



FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD
Update for Cafcass Board Meeting
20 March 2019

Overview

The Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) currently has 59 members aged 8 – 25 years old. From April 2018 to February 2019, the FJYPB have completed a total of 109 commissions with a range of key stakeholders, 31 of which were for Cafcass.

FJYPB and Cafcass

1. Strategy Plan Refresh

The FJYPB have been closely involved with the Cafcass Strategy Refresh in the past few months, including:

- At the last FJYPB meeting on 8 December 2018 board members had an opportunity to feedback with ideas on areas they think Cafcass should focus on in their strategy.
- Malak, FJYPB member, took part in a webinar on 17 January which focused on Cafcass' organisational values. Malak shared her views on why a clear set of organisational values are important from a young person's perspective and how best to convey values to service users.
- Interactive Skype workshops with FJYPB members and Cafcass were held in February focusing on what Cafcass do well, what we can do better and feedback.

2. FJYPB Cafcass Champions

As part of the effort to disseminate key information and messages more effectively to professionals, the FJYPB have now launched the FJYPB champion role across Cafcass.

Through this new champion role, we hope we will build positive relationships and maintain strong consistent communication between the FJYPB and local areas/teams via a variety of methods. The role description is attached for information (appendix 1). The champions in A4 have already met together to look at how they can best carry out their role and have had some fantastic ideas such as setting up a Yammer group.

3. Area Quality Reviews

The FJYPB continue to play a key role in **Area Quality Reviews (AQRs)**. The FJYPB help to ensure that each area is meeting national expectations and standards of child engagement by meeting with local FCAs and reviewing local offices. The FJYPB recently visited the Middlesbrough office as part of the A2 AQR.

FJYPB and the wider sector

4. Family Justice Board Meeting

Two FJYPB members, Katie and Andrew, attended the Family Justice Board meeting on 15 January 2019. They participated as equal members of the Family Justice Board, impressing other members who gave them space and time to talk. Katie and Andrew gave the Family Justice Board an update on our work and upcoming projects. They also joined in with discussions on:

- pre-proceedings (before a case goes to court) and what can services do to better support these children and young people;
- the Family Justice Review and what are the next steps.

Katie and Andrew made a great impression and were invited after the meeting to the viewing gallery at the House of Commons during the debates on Health and Social Care.

5. National Family Justice Board Conference

Andrew also attended the national Family Justice Board conference on 5th March 2019 and gave a presentation with Teresa Williams, Director of Strategy, on '*The impact of the Family Justice System on Children & Young People*'. The presentation was well-received and some of the feedback received from stakeholders identified there is an appetite for taking forward some of the proposals the Board members developed.

6. Cafcass Cymru

The CIW inspection of Cafcass Cymru was published earlier this month. We are pleased that the report (appendix 1) reflects the positive steps Cafcass Cymru have made over the last few years and the positive role the FJYPB have played in this, both to practice and strategic development. Some of the key positive findings listed below:

"Cafcass Cymru values, listens and acts upon the advice given by the Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB)."

"The Family Justice Young People's Board has made a significant contribution to the strategic development and operational delivery of the service."

"The voice of children and young people is at the heart of practice."

The FJYPB and Cafcass Cymru hope to continue the positive work and will continue to work closely together on a number of exciting projects, including:

- FJYPB 'Takeover' days in Cafcass Cymru offices;
- Delivering training to business services across Cafcass Cymru;
- To be part of Cafcass Strategy plan development;
- Continuing to attend Welsh Family Network Meetings;
- Continuing to sit on recruitment panels for new FCAs, etc;
- Contributing to an induction day for new staff.

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.

Imogen, FJYPB member, was invited to chair a recent HMCTS Children and Young People's Working Group in February. One topic discussed in the meeting was about Justice in the Community and different ways court hearings could be held in different places to focus on the needs of children and young people, e.g. in a library or a community centre.

8. National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) – Support Contact Centres

The FJYPB have now completed all 13 inspections of supported contact centres based in the north of England.

Overall the findings of the recent inspection programme have been very positive with FJYPB members rating over 70% of the centre with a 4 Star good rating, with families generally rating their centres with 5 Stars (outstanding.) Staff were found to be welcoming of any recommendations that the FJYPB made regarding their centre and encouraged to consider what further changes they could implement to their service.

General update

9. Voice of the Child Conference 2019

The FJYPB are planning and preparing for the annual Voice of the Child 2019 conference. The conference will take place on Tuesday 24th July 2018 in Leeds and this year's conference will focus on the positive mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in the family courts.

Invitations for Cafcass staff will be sent out later this month.

10. FJYPB recruitment

The FJYPB have made the decision to not launch a recruitment campaign in 2019. With 59 members, most of whom are active, the FJYPB team feel that the focus for this year is to support and develop the skills of existing members.

11. FJYPB Annual Review 2018 and Priorities for 2019

The FJYPB will shortly launch their annual review for 2018 which includes their main priorities for 2019, see below:

- 1 To work collaboratively with Cafcass on their Children and Young People Strategy and ensuring the voice of the child is embedded into any policy or practice changes.
- 2 Host the Voice of the Child Conference 2019.
- 3 To continue to work with the Department for Education to increase awareness within schools of issues facing children and young people in family justice and of how schools can support them.
- 4 Improving or developing an effective communications strategy to engage all stakeholders to ensure we are able to effectively share our tools, resources and key messages to have a wider impact.
- 5 To continue to raise the awareness of the affects on family law proceedings on the mental health of children and young people.

These will be disseminated to all internal staff and shared externally via the FJYPB webpage and a blog.

Forward Look

- [Cafcass & AFCC Co-Parenting Conference](#) (21st March 2019)
- [FJYP Board Meeting](#) (26th April 2019)
- [CEO Recruitment](#) – the FJYPB will take part in this.

The Family Justice Young People's Board

Appendix 1: Cafcass FJYPB Champion Role Profile.