



FJYPB UPDATE

Cafcass Board Meeting October 2024

FJYPB Support Team



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FJYPB Priorities 2024-2025

FJYPB Priority	Workplan	Impact
<p>Improving children and young people’s participation in and experience of their proceedings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Links to Cafcass Priorities 1, 7 and 9.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to Take Me Seriously programme, supporting Cafcass with script development and animation of 6 information videos. 1st video, ‘Letting you know how we help’ completed and shared. Creation of 2nd video, ‘Sharing Recommendations’, completed in May 2024. Dates to be agreed for co-creation of remainder of programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the redesign of ICFA service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Law Pathfinder Cafcass Working Group; Relationship with Children in private law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a Safe Family Time guide for professionals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet with and agree a work programme with Local Authority lead professionals. Meetings arranged late August / September 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<p>Impact of domestic abuse to children and young people, expanding our focus to include all types of abuse and harmful parenting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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. <p>Links to Cafcass Priority 2</p> <p>Links to Family Justice Board Private Law Priority 3: Improve the experiences of children and survivors of domestic abuse involved in private law proceedings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to co-chair the Living With and Experience of Domestic Abuse Practice Reference Group (with SafeLives). 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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.
<p>Increasing awareness about family separation and change within schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FJYPB members identified a need within schools for discussion about family separation and change. <p>Links to Cafcass Priority 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Key learning outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. How to support a friend experiencing proceedings.
<p>Reducing delay in the family courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue our focus with Cafcass, PRFD, MoJ and others on reducing delay for children who are in proceedings. <p>Links to Cafcass Priority 8</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<p>Promoting the uniqueness of neurodivergent children and young people.</p> <p>Links to Cafcass Priorities 1 and 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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



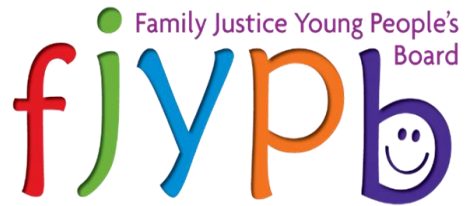


- We had **991** people pre-register to attend the VOTC 2024 which is an **increase of 57%** from VOTC 2023 where we had 569 pre-registered attendees.
- At its peak we had a total of **499 attendees** join us for the VOTC 2024 which is an **increase of 18%** from VOTC 2023 with 361 attendees at its peak.
- 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 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:

[FJYPB: Family Courts \(pshe-association.org.uk\)](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/fjypb-family-courts)

