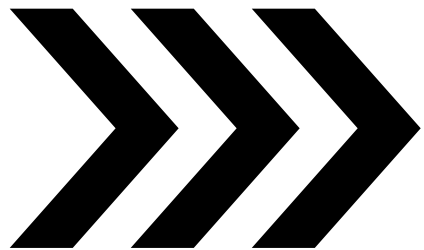


**DOMESTIC ABUSE AND THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS.**

**VOICE  
OF THE  
CHILD**

# Summary



# »»» WEBINARS

The FJYPB members hosted the webinars via Zoom.

## The three webinars were:

1. **Covid-19 and Domestic Abuse: The Impact on Children and Young People;**
2. **Domestic Abuse: The Effects and Impact on Children and Young People;**
3. **Domestic Abuse: The Family Court's Responsibilities for Children and Young People**



Approximately 70 to 80 people attended each webinar with representatives from across the family justice sector.

# »» HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Powerful and emotive 'In My Shoes' from FJYPB members who shared their personal experiences of domestic abuse.
- ✓ Interactive Mentimeter polls and surveys displayed an on-screen visual representation of the comments and responses from attendees.
- ✓ Workshops to hold key discussions.
- ✓ Recorded messages from Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division; Vicky Ford MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families at the Department for Education; Alex Chalk MP Parliamentary Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice and Jacky Tiotto, Cafcass Chief Executive.

# »»» FEEDBACK

A cartoon illustration of a woman with dark skin, black hair in a bun with a pink flower, and blue-rimmed glasses.

**EVERY** webinar  
received  
5 Stars

A cartoon illustration of a boy with light skin and brown hair, wearing a green and white striped shirt and a brown sash with a circular badge.

*In My Shoes*  
presentations  
were voted as  
having the most  
impact

# »»» FEEDBACK

We asked attendees to share their views of the webinar they attended. Comments included:

*"You did a superb job...what an incredibly professional webinar...honestly, it's probably the best one I've ever attended."*

*"These young people are amazing! Getting us thinking and committing to do more and then to be asked to come back and say what we have done!!! Well done to all for arranging such a great conference."*

*"This is the most powerful training I have been to for some time, it can't be easy to put together and share personal experiences but is incredibly valuable. Thank you."*

# »»» FEEDBACK from FJYPB

*“It was a great idea to go ahead with the VOTC via Zoom, I am glad we did it”.*

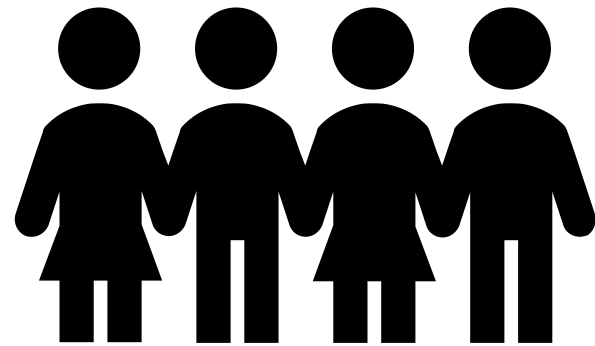
*“I think the VOTC Live Webinars went really well and it was great to be able to see everyone’s reactions and comments to the individual presentations”.*

*“I think that the In My Shoes had just as much impact via Zoom as they usually do when presented live”.*

*“It was a great event and I am so glad we did it, doing three live webinars was hard but they were so good, and our key messages were strong, they came across really well.”*



As many as 1 in 5  
children have  
been exposed to  
domestic abuse.



# »» DID YOU KNOW

According to the NSPCC and information from Safelives:

**20%** of children in the UK have lived with an adult perpetrating domestic abuse

**62%** of children in a household where domestic abuse is happening are directly harmed

An estimate of **39,000** babies under one year of age live with domestic abuse in the UK



# »» OUR KEY MESSAGES

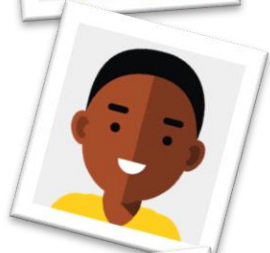
- There is a lack of focus upon the ongoing impacts on children and young people following family court proceedings concluding.
- There needs to be an emphasis on what is in the best interest of the child/young person and not a focus upon parental rights to contact.
- There needs to be education for children and families on support services available and how to access these. We consider that education for parents to recognise signs of domestic abuse is vital.
- In order to PROTECT children, professionals and services need to WORK WITH children. This will be successful through the direct views, experiences and advice being offered from a child or young person's perspective.

# »» THINK ABOUT



## SAFE

How do you **KNOW** that the children and young people you are working with are safe?



## TRUST

No child wants to tell someone who feels like a stranger to them their deepest thoughts and fears. Make sure you build up trust with the children and young people you work with.



## REACT

If a child makes a disclosure react calmly, understand their situation and try and act quickly to help them.



## SUPPORT

The scars aren't always **PHYSICAL**. Make sure you know which local and national mental health support services are available for children and young people.

# »»» WHAT'S NEXT



- ✓ We will be running 2 additional Webinars 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and inviting all those who could not join us in October 2020.
- ✓ We will also be setting our priorities for 2021 and deciding on the theme of the Voice of the Child Conference / Webinars 2021.