



FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD

Update for Cafcass Board Meeting

15 June 2018

1. Meeting with Lucy Frazer QC MP

Members of the FJYPB recently met with Lucy Frazer QC MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice, at the Houses of Parliament on 5th June 2018. It was a positive and productive meeting. Actions to be taken forward following the meeting are:

- Lucy Frazer QC MP to attend a FJYPB meeting in either October or December 2018 to introduce herself to all of the FJYPB members and to provide an update on her policy priorities for children and young people in Family Law. A workshop may be held based on a topic identified by the Minister.
- The Minister would like the FJYPB to consider 'How can parents resolve their conflict quicker and without going to court?'. The FJYPB to provide their Top Tips for Parents once these have been completed in August 2018.

2. Court Reviews

The Board has now completed the overview report for the additional 8 court reviews across England outlining the key findings and recommendations from the reviews. The report has been shared with the President of the Family Division who says:

"it is very interesting and shows, yet again, how very valuable the work of the FJYPB is, not least in getting the message over to the judges. Do keep up all the good work."

The overview report will also be shared with the National Family Justice Board, Local Family Justice Boards, Cafcass (via Assistant Directors) and other key stakeholders. A copy is attached (appendix 1).

3. Top Tips

The Board continues to develop further top tips on a variety of topics. Most recently the Board has jointly devised with the Allsorts Youth Project a set of top tips for professionals working with children and young people who are part of the LGB+ community and the Trans community. Andrew, FJYPB member, wrote an [article](#) about creating these top tips. This set of top tips will be available soon on the FJYPB webpage and will be shared with staff across Cafcass and other stakeholders (appendix 2 & 3).

The FJYPB are currently devising the following Top Tips:

- Top tips for parents on how best to support their child during separation and court proceedings to be launched at the VoTC 2018 conference.
- Adapting the current top tips for professionals for social workers who work in a local authority, following a request from an LA.

4. FJYPB Recruitment

Following this year's FJYPB recruitment campaign, the Board has now recruited 22 new members from across England and Wales with a wide range of experiences and skills to offer.

The 22 new members will attend an FJYPB induction day on Saturday 16th June where they will learn more about how the board works, the family justice system, their role and what is expected of them.

5. HMCTS CYP Strategy Working Group

The FJYPB remain a part of the HMCTS CYP Strategy Working Group. This strategy will focus on the commitment of HMCTS to engage children and young people in the design of future services.

The FJYPB recently supported and joined the strategy group on a recent visit to Croydon Magistrates and County Court buildings. The focus was to feedback on how user and child friendly the building is and what changes we would like to be considered.

6. National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC)

The FJYPB have now completed seven supported contact centres based in the north of England. Most of the centres have been awarded with 4 Stars (Good) with key recommendations mainly focusing on how to improve facilities and services for older children and young people.

NACCC are considering extending the inspection programme and hosting a FJYPB training workshop for supported contact centre staff and how the FJYPB can support the development of their literature and resources.

7. Voice of the Child Conference 2018

The FJYPB are working hard to prepare for the upcoming annual Voice of the Child 2018 conference which will be held on Tuesday 24th July 2018 in Manchester. The theme of the conference is 'promoting resilience for children and young people' across the family justice system.

The conference aims to be a fun and interactive experience with a number of key speakers such as members of the FJYPB (In My Shoes), Cafcass (Anthony Douglas and Edward Timpson), and the President of the Family Division.

The day will also include the regular slots such as the panel challenge, games and workshops.

This year's conference has been inundated with requests for places. The Board looks forward to hosting another high impact conference.

8. Wales

The FJYPB continue to have a lead role to develop children and young people's participation services in family justice for Wales. Recent commissions include:

- A few members were involved in comparing, presenting and delivering a workshop at the first Cafcass Cymru conference in May 2018 which focused on topics relating to diversity and inclusion. The conference was a huge success and the members received great feedback. Board members even mastered some difficult words in Welsh which impressed the audience.
- The FJYPB have been commissioned to sit as part of the interview panel for various roles.

Costs for these commissions are covered by the Welsh Government and Cafcass Cymru.

9. Voice of the Child e-Learning Module (for Cafcass new starters)

The FJYPB have been working with the National Improvement Service (NIS) team to produce a new FJYPB Voice of the Child eLearning module which aims to influence the working policy and practice of professionals working within family justice to ensure that the service they deliver is child inclusive, encourages participation and is reflective of the rights of the children and young people they are working with.

The eLearning module is currently being reviewed by some new Family Court Advisers who will be completing a feedback survey. Once the review period is complete, the FJYPB and Cafcass hope to launch the eLearning at the end of June 2018 as part of the induction training programme for FCAs. We will then be looking at how we can roll it out to other stakeholders.

The Family Justice Young People's Board

Appendices:

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| Appendix 1: | Overview Report – Court Reviews 2017-18 |
| Appendix 2: | LGB Top Tips |
| Appendix 3: | Trans Top Tips |