

# AFA SCOTLAND UPDATE



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## Adoption Week Scotland

AFA Scotland and Adoption UK submitted a joint tender to the Scottish Government to organise Adoption Week Scotland 2017 and are delighted to have been successful; the campaign will run from 20th to 25th November. The purpose of Adoption Week is to raise awareness and to share information. The campaign will highlight the continuing importance of adoption despite the changes and challenges in the way it works, publicise the continuing need to find adoptive families for children, and provide guidance to people at any stage of this lifelong process about where they can go for further information, advice and support.

We will provide detailed information about the events running during the week closer to the time – these will include information roadshows in different parts of the country, a conference in Edinburgh and a family day. We will provide information to support agencies wanting to run local campaigns in parallel with Adoption Week as well as publicity for the press and wider public. We are hopeful that we can work in collaboration with four local authorities in order to run the information roadshows and may be in touch to ask if you would be interested in supporting the week in that way.

Please contact AFA Scotland or Adoption UK if you have any questions about the week or suggestions for things that will be particularly important for your agency.

## Advice and Support

For advice and support concerning adoption, fostering and looked after children contact:

[info@afascotland.com](mailto:info@afascotland.com) or call 0131 248 2403

## Recruitment of Trainer/Consultant

AFA Scotland is currently re-advertising to the post of Trainer/Consultant to join the staff team. Interviews for this post will be held on Wednesday 26 July, 2017.

## Postgraduate Course—Securing Children's Futures

Applications are now being accepted for this post qualifying course which will commence January 2018. For further information and dates please contact [info@afascotland.com](mailto:info@afascotland.com)

## Moving Images Project

The Moving Images project is exploring the use of videos of children involved in the adoption process. The aim of the project is to produce advice, guidance and training for social workers, foster carers and others to help make the best use of the available technology while paying due attention to the complex legal and ethical questions involved – as well as the technicalities of producing a good record of the child. The starting point was consideration of the use of videos at Adoption Exchange Days but as the work has progressed, it has become evident that there are several wider issues to consider about the increasing accumulation of video records of children made possible by the use of mobile phones and tablets.

The project group is chaired by Jacquie Roberts and involves AFA Scotland, Scotland's Adoption Register and a number of representatives from Voluntary Agencies and Local Authorities. AFA Scotland has submitted a Big Lottery bid to help develop a range of resources and training materials and will keep agencies updated as the work of the project progresses.

## Newly Developed Courses

AFA Scotland has developed new training courses and workshops which were delivered to many local authorities during the first quarter of the year. These included:

- Life Story Work
- Linking, Matching and Sustaining Placements
- Be Court Ready—Keeping knowledge and skills current
- Role of the Agency Decision Maker in Adoption and Fostering
- An introduction to social networking for foster carers

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## Legal Group Conference

AFA Scotland was delighted to welcome over 80 delegates to its conference on 23 June, 2017 in Dundee. The day focused on the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007—10 years on.

Speakers provided a fascinating overview of the current adoption landscape outlining the challenges and opportunities that continue to face practitioners as the Adoption and Children Act reaches its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Delegates provided very positive feedback at the end of the day about how useful the event had been in making sense of the current position, highlighting practice issues that need to be addressed and reaffirming the importance of adoption despite the complexities and challenges involved.

## Scottish Reform Commission

The Scottish Reform Commission is currently consulting on their 10th Programme of Law Reform for areas of law to be reviewed starting in 2018; the consultation period closes on 31 July 2017. AFA Scotland intends to submit a response urging that Adoption Law should be included in the programme. Members are asked to give this some thought and contact Rhona Pollock, AFA Scotland Legal Consultant with any proposals concerning reform.

## Making the most of your AFA Scotland Membership

Staff working for agencies that are Corporate members of AFA Scotland - which includes 31 of the 32 local authorities and all the voluntary adoption agencies have access to a fantastic range of resources through the CoramBAAF website.

To make full use of your corporate membership go to:  
<https://corambaaf.org.uk/user/register>

- Click: Create Account and enter your work email address
- Create a password and username of your choosing
- Complete and submit the form, which will then be forwarded to Coram/BAAF's membership team for approval
- You will then receive an e-mail confirming that your account is active
- You should then be able to access the members' area

## Film Review - 'And Violet'

Ravinder Kaur from AFA Scotland was fortunate enough to be invited to the Scottish premiere of a feature length film about adoption 'And Violet' on the 15th June. The film, directed by Paul Gray is a modern feat of film making as well as providing an up-to-date view about adoption today. It is a crowdfunded project supported by, amongst others Scottish Adoption and Napier University.

The film which is set against the backdrop of the Scottish Borders and Edinburgh focuses on Violet (or Vee) an adopted teenager and her parents.

The themes of managing day-to-day family relationships and the rigours of adolescence are thrown into sharp focus by a chance encounter with Violet's birth mother. The story follows this unmediated relationship bringing in factors such as social media which impact on contact via some distressing scenes.

Violet's 'vlog' brings a documentary element to the film and gives the viewer a keen insight into her world particularly when she cannot articulate this to those around her. Equally, the dynamics for the adults around her are well played out. Remarkably the film manages to cover all pertinent areas of adoption as they unfold including approaches to parenting, working with agencies, identity, support and keeping the focus on young people's ever changing needs. There are warm and touching moments and not just between the humans, with the horses attempting to steal the show too! 'And Violet' is already an award winning film having received accolades from the Arizona Film Festival. It will be showcased at a number of film festivals as well as being shown during Adoption Week Scotland 2017.

## Dates for your diary....

### MEMBER ONLY FORUMS

- **North East of Scotland Consortia Meeting**  
24 August 2017: Perth
- **Legal Adoption & Fostering Forum**  
28 August 2017: Stirling
- **West of Scotland Skills Development Session**  
w/c 28 August 2017: Glasgow
- **West of Scotland Consortia Meeting**  
12 September 2017: Glasgow
- **North East of Scotland Skills Development Session**  
w/c 25 September 2017: Perth
- **Chairs Development Forum**  
29 September 2017: Edinburgh

### WORKSHOPS—NEWLY DEVELOPED

- **Getting it Right at Children's Hearings**  
21 September 2017: Glasgow  
Facilitator: Rhona Pollock
- **An Introduction to the Impact of Social Networking in Adoption and Fostering**  
6 October 2017: Edinburgh  
Facilitator: Ravinder Kaur
- **Presenting at Adoption and Permanence Panels**  
20 November 2017: Glasgow  
Facilitator: Ravinder Kaur
- **The Act, the Case Law and the Process**  
7 December 2017: Edinburgh  
Facilitator: Rhona Pollock

### CONFERENCE

- **Health Group Conference**  
15 September 2017: Dundee  
Facilitator: Alison Wilson

If you are interested in attending any of these events:  
t 0131 248 2403 or e [info@afascotland.com](mailto:info@afascotland.com)