

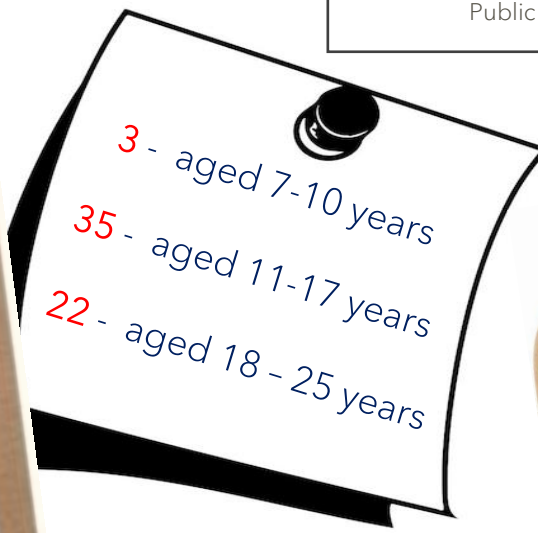
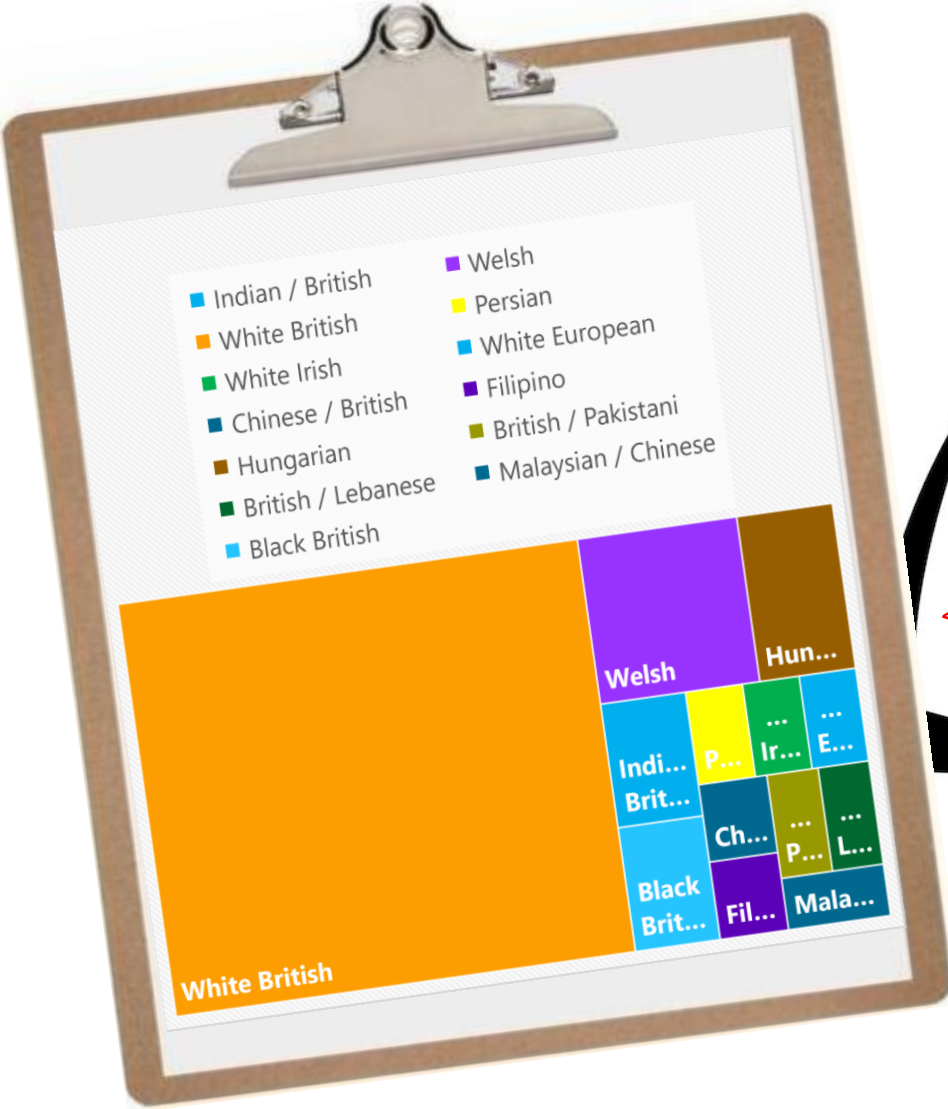
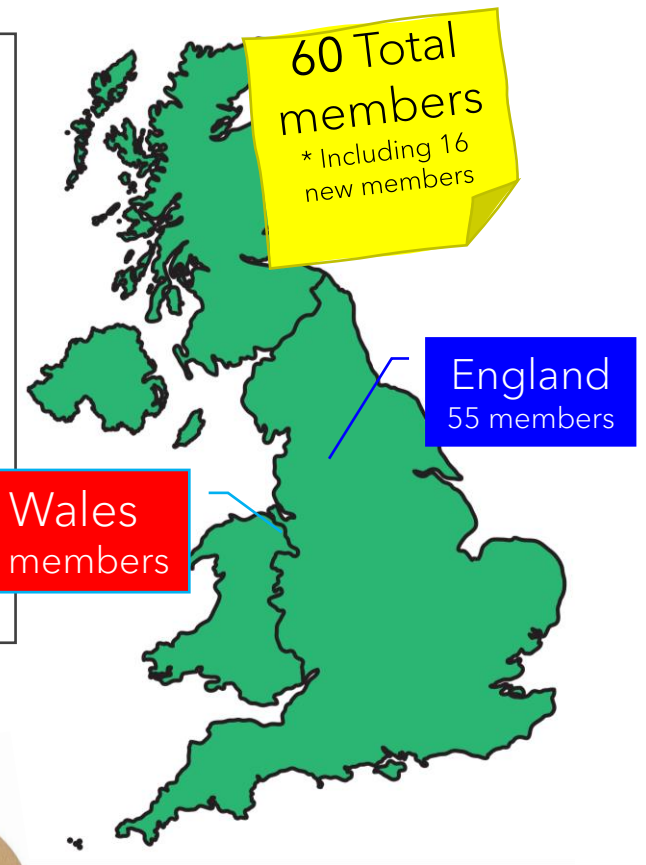
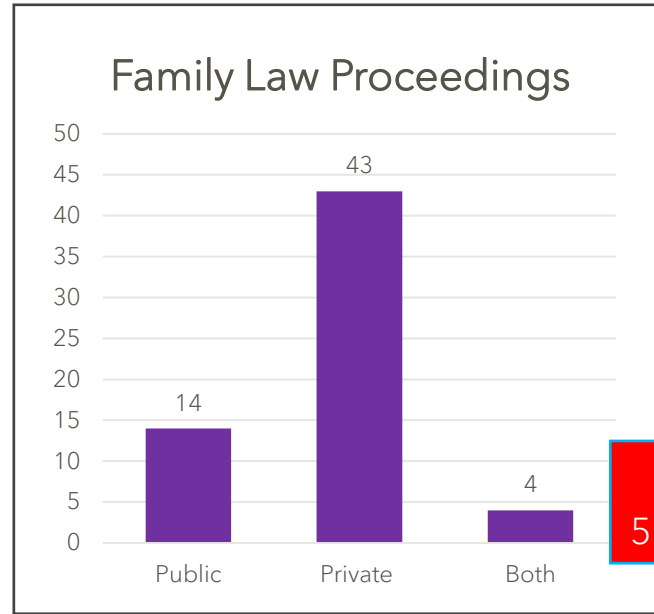
FJYYPB UPDATE

Cafcass Board Meeting April 2024





FJYPB MEMBERS



-
- Bisexual
 - Gay
 - Queer
 - Asexual
 - Pansexual
 - Heterosexual
 - Questioning

Non-binary
Female
Male

FJYPB/CAFCASS WORKPLAN

Highlights	Work Undertaken	Next steps	Impact
Children's Complaints	Jenn has met with Hema Johal, Children's Complaint Manager, to identify how best to involve the FJYPB in future review of children's complaints.	<p>FJYPB members reviewed the 25 complaints received from children and young people from June 2023 and February 2024.</p> <p>FJYPB members questioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you make sure that there is a consistent response to similar complaints? • How do you respond to defensive practice? • How do you implement the learning? • How do you assess if learning should be learning, locally or nationally? <p>Hema was honest and able to reply to all of our questions giving examples of how learning has been shared and implemented.</p> <p>Next meeting take place later in the year.</p>	FJYPB members are included in the evaluation of the redeveloped Cafcass complaint process, ensuring that it is child centred, and that responses and actions are striving for an exceptional experience.
Take me seriously	First video ' Letting you know how we help ' Completed. FJYPB worked with Cafcass and animators to create the script and provided the voiceovers.	<p>Workshop held 04.03.2024 and inputted into the development of the script for the 'Sharing Recommendations' animation. Members also shared ideas on theme for the following 4 animations.</p> <p>Voice recording to take place in June 2024 with FJYPB members.</p>	Children and young people have a better understanding of who Cafcass is, how they support families, and how they can have their voices heard.
Sharing Recommendations	FJYPB have produced Top Tips to be shared nationally across Cafcass.	FJYPB to continue to promote the Top Tips and the benefits of sharing recommendations for children and young people.	Children and young people are updated about the progress and outcome of their proceedings. They are supported to understand the decisions made
Pathfinder	FJYPB to review the Pathfinder module being piloted in Birmingham. Members to also review the resources available to CYP	<p>Becca Anderson and Charlie Cooper to run a few workshop with members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop held 26.03.2024 to share the Pathfinder process and gained views from members. Members also posed questions and agreed to support the development of the CYP resources. • 16.04.2024 – workshop with FJYPB members to review the CYP resources. 	FJYPB members able to share their view on the new Pathfinder pilot and making sure that the Voice of the Child is focused and that children have opportunity have their wishes and feeling heard sooner in proceedings and that the information is clear and understandable.
Domestic Abuse Practice Group	FJYPB member is co-chair of the group along with the domestic abuse charity SafeLives. Meetings held: November 2023 March 2024	Two FJYPB members to attend each meeting and represent the FJYPB and the voices of children with experience of domestic abuse.	Consideration is given to the experiences of children and young people as victims of domestic abuse. FJYPB contributions positively influence practice.

FJYPB PRIORITIES 2024



1.

Improving children and young people's participation in proceedings.

- Work with Cafcass on obtaining children and young people's feedback and reviewing complaints.
- Develop more ways for children and young people to share feelings' Children and young people can be more verbal. Empower them with tools to express themselves.
- To plan and deliver the Voice Of The Children Conference 2024.

2.

• Continue to raise awareness of the impact of delay.

- Meeting with the president , Cafcass and MoJ to review actions taken to reduce delay in the family courts.
- Be more robust and challenging on delay during Cafcass performance boards and stakeholder meetings.

3.

• Continued focus on the impact of domestic abuse to children and young people, expanding the focus to include all types of abuse and harmful parenting.

- FJYPB to co-chair the Cafcass Domestic Abuse: Practice Reference Group - with 2 additional members joining.

4.

• Promoting the uniqueness of neurodivergent/multi diverse disabilities of children and young people.

- Review current practice guidance/tools specifically for neurodivergent/multi diverse disabilities children and young people.
- Identifying, beyond Cafcass, how agencies support children and young people involved in family law proceedings.

FJYPPB IN DENMARK



OUR INVITATION



Cafcass and the FJYPB attended an event at Bristol Civil Justice Centre in March 2023 when we then met with Danish delegates including Judges. We were able to share details of our role and influence within family justice, our work with Cafcass, Top Tips for judges and magistrates as well as some pieces from our Book 'In Our Shoes'.

The delegates were very impressed by the work of the board and how we promote the voice of the child in family law proceedings. As a result, the FJYPB were invited, to attend a Judicial conference being held 18th – 20th March 2024 in Svendborg, Denmark.



Copenhagen Airport

OUR JOURNEY



OUR PRESENTATION

- Background of FJYPB including the impact of our work
- FJYPB Book 'In Our Shoes'
- FJYPB members lived experiences of family law proceedings- In My Shoes
- Interactive Activities:
 - Put a finger down
 - Voting cards

and... answered lots of questions.





FJYPB WITH JUDGE'S ANNI HØJMARK AND CAMILLA FELBO



MELINA

"Arriving at Heathrow, I was so excited for this trip. Andrew managed to pull a few strings with his membership and get us into the BA airport lounge which was lovely and where we had breakfast together.

Upon arriving at the hotel, we decided to go for dinner at a restaurant Andrew had found online. I soon discovered that Danish steak was not for me (it tasted too much like cow).

The conference itself was exciting impactful and interesting . It was great to see just how engaged the judges and lawyers were with our presentation, and I felt our experiences within the family justice system really resonated with them. They asked us a plethora of questions throughout the presentation about the system in the UK, the weight accorded to the voice of the child in these proceedings, Cafcass's role and our use of magistrates.

After our presentation, it was enlightening to learn about the experiences of children within the Danish family court system, the Danish legal system and the advent of a novel Danish law on children.

Overall, I feel really honoured to have represented the FJYPB internationally on this trip and I am grateful for the experience".



ANDREW

“At the conference, we were warmly welcomed by Annie and Camilla, two local judges we had met virtually prior to the conference, they facilitated introductions and discussions with other attendees. After an exciting networking buffet, attendees made their way to their seats. The room was small and the conference was attended by around 30 local judges and lawyers. Annie didn’t hold back in welcoming us, and the show was on as the first presentation of the day.

Our presentation resonated with the audience, earning praise for our impactful voices and engaging recordings. After explaining the board and our recent achievements we engaged in our ever-familiar activities like "Family Fortunes" and put a finger down, attendees interacted with us throughout the presentation. We couldn’t forget that English was not the attendee’s native language, we allowed translations and questions throughout the day and would pause regularly to discuss contrasts and parallels between the Danish Family Court and the UK. We shared personal experiences from Aidan and Milo and an extract was read from the In My Shoes by Imogen, myself and Melina also shared our in my shoes. The overwhelmingly positive feedback we received reinforced the pride we felt in our achievements and the international reach the board is starting to have.

In reflection, this experience stands as one of the boards proudest achievements in my eight years being a member. It's a testament to every members dedication and hard work and is a result of the boards collaborative spirit and drive to share the voice of the child. This is something every member of the board should celebrate together and I hope that more opportunities like this are available to everyone in the future”.

OUR IMPACT





THANK YOU

At the end of the conference, we were pleasantly surprised to be gifted a book on the local area (Svendborg) and some Danish truffles from the family courts.

The book will be placed in the FJYPB achievement cabinet in our board room at the Cafcass National Office for everyone to celebrate and enjoy.

MEETING WITH DAVID JOHNSTON MP

Members Lisa, Olivia, and Melina recently visited the Department of Education office in London and met with David Johnston, the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing.

They all did a fantastic job challenging Mr Johnston about delayed family proceedings, how feedback is obtained and actioned for families and children after proceedings have ended and ensuring the voice of the child is heard.



RESPONSE TO OUR CHALLENGE ON DELAY

Members recently met with Jacky Tiotto, CEO Cafcass and Sir Andrew Macfarlane, President of the Family Division

We asked...

- About the imbalance in proceedings across the country with some at 33 weeks whilst other areas are at 45 weeks .
- What are the potential barriers to reducing delay and if more needed to be done.
- How many areas across Cafcass have been in prioritization and about the information that is shared with the families and children.



WHAT WE ARE DEVELOPING



FJYPB Data



FJYPB Support Team



School Resource



VOTC Conference

