



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

### **Update for Cafcass Board Meeting 10 October 2018**

## **Overview**

The Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) currently has 66 members aged 8 – 25 years old. From April to September 2018, the FJYPB have completed a total of 63 commissions with a range of key stakeholders, 21 of which were for Cafcass.

## **FJYPB and Cafcass**

### **1. Voice of the Child eLearning**

FJYPB members have been working closely with the Cafcass NIS team to develop and produce an interactive and educational 'voice of the child' e-learning tool for all Cafcass staff. The e-learning not only includes information about the FJYPB, but also explores a number of 'real life' scenarios to challenge how good practice can be applied.

The aim of this eLearning is to influence working practice to ensure that the service delivered is child inclusive, encourages participation and is reflective of the rights of the children and young people. The e-learning is now available to all staff and will be part of the induction process.

The FJYPB is now exploring how this e-learning can be shared with external stakeholders.

### **2. FJYPB takeover for Channel C – August 2018**

The FJYPB members took over Channel C for August 2018 (appendix 1) providing an opportunity for all Cafcass staff to hear directly from the FJYPB. Highlights included:

- Voice of the Child Conference 2018
- FJYPB year recap
- Ask the expert: FJYPB top tips for separated parents
- Spotlight on Farhana - FJYPB member

The FJYPB have received some positive direct feedback from Cafcass staff, one colleague said *'This is a really fabulous Chanel C.... well done all of you'*.

### **3. FJYPB Cafcass Champions**

The FJYPB works extensively across all Cafcass areas and members are lucky enough to have met many local teams. The FJYPB want to ensure that all staff are kept up to date with our progress and initiatives and work alongside us to ensure that the Voice of the Child remains at the centre of all we do. The role of FJYPB champions is being developed within all service areas.

## FJYPB and the wider sector

### 4. Voice of the Child Conference 2018

The FJYPB hosted its sixth annual Voice of the Child conference in Manchester on Tuesday 24th July. The conference theme focused on resilience – ‘What it means to children and young people and how professionals can best support them to develop their resilience.’

As with previous years members of the FJYPB reflected on their own experiences in very powerful sessions called ‘In My Shoes’, discussing their own resilience, what had impacted on this and how they supported this.

Other speakers included the outgoing President of the Family Division, Sir James Munby, Anthony Douglas CBE, Edward Timpson CBE, Chair of Cafcass, and a video input from Lucy Frazer. They were also joined by various other workshop speakers such as representatives from Hillingdon CiCC and NEST Lancashire.

Feedback from delegates was very positive with 83% of delegates rating the conference as ‘excellent’ and all others rating it as good. Some examples of feedback:

*“Another great FJYPB conference with a subject that is appropriate and is something that as workers we need to support children in developing”*

*“Always manages to reaffirm the importance of keeping children and young people at the centre of processes involving/affecting them, alongside reinvigorating commitment to this work. It is a truly inspiring conference”*



A child-friendly summary of the 2018 conference will be available online soon on the FJYPB webpage. You can also find full coverage of the conference in Channel C (appendix 1). Planning is about to commence for the VoTC conference 2019 so please add 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to your calendars.

### 5. Family Justice Board Meeting

Two FJYPB members recently attended the Family Justice Board meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September. They participated as equal members of the Family Justice Board, impressing other members who gave them space and time to talk. Members were especially impressed with the Top Tips series and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families in the Department of Education, Nadhim Zahawi, made a

commitment to make the Top Tips available to schools in England which his officials have been charged with following up.

## **6. Top Tips**

The latest set of top tips is now available, the 'Top Tips for Parents' (appendix 2), which was launched at the VoTC conference.

This has been an incredibly popular set of top tips and will be distributed via LFJBs and other key stakeholders. Many organisations have asked to use the Top Tips series, like Personal Support Units (PSU's).

At the next FJYPB meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October members will be participating in a workshop to develop a set of top tips for social workers in local authorities which has been requested from the Board.

## **7. HMCTS CYP Strategy Working Group**

The FJYPB remain a part of the HMCTS CYP Strategy Working Group. This strategy focuses 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.

Nicola Kefford, Head of Service User Engagement Team at HMCTS recently attended an FJYPB meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July to feed back on the impact the FJYPB is already having on modernising the courts as in (1) above.

## **8. Meeting with Nadhim Zawahi MP**

Members of the FJYPB enjoyed meeting with Nadhim Zawahi MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families and his dog, 'Biscuit.' We shared initial ideas as to how we can work together. The Minister agreed to distribute the newly updated poster for schools and top tips for parents for use by schools. He also agreed to link the FJYPB up with the organisers for the annual conference for headteachers. The FJYPB have already been asked to participate in policy development with the DfE.

Back in June, the FJYPB also met with Lucy Frazer QC, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice. We provided an update about this meeting at the last Cafcass Board meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018.



## 9. Meeting with the new President, Sir Andrew McFarlane

On the 11<sup>th</sup> September the FJYPB met with the new President of the Family Division, Sir Andrew McFarlane at the Royal Courts of Justice. Members explained the history of the FJYPB and provided an update of more recent work involving eLearning, top tips for parents and the conference. The President was keen to attend an upcoming FJYPB meeting to observe the work and get to know everyone a little better.

The meeting was also a chance to discuss the national charter and updating the judicial sections of the document. The meeting included a discussion about incorporating the child's photograph within S7 reports and case analysis report and this is now something the FJYPB want to work on with Cafcass.



## 10. Developing Presentations and Training tools

The FJYPB are in the early stages of developing new mechanisms for training to enable us to reach a wider audience. We will be working with Cafcass IT to record voiceovers for 'In My Shoes' stories and PowerPoint training presentations. Watch this space!

### The Family Justice Young People's Board

#### Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Channel C August 2018

Appendix 2 – Top Tips for Separated Parents