms because I saw all the resources, games and objects that we have recommended throughout our inspections. Everyone's passion and hard work created a very welcoming and child-friendly environment. If I was going through Cafcass now I would already have a positive experience from the moment I step into the office".

Laura

"It was lovely walking around the office, it had a friendly relaxed vibe the minute you walked in- everyone was clearly proud of it coming to fruition and I can totally see why. It'll be a great space for children, young people and their families".

Olivia



FJYPB / CAFCASS WORKPLAN

Highlights	Work Undertaken	Impact
Who are all the adults?	FJYPB Resource / Glossary has been created to share with Children and Young people involved in public law proceedings.	Children can identify the key professionals involved in their lives, what role they have, and how they can help them.
Impact of delay on children and young people.	FJYPB met with Jacky Tiotto and Sir Andrew McFarlane in June 2023 to discuss what Cafcass and the family court are doing to reduce delay . Next meeting February 2024.	The impact of delay on children and young people remains a priority with professionals and organisations holding themselves to account.
Children in Care Councils	FJYPB have held an initial meeting with Essex to discuss joint working to promote the voices of children and young people and understand their experiences.	FJYPB and Children in Care Council's working together to promote the voice of the child locally and nationally.
Sharing Recommendations	FJYPB have produced Top Tips to be shared nationally to explain why sharing recommendations is important to children and young people.	An increasing number of children will be kept updated on their proceedings and the decisions made on their behalf.
Safe Contact	FJYPB are developing a resource to share what children and young people would like considered when professionals are making contact arrangements.	Safe contact arrangements are made with the child's involvement and meets their needs.
Child's version of the parenting plan.	FJYPB are currently working with National Commissioning Team to develop this resource.	Children and young people are involved in the arrangements agreed by their parents.
FJYPB resource for schools	FJYPB continue to work with PSHE Association who are developing the FJYPB resources into useable and flexible teaching aids for schools.	Schools will have a resource to help them understand the experience of children and young people in family proceedings and offer support.
FJYPB Website	FJYPB have consulted with procurement and seeking services that can support the development and maintenance of the FJYPB website.	Children, young people and stakeholders will be able to keep up to date with the work of the FJYPB and access our free resources including our book In Our Shoes and Top Tips.

COMMUNITY CARE LIVE

FJYPB member Laura supported Cafcass at the Community Care Live Event.

Laura shared her In My Shoes speaking about her personal experience and promoted the FJYPB book In Our Shoes.



JUDICIAL COLLEGE

The FJYPB met with the Judicial College in August to share about the importance of clear and understandable language for children and young people.

We will be supporting the Judicial College to develop training for magistrates to consider the language they use.



JUDICIAL
COLLEGE

IMPACT OF DOMESTIC ABUSE TRAINING

FJYPB have been commissioned by Durham Policy and Commissioning Team to support in the development of a training resource for Police and Judiciary on the Impact of Domestic Abuse.



DURHAM
CONSTABULARY

DENMARK — FAMILY COURTS

The FJYPB have been invited, to attend a Judicial conference being held 18th – 20th March 2024 in Svenborg, Denmark.

We have been asked to deliver a 1 hr presentation, followed by a Q and A session. Our presentation will include:- history of the FJYPB, the achievements in our work with stakeholders across the family justice system, our Top Tips for professionals, experiences of child participation in proceedings and meeting with judges, key messages on inclusive language and engagement and members sharing 'In My Shoes' experiences.



OUR IMPACT

FJYPB Book 'In Our Shoes'

- Shared over 100 hard copies and almost 4000 copies have been downloaded.
- Open University have added the book to their reading list and set an assignment to law students to read a piece and reflect upon it .

International Voice of the Child

- FJYPB supported Cafcass with meeting Danish judges March 2023. We shared history of FJYPB, pieces from our book, and how we promote the VOTC across family courts.
- As a result, the FJYPB have now been invited to attend a Judicial conference being held in March 2024 in Svenborg, Denmark. We have been asked to deliver a presentation, followed by a Q and A session. Our presentation will include:- history of the FJYPB, our achievements in our work with stakeholders across the family justice system, our Top Tips for professionals, experiences of child participation in proceedings and meeting with judges, key messages on inclusive language and engagement and members sharing 'In My Shoes' experiences.

Cafcass Practice Week

- FJYPB delivered a workshop during Practice week. The session was available as an option for practice staff to attend. The workshop focused on *The difference you make in your work* with children and young people. We received great feedback from the workshop and Cafcass are looking to make the FJYPB during practice week a mandatory session for all staff to attend.

Social Work Practice

- FJYPB took part in session with Research in Practice to develop practice tools for better communication and engagement with children and young people. This resource is being made available to newly qualified social workers.