



Bump Into Meetings, Chemistry “Encounters” and other new practices in linking and introductions

AFA SPOTLIGHT SESSION

**Thursday 15 November 2018: 1.00pm – 4.45pm
Hilton Edinburgh Carlton
North Bridge, Edinburgh
£50.00 + VAT = £60.00**

An AFA Scotland Spotlight Session with:

- Rhian Beynon, Adoption Support Manager, One Adoption, West Yorkshire
- Elaine Dibben, Adoption Development Consultant, CoramBAAF
- Kate Richardson, Senior Practitioner, City of Edinburgh Council
- Fiona Dunbar, Adoption Services Co-ordinator, Adoption UK Scotland
- Robin Duncan, Director, Scotland’s Adoption Register

THEME

Practice in finding permanent substitute families for children in Scotland has changed and moved on so much in the last few years. From the widespread practice of never showing photographs of children to prospective adopters (until they had been formally linked with the child at Panel), Scotland has moved, through the development of Scotland’s Adoption Register, to acceptance and participation in Exchange Days and Activity Days. Now approved adopters can access information and sometimes actual contact with children either prior or during formal linking and matching processes. There has also been a considerable growth in agencies working together to achieve matches for adoption, including across border and at very long distances.

As with all interagency working, there are big challenges for professionals who now encounter far more varying practices and agency ‘cultures’. Sometimes professionals from one agency have been advised that working in partnership with another agency will require co-operation with new practices that have become a matter of formal policy and procedure in that other agency. Sometimes agencies have semi integrated new practices into their own working in certain placements, while remaining unclear and uncertain about the thinking, conduct and potential benefit of these ‘new ways’. Are we all ‘on board’ or do we need to consider further?

AFA Scotland invites professionals to come to a session that will ‘throw the spotlight’ on to certain new ways of working. This will allow those attending to explore the concept of ‘Bump Into’ meetings with Rhian, who devised and promoted the concept [see attached], Elaine, who authored the CoramBAAF Practice Note 64: *Best Practice in meetings between prospective adopters and children prior to matching* on the concept [see CoramBAAF members area] and Kate and Fiona who have encountered the practice from differing angles while engaged with cross border adoption placements. We are in a changing practice landscape, beset by competing interests and resource considerations. This session aims to contribute to a dialogue about ensuring that permanence processes in Scotland are informed, considered and retain the best interests of the child as their paramount concern.



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CANCELLATION POLICY

After receipt of written confirmation of place allocated	25% of fee
Cancellation between two and four weeks prior to the date	50% of fee
Cancellation between one week and two weeks prior to the date	75% of fee
Cancellation within one week of the date	100% of fee

Please return your completed form to:

Brenda Reilly, Business Support & Finance Manager
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