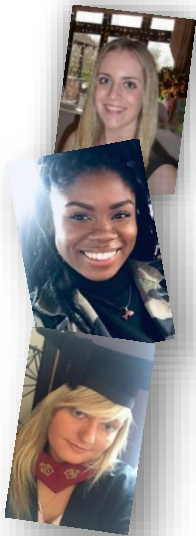


FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD

Update for Cafcass Board Meeting 23 January 2019

Overview



The Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) currently has 61 members aged 8 – 25 years old. This is a decrease of five members since October 2018, two members have had a change in personal circumstances and unable to continue their work on the FJYPB. From April to December 2018, the FJYPB have completed a total of 100 commissions with a range of key stakeholders, 29 of which were for Cafcass.

Also, the end of 2018 marked a sad time for FJYPB who said farewell to three of its longstanding and valued members. Bethany Shepherd who joined the board back in 2008, Khadija Lewis who joined in 2012 and finally Sasha Thompson who joined us in 2013. Each of the members provided a significant amount of hard work, dedication and commitment to the FJYPB. They will be sorely missed, and we wish them all the very best for their future.

One member provided some lovely feedback and reflected about her time on the Board:

"...thank you for making these last 10 years so special. It sounds weird, but I'm actually grateful that I went through everything that I did when I was younger, because without it I wouldn't have ended up on the board, wouldn't have met as many amazing people as I have, wouldn't have experienced the things that I have and definitely wouldn't be the person that I am today. I just want to say thank you again to both of you and Marie and Anthony for making it all possible for us to be able to have the impact that we do"

FJYPB and Cafcass

1. Strategy Plan Refresh

The FJYPB are going to support and become involved in the Cafcass Strategy Refresh during 2019. At the last FJYPB meeting on 8th December 2018 a briefing item on the strategy refresh was presented which set out the background and plans for engagement between Cafcass and the FJYPB. Board members also had an opportunity to feedback with ideas on areas they think Cafcass should focus on in their strategy. These ideas have now been shared with team working on the strategy.

A FJYPB member will also be involved in the webinar on 'updated Cafcass values' on 17th January 2019 and will take part in a separate workshop on the strategy in February 2019.

2. Cafcass Board

Cafcass Board member and link to the FJYPB, Fay Selvan, attended the FJYPB meeting on 8 December 2018. Fay updated the members on the Cafcass Performance and Quality Committee and asked members to feedback on what they think Cafcass should be focusing on to improve outcomes for children and young people.

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 and we are currently finalising a list of champions in each area/team.

The FJYPB will be contacting all champions in the next few weeks about the role. The FJYPB will also be creating a team page under 'departments' which all staff can access to keep updated about the work of the FJYPB, commissioning information and access FJYPB tools and resources.

4. NIS Link

Lolita Gerald, NIS Head of Practice, is the new NIS link to the FJYPB. Lolita will be attending the next FJYPB meeting on 21st February 2019 to introduce herself and update board members about any relevant NIS work and projects.

FJYPB and the wider sector

5. Family Justice Board Meeting

Two FJYPB members attended the Family Justice Board meeting on 27th September 2018. 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.

Two FJYPB members will be attending the next Family Justice Board meeting on 15th January 2019 to provide an update of our work and to identify any areas or projects the FJYPB can get involved with.

6. Department for Education

In September 2018, members of the FJYPB met with Nadhim Zawahi MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families. 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 with the hope of presenting on this

day. The FJYPB have already been asked to participate in policy development with the DfE and we hope this will be ongoing in 2019.

FJYPB members have also been asked by the DfE to feedback on the comments made in the recent Domestic Abuse Roundtable. The FJYPB staff team are currently collating responses and will share with DfE later this month.

The FJYPB staff team will also be meeting with Joanna Lindley from the DfE on 9th January to discuss the possibility of FJYPB involvement in the Children in Need (CIN) review, with the possibility of producing a top ten tips for teachers.

7. Cafcass Cymru

The FJYPB and Cafcass Cymru continue to work closely together particularly on staff recruitment panels. Board members were also involved in Cafcass Cymru's recent inspection, meeting with inspectors to talk about FJYPB work and its impact across Cafcass Cymru.

In December 2018, the FJYPB staff team also met with Ben Eaton and Matthew Pinnell from Cafcass Cymru to review our joint workplan for 2019. There are some exciting projects which the FJYPB hope to get involved with over the next 12 months. These include:

- 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.

8. 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. Future meetings for 2019 are currently being scheduled.

General updates

9. Voice of the Child Conference 2019

The FJYPB are currently considering the location and venue for the VOTC 2019. Members will be starting to plan the event later this month. Updates on dates and venue will be provided nationally across Cafcass.

10. FJYPB Annual Review 2018

The FJYPB will be setting their key priorities for 2019 soon. The FJYPB priorities for 2019 will feature in the FJYPB's 2018 annual review and will help shape the FJYPB's work plan and strategy for the New Year. The annual review will also reflect on how the FJYPB worked on their 2018 priorities.

The annual review and priorities will be launched in early February 2019 and will be disseminated to all internal staff and shared externally via the FJYPB webpage and a blog.

11. Developing Presentations and Training tools

To enable us to extend the reach of the FJYPB and their key messages, the FJYPB are developing new mechanisms for training to enable us to reach a wider audience across Cafcass and stakeholder organisations.

The 'In My Shoes' recordings are underway with the first nearly completed. This will be ready for distribution and to be available to be used in presentations/training by 31st January 2019. Some recordings will target specific topics. If you have ideas or suggestions for presentation topics, please feel free to share them with us.

12. Social Worker of the Year Awards 2018

Last year, the Board of Trustees at the Social Worker of the Year Awards invited members of the FJYPB who have been supported by social workers, to be part of a judging panel for a number of categories for this year's awards.

Four members of the Board were selected to judge a variety of categories, including 'Children's Social Worker of the Year'. Members fed back on each entry and some members attended the judging session in London on 28th September. Members found the whole process very inclusive and interesting.

Two FJYPB members also attended the Awards Ceremony at the Royal Lancaster (London) on 30th November 2018 (pictured below).



The Family Justice Young People's Board