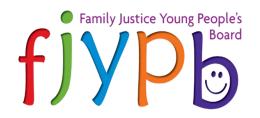


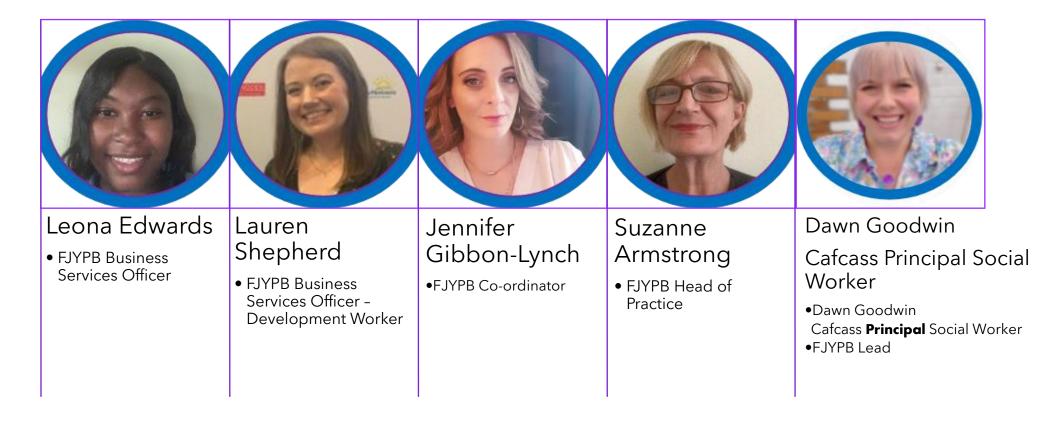


FJYPB UPDATE

Cafcass Board Meeting October 2024



FJYPB Support Team



FJYPB Priorities 2024-2025

FJYPB Priority	Workplan	Impact
Improving children and young people's participation in and experience of their proceedings. The FJYPB will continue to work with Cafcass and partners on a range of areas to further amplify children's voices and improve children's experiences. Links to Cafcass Priorities 1, 7 and 9.	 Contribute to Take Me Seriously programme, supporting Cafcass with script development and animation of 6 information videos. 1st video, <u>'Letting you know how we help'</u> completed and shared. Creation of 2nd video, 'Sharing Recommendations', completed in May 2024. Dates to be agreed for co-creation of remainder of programme. 	 Children and young people have access to information that explains Cafcass, the court process, what they can expect to happen, how they will be engaged and be heard, and where they can get support from.
	 Parenting Plan – NCT translating views and feedback from the FJYPB into a new Parenting Plan – Our Child's Plan. Further sessions to be arranged throughout the Plan development process. 	 Supporting the 25,000 families who access the Parenting Plan each year to keep their children's best interests and needs at the heart of arrangements. Children and young people will be involved in the creation of their Parenting Plan and receive a summary of this.
	Contribute to the redesign of ICFA service.	 Children and young people will be clear about the purpose and aims of the ICFA service and will be better engaged throughout the referral and programme stages. The FJYPB has challenged the project group to consider how information about the ICFA service will be shared on the Cafcass website. This has been added to their Comms plan.
	 Contribute to the improvement of children's and young people's experiences of private law proceedings, aligned with Cafcass Priority 7. This includes work being undertaken with: Private Law Pathfinder Cafcass Working Group; Relationship with Children in private law. 	 Influence the work undertaken with and for children in private law proceedings. Review and design of resources to be used in direct work with children and young people.
	Creating a Safe Family Time guide for professionals.	 Children will be the priority for professionals when considering their family time, both within and beyond proceedings. Guidance will support professionals in enabling children to actively participate in the decisions about their lives, by expressing their own views and tailoring family time to children's individual needs. Professionals will be able to explain to children how their family time is safe.
	 To meet with and agree a work programme with Local Authority lead professionals. Meetings arranged late August / September 2024. 	 To work collaboratively with Local Authorities to increase the voices of children and young people who are in public law proceedings (45,000 in 2023-24), and in supporting recruitment to the FJYPB of children and young people with public law experience.

FJYPB Priority	Workplan	Impact
 Impact of domestic abuse to children and young people, expanding our focus to include all types of abuse and harmful parenting. Cafcass worked with more than 137,000 children in proceedings in 2023-24; it is estimated that around 60% may have experienced domestic abuse. We will continue to work with Cafcass and others 	Continue to co-chair the Living With and Experience of Domestic Abuse Practice Reference Group (with SafeLives).	• Ensures the voices, needs and interests of children and young people who experience domestic abuse are listened to, are at the centre of and influential in further developing and improving practice. Children and young people's input has shaped how work is undertaken with children to understand what life is like for them and improvement in practice builds confidence and trust for children and young people about the quality of this
 to share our lived experiences and to provide feedback and ideas around further strengthening practice where domestic abuse and harmful parenting is known or alleged. Links to Cafcass Priority 2 Links to Family Justice Board Private Law Priority 3: Improve the experiences of children and survivors of domestic abuse involved in private law proceedings. 	 VOTC conference 2024 – members will create the content for and deliver the conference in July 2024, with a focus on children's experience and impact of domestic abuse and harmful parenting. 	 Engaging in discussion with and sharing our experiences and key messages to professionals from across family justice. Improving professionals understanding about how harmful parenting impacts children and young people and setting the FJYPB challenge, for which we will seek feedback about progress and impact.
 Increasing awareness about family separation and change within schools. FJYPB members identified a need within schools for discussion about family separation and change. Links to Cafcass Priority 9 	 Following discussions with the DfE and introduction to the PSHE Association the FJYPB has helped develop a school lesson plan, to help teachers explore with children the impact of changes in families. Resource has now been completed and was launched on 18/09/24 via the PSHE Association website. DfE is supporting promotion, and aim is to pilot in selected school/s and evaluate. 	 In the year ending March 2023 there were an estimated 3.8 million children living in separated families. This school lesson resource, developed with FJYPB members, aims to eventually reach all school aged children in KS3 and will help them have a better understanding of changes in families and of why and when family courts may become involved. Key learning outcomes: Impact of proceedings and family separation on children and young people. Childrens rights when families change. Role of the family courts. The roles of professionals and why and when they become involved.
 Reducing delay in the family courts Continue our focus with Cafcass, PRFD, MoJ and others on reducing delay for children who are in proceedings. Links to Cafcass Priority 8 Links to Family Justice Board's 2024-2025 Public Law Priorities 1, 2 and 3 and Private Law Priorities 1 and 2, centred around reducing delay. 	 Members will meet with Cafcass, PRFD, MoJ and HMCTS to review actions taken to reduce delay. Attendance at annual regional Performance Boards within Cafcass areas with a focus on delay for children in local areas and twice-yearly meetings with LFJB national chairs network. FJYPB attendance twice yearly at LFJB Chairs meetings and annual LFJB conference. 	 Children and young people are able to challenge key stakeholders on what actions they are taking to reduce delay, holding decision-makers to account. Delay is reducing following the FJYPB challenge set in 2022 around not normalising this.
Promoting the uniqueness of neurodivergent children and young people. Links to Cafcass Priorities 1 and 9	 Create Top Tips for working with children and young people who are neurodiverse. This has been completed and was launched at the VOTC on 25th July 2024. 	• This will engage children and young people who are neurodiverse, creating Top Tips by based on their own experiences and insight. This will help professionals consider how they can effectively engage children and young people in services and support. We will ask Cafcass staff and other professionals for feedback about the impact of this in their work.

Voice of the Child 2024





- We had **991** people pre-register to attend the VOTC 2024 which is an **increase of 57%** from VOTC 2023 where we had 569 pre-registered attendees.
- At its peak we had a total of **499 attendees** join us for the VOTC 2024 which is an **increase of 18%** from VOTC 2023 with 361 attendees at its peak.
- Our **Resources Page** on the StreamGo site which hosted our Top Tips for working with those with Neurodiversity, Safe Family Time guide for practitioners and the video clips and interviews undertaken by FJYPB members for the event had **436 clicks** by attendees.
 - There were 116 downloads of our Top Tips for working with those with Neurodiversity.
 - There were 162 downloads of our Safe Family Time Guide for practitioners.

"It is always a pleasure to hear from the FJYPB and their stories help me to recognise the impact that our actions have on the lives of children and young people, and why we should always be striving for continuous improvement in everything we do."

"The conference was made so powerful by hearing the 'actual' voices of the young people and children their stories were very powerful and thought provoking."



Family Justice Young People's Board

Family Courts: PSHE Resource available for Key Stage 3

We are very excited to finally announce that our PSHE resource for school was finally launched 18th September 2024 and is now readily and freely available to all schools.

The PSHE Association have shared the resource with over 1000 schools and we are working with the DfE to make links with virtual schools and seek opportunities to present the resources to as many schools as possible across England and Wales.

You can check out the resource materials at: <u>FJYPB: Family Courts (pshe-association.org.uk)</u>



Safe Family Time



Safe Family Time The family Justice Young people's Board (FYPPD) have created this Practitioner Guide for arranging SAFE FAMILY TIME, The <u>family Justice Young people's Board</u> (FYPB) have created this Practitioner Guide for arranging SAFE FAMILY TIME, reflecting on their personal experiences and sharing with you what helps children and young people to feel safe and reflecting on their personal experiences and sharing with you what helps children and young people to feel sale and as part of family court proceedings.

- The safety and welfare of children and young people should always be your priority when considering family Time. The The safety and weffare of children and young people should **always** be your priority when considering Farmy Time. The view of parents and wider family members are important, especially as they hold parental responsibility for their views of parents and wider family members are important, especially as they hold parental responsibility for their children, but the law requires that the safety and welfare of the child is paramount, and you must make sure this is the For the that feels safe and beneficial is important to help us build or maintain relationships with significant people Family Time that feets **safe** and **beneficial** is important to help us build or maintain relationships with significant people In our lives. When we have previously experienced harm or difficulties in those relationships, Family Time can help us in our lives. When we have previously experienced harm or difficulties in those relationships, family Time can help us to head and learn to trust against but may also cause us distress and further harm. Any arrangements you help decide
- tor us must be assessed as sare and an over over enternance. We expect and need to be involved in the planning and decision making around our family Time. We may be feeling We expect and need to be involved in the planning and decision-making around our family Time. We may be feelin scared, nervous, or unsure if we are allowed to be excited and need your support to help share how we are feeling. Scenar, nervas, or ansare are an encrear to an excent and new York support or new were were exceeding. We need to feel confident that our family Time arrangements will be side and expect that you will be able to tell us why We need to feel **confident** that our Family Time arrangements will be safe and expect that you will be able to tell us very and how you know this. You should be able to tell us about the arrangements for support if we have any questions or
- We need you to be clear about what our family Time arrangements will look like and to have considered whether they We need you to be clear about what our Family Time arrangements will look like and to have considered whether they
 work with our arrangements for school, seeing friends, managing our hobbies and our downtime. The arrangement s
 with our arrangements for school, seeing friends, managing our hobbies and our downtime.
- Helping us and our family members prepare for family Time is important. We may have worries that we need to talk to Helping us and our tampy members prepare for hampy time is important. We may have worms the you about and reducing these will help us to look forward to and better enjoy our time together. You need to alk how our family time arrangements are feeling for u. **Reviewing** is an important part of understanding whether family time arrangements are feeling for u. **Reviewing** is an important part of understanding You need to ask how our family Time arrangements are feeling for us. Reviewing is an important part of understanding which for family Time is meeting our needs. It may not feel right for us, and we may be sale to suggest change that we which is a descent a second our needs.
- whether family Tane is meeting our needs. It may not feel right for us, and we may be able to suggest changes that will a difference. After every engigement, someone should ask how it is working and feeling we should be able to meeting the data is the content of the second se Please tell us how we will be supported with family Time after your work with us ends. Knowing who we can talk to and
- viesse tei us now we will be supported with variny linke area your work what we can do if we are worried about the arrangements is important. • We especially need to know what the consequences are and for who if the court orders family time and we don't
- We especially need to know what the consequences are and for who if the court orders family time and we don't want to ordon't feel safe to attend. This should be spelled out by the court, especially if we didn't want the time to be approximate to be approximate
- - agreed in the first place.

 Have the best understanding that you can from our families and others who know us, about our experiences and Have the best understanding that you can from our families and others who know us, about our experience situations before we meet with you. We need you to understand any risks for us as well as the impact of these. Think about our age, needs and uniqueness, including culture, ethnicity, faith, and ability, when planning your

- engregement wan us and for our ranny same arrangements. It is important that you plan well for the meetings with us. Don't make asking us about Family Time the first thing you It is important that you pain west for the meetings with us, uon't make asking us about Fampy time the next do when we meet. Get to know us first so that we can start building a relationship with and our trust in you.
- Ask us about the best place to meet somewhere neutral may be better for us, particularly if we are worried about pressure rooms parent. • Be honest and explain beforehand that we will be taking about Family Time. This helps us to prepare for difficult

- conversations.

INDIRECT CONTACT

ause it still has a <u>direct impact</u> for us. We would prefer instead contact with a parent, in this increasingly digital world our experience n with them (such as by a call 3-taee contact with a parent, in this increasingly agents works our experience o referred to as indirect, such as through mobile phones, WhatsApp, Skype, these types of digital contact are very much 'direct' and the I there neare types to use as terms if are very much users, and the ing and attanging this for us needs to be carefully considered by al in helping us maintain a nt to us and our other parent's safety. Please us when rer ted with this iding these types of contact

s us about the purpose and benefit of letters and emails. Then us about the purpose and senent or retters and emails. Seeds or is it a means of opening the door and / or keeping waves a set of the senent is to senent a set of the senent of th How can we and our parents be supported to ensure a by 'indirect' contact, and, if you are thinking about

'P morece contact, and, a you are contact doout at how this will take place and ask whether this feels

