



Cafcass Board meeting 26 April 2023

FJYPB UPDATE



FJYPB AND CAFCASS WORK PROGRAMME



Highlight	Work undertaken	Impact
Challenging delay in the family courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FJYPB Challenges on reducing delay. Shared our key message on delay at live and regional events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people are informed and kept updated about any delay. Voice of the Child Conference 2022 – Impact of delay on children and young people.
Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning and Improvement Board Public Law Practice Improvement Programme Sub-Group Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Steering Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping children at the heart of decision making. Asking questions about how any proposed changes will improve outcomes for children and their experience of Cafcass. Children and young people directly contributing to public law practice improvement in Cafcass. Children and young people sharing what makes them unique and the importance of understanding their diversity and the impact on their lives.
Regional Performance Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office inspection Benchmarking Performance Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FJYPB contribute directly to each Regional Performance Board ensuring the focus remains on the best outcomes for children and young people.
Improved participation and communication with children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word busting Subject access requests Feedback Introduction and goodbye letters Animated video explainer for children in proceedings Sharing recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear and understandable language used. Redeveloped ‘My Cafcass Journey’ Feedback procedure. Hear to Listen Children understanding what will happen in proceedings. Children and young people understand what is being recommended to court regarding their proceedings and have the opportunity to feed back.
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cafcass Managers Conference Core Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people sharing what a ‘Good service’ looks and feels like to them influencing practice and leadership. Children and young people highlighting the continued importance of effective child engagement.
Voice of the Child Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building trust to enable children and young people to participate in their family court proceedings in the context of delay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people sharing their key messages to over 300 professionals in the Family Justice System on the importance of relationship building, being kept informed, and encouraging them to participate in their proceedings. Influencing practice.

COMMISSIONS

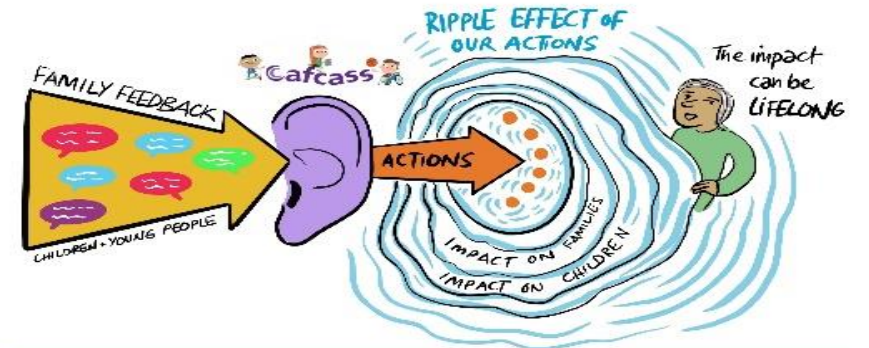
Since the last Cafcass Board meeting (February) we have completed:

65 commissions

35 with Cafcass



LEARNING & IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE



Learning Together and Learning with Children



Learning From Mistakes What should you do when things don't go well and how can you work to make things even better?

From our point of view:
February 2023 edition

The FJYPB members recognise and except that, mistakes can and will happen across Cafcass and the FJYPB. Mistakes are accidents, not intended to harm anyone. They are an opportunity to learn, "Improvement is so valuable" (Oliver). By including the FJYPB, Cafcass is learning from young people to address mistakes - "I have seen you (Cafcass) try to implement changes." (Chloe) "Given me an insight into how mistakes can be solved" (Jayden).

Prevent mistakes

1. Everyone has bad days, keep me in focus, as your priority and take extra care.
Our Together value is to hold children and families at the heart of our practice, think about that and what that means to your work, even when you are having a tough day.

2. Be careful with our information because mistakes can be harmful and hard to amend.
3. Be willing to listen, make time to check if something is important or needs to be explored further to understand my lived experience.

Our Together value, wanting to know more about you and what is important in our lives, think about what that means to your work.

4. When unsure or our circumstances seem complicated, talk to someone to help you make decisions and reassure yourself that you are making the right decision. You have a responsibility to seek support from your managers so you can be sure you are doing the best for me – especially when:
- In public law proceedings we are returning home to a parent or carer, and we have previously been harmed or are at risk of harm with that parent or carer
 - When there is uncertainty, and it is difficult to know what is in our best interests
 - When we are currently being harmed or is a risk of harm and/or there is a big change to my situation
 - When the Family Court Adviser decides not to see me in person or in the normal timescale required, are you comfortable with your reasons for this and you manager agrees this is the right thing for me at that time
 - When the Family Court Adviser is worried about the decision made by the court about me
 - When there is a serious incident concerning us and there is work to be done to learn from that incident
 - When our proceedings are delayed, you have thought with your manager about whether I am safe and do I know what is happening?

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"Given me an insight into how mistakes can be solved" (Jayden).

PREVENT MISTAKES

- ✓ **Be willing to listen, make time to check if something is important or needs to be explored further to understand my lived experience.**
- ✓ **Assuming things about me could lead to mistakes – take time to understand what is unique and special about me.**

LEARNING

- ✓ **Think about our need to be informed of the mistake, considering my age and how much I would understand, we may need reassurance in different ways.**
- ✓ **Always make a strong and sincere apology and try to explain what happened, including the steps you are taking so that the chances of it happening again are lessened.**



FJYPB MEETING

FJYPB members came together for their FJYPB meeting on 15 April 2023 in London.

Agenda included:

- Research workshop with Lauren Doyle (Cafcass) on their experiences of Private law proceedings.
- We explored our ambitions for the FJYPB and Cafcass.
- Planning for the Voice of the Child Conference 2023.





What's coming up next for THE FJYPB?



UPCOMING COMMISSIONS

<p>April 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCA interviews • Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households launch • Service Manager Interviews • Family Forum Meeting
<p>May 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCA Interviews • HoP Interview • FJYPB Workshop • LFJB - Worcestershire • VOTC Planning • Employee awards • FJYPB/Cafcass Cymru Update • Cafcass Equality Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group • Service Manager Interview • ICFA Workshop • Meet FJYPB BSO • Leadership Conference • Bristol LFJB • Resolution National Conference • Private Family Law Early Resolution Consultation • VOTC Planning • LFJB Milton Keynes • Learning and Improvement Board • VoTC involved in Public Law Care Proceedings • Cafcass 'Together Video' recording

VOICE OF THE CHILD 2023

The Family Justice Young People's Board are inviting you to attend our child and young person led 2023 **VIRTUAL LIVE EVENT**. It will be fun, interactive and will focus on:

Building trust to enable children and young people to participate in their family court proceedings in the context of delay.

The event will include:

- **INTERACTIVE PRESENTATIONS** led by children and young people.
- **PANEL SESSION** – with key stakeholders
- **KEY MESSAGES** from FJYPB members.
- **IN MY SHOES** – real life experiences from children and young people.

SAVE THE DATE

To secure your place at this live event, please contact us:

FJYPB@cafcass.gov.uk



Join us 27th July 2023

