

AFA SCOTLAND UPDATE

IN THIS ISSUE:

ROUND UP OF 2018

NEW COURSE

PUBLICATIONS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ROUND UP OF 2018

Adoption Week Scotland

AFA Scotland and Adoption UK Scotland were again responsible for organising Adoption Week running from Monday 19th to Saturday 24th November. The First Minister's attendance at the opening conference ensured a high level of interest throughout the week and was also helpful in terms of our wider objective of raising the profile of adoption issues in relation to current policy and practice developments - particularly the work of the Independent Care Review (ICR). As this is a two-year contract, provisional discussions about plans for the 2019 event have been held and we aim to have an outline plan with agencies by the end of March 2019. *An evaluation report of the 2018 event is available to download from our website.*



Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 – Anniversary Project

AFA Scotland worked in conjunction with Scottish Adoption and Napier University on a research paper exploring changes and continuities in adoption social work since the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, funded by Social Work Scotland as part of their 50th anniversary project. This paper was published and launched together with 6 other papers at a major SWS conference on 5th December. The report is available at: socialworkscotland.org/projects/50th-anniversary-1968-social-work-scotland-act/

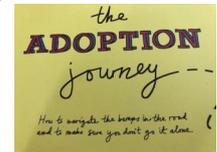
Moving Images Publication

A new good practice guide which was launched at two workshops at the start of December was the culmination of 18 months' work by the project group - which has been investigating the use of video clips in family finding. The guidance is designed to help the social workers and foster carers who are most likely to make the videos, but also to address the concerns of others within organisations who have questions about the technical and legal issues involved. Hard copies of the guide were distributed to all agencies just before Christmas and a PDF version, that can be readily updated in response to technological or other developments, is available on our website.



The Adoption Journey – New Publication

As part of the Preparing Adopters Project (for which AFA and Adoption UK were jointly funded by the Scottish Government), a new publication has been produced for anyone thinking of or embarking on the process of becoming an adoptive parent. It is anticipated that this will be available late January 2019 and will be provided free to all local authorities, voluntary agencies and independent fostering providers.



Another part of this project has involved revising the CoramBAAF training pack (trainers guide and applicants workbook) so that an updated and Scotland specific version can be published. It is anticipated that the main revisions will be completed by the end of January 2019.

Adoption Support Scoping Review

This is another jointly funded project with Adoption UK, which will map the supports and services currently available and share examples of the work being done in both voluntary and statutory agencies. It is anticipated that an initial report to Scottish Government, and a map of adoption support services across Scotland will be available by the end of January 2019. A more detailed thematic analysis of the data will be produced later in the year, and we will build on this to develop a proposal for the second phase of this research study. Addressing issues relating to adoption support is the main priority identified by the Adoption Task Force for its work in 2019.

Spotlight Session: Bump-in or Pre-linking Meetings and Transitions

Elaine Dibben, CoramBAAF and Rhian Beynon, One Adoption in Yorkshire joined AFA Scotland for a Spotlight session on the emerging practice of using pre-linking meetings as part of the matching and introductions process. Rhian described the evolution of this approach in Bradford and the learning they have gathered so far, while Elaine shared the thinking that informed the production of the practice note: *Best Practice in meetings between prospective adopters and children prior to matching.*

Form F Revision

Revision of the standard assessment form (Form F—adoption), that Scottish agencies use on license from CoramBAAF, is progressing well and it is anticipated that a draft form will be available in the next couple of months. The form will be renamed PAR Scotland (Prospective Adopters Report) and broadly based on the equivalent form used in England.

Two local authorities and one voluntary agency have agreed to pilot the revised form so that final amendments can be made and the new version made available by the Spring. Work to date has focussed on the core assessment form.

NEW COURSE

'Relative Matters' - Good Practice in Permanence Planning in Kinship Care

This unique course is aimed at social workers and managers in children and families' teams, family placement teams as well as other specialist settings across the statutory, voluntary and independent sector. Applicants will require the support of their employer to attend as well as validate their work. It is imperative that sponsoring agencies ensure their nominated students have the motivation, capacity and commitment to complete the course.

It will be delivered alongside the validation process from Strathclyde University at MSc Level 11 and once validated will attract an award of 60 credits (*postgraduate certificate*) which can be taken forward to further study.

The course requires attendance at three taught modules of three consecutive days per module. Assessment will be based on assignments as well as a 'training for trainers' assessment.

Module One: The Kinship Care Context in Scotland

Focuses on historical and international perspectives as well as the child protection context. All relevant legal and policy areas will be considered alongside the ethical considerations in this area of practice. This module explores how outcomes in kinship care can be assessed.

Module Two: The Child in Kinship Care

Covers the meaning of kinship care, children's needs and characteristics as well as exploring often contentious and complex areas such as contact and the placement of siblings. This module will further consider children's identity.

Module Three: Assessing and Supporting Kinship Carers

Considers the preparation and assessment of kinship carers including the use of risk assessments. The focus will move onto different approval and support factors. The voice of kinship carers will be a core theme. A training for trainers' input will complete this module.

Dates

Introductory Day 3 June, 2019
Module One: 10,11 & 12 June 2019
Module Two: 19, 20 & 21 August 2019
Module Three: 28, 29 & 30 October 2019

Venue

Edinburgh

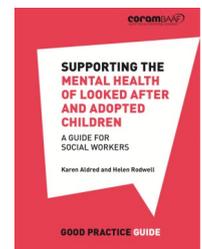
Cost

£2,745 + VAT = £3294.00

Applications are currently being received for this course. Further details and an application form is available on our website (see news update) or can be requested from:
brenda.reilly@afascotland.com

PUBLICATIONS

- **Effective Adoption and Fostering Panels in Scotland** - fully revised and updated in 2018. First and only definitive guide for members of both adoption and fostering panels. £18.95
- **Beyond together or apart - planning for, assessing and placing sibling groups.** This replaces previous guide Together or apart? £19.95
- **Supporting the mental health of looked after and adopted children** - a guide for social workers £16.95



These publications are available from CoramBAAF
<https://corambaaf.org.uk/books>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FORUMS (Members only)

- **Medical Advisers**
26 February 2019
Edinburgh
- **Chairs Development**
8 March 2019
Edinburgh
- **Legal Adoption and Fostering**
29 March 2019
Edinburgh
- **Family Placement**
1 April 2019
Edinburgh

CONSORTIA (Members only)

- **WOS Meeting**
12 February 2019
Glasgow
- **WOS Skills Development Session**
21 February 2019
Glasgow
- **NE Meeting**
27 February 2019
Perth
- **NE Skills Development Session**
13 March 2019
Perth
- **PAN Scotland Meeting**
26 March 2019
Stirling

WORKSHOP/SEMINAR

- **Moving to Adoption (Seminar)**
18 March 2019
Glasgow
- **Court Skills - Being an Effective Witness**
25 March 2019
Perth

CONFERENCE

- **Legal Conference**
14 June 2019
Dundee

POSTGRADUATE COURSE

- **Securing Children's Futures**
Module 1
14, 15 & 16 January 2019
Edinburgh
Module 2
11, 12 & 13 March 2019
Module 3
13, 14 & 15 May 2019

If you are interested in attending any of the above events or would like to request a booking form, please contact:
t 0131 322 8490 or e info@afascotland.com