



CoramBAAF Membership Benefits 2017/18

CoramBAAF is an independent membership organisation for professionals, foster carers and adopters, and all those looking after or working with children and adults who are in care or who have experienced the care system. We aim to inform, educate and inspire professionals and practitioners, and work with them to ensure that children and young people who cannot live with their birth families receive the support they need throughout their lives.

We continue to work in partnership with AFA Scotland and together our members make up the largest UK-wide network of organisations and individuals involved with children throughout the care system. Membership of AFAScotland entitles agencies to receive the following benefits from CoramBAAF.

Authoritative and informative practice guides

‘CoramBAAF draws on the very best internationally renowned research on what works best for children and families, but also offer a range of invaluable practice guides that translate what we know is helpful into the daily lives of families to help children recover from trauma and fulfil their potential.

Professor Gillian Schofield, Centre for Research on Children and Families, University of East Anglia

Members receive four CoramBAAF titles each year, written by leading experts and addressing relevant and topical issues across the spectrum of adoption, fostering and permanence. (Associate member agencies are entitled to select six books from a list of new or recently published titles). Our practice guides are particularly popular with members and in 2016/17 we published *Undertaking a Child Assessment in Scotland* – an invaluable resource for practitioners on collecting and analysing information for a Child’s Adoption and Permanence Report (CAPR). In 2017/18 we aim to publish *Undertaking an Adoption Assessment in Scotland* – a guide that will help assessing social workers to plan, conduct and complete a comprehensive and evidence-based assessment of prospective adopters.

Practice notes

Members also receive Practice Notes on various topics in the membership mailings. Recent titles have included:

- Practice Note 60 - Undertaking overseas checks in fostering and adoption assessments
- Practice Note 61 - Home safety checks in fostering and adoption
- Practice Note 62 - The impact of the decision in the European Referendum
- Practice Note 63 - Restraint and physical intervention in foster care

A forthcoming Practice Note 64 – Best practice in meetings between prospective adopters and children prior to matching has a UK wide perspective and will also be sent out to agencies in Scotland.

Adoption & Fostering journal

‘With articles that inform, challenge and inspire, Adoption & Fostering plays a key part in informing best practice in children’s services.’

Kate Cairns, social worker, teacher, trainer and author of *Attachment, Trauma and Resilience*

Adoption & Fostering is the only quarterly peer-reviewed journal with an exclusive focus on permanence options for children and the wide range of issues that this encompasses. The journal is highly respected and attracts submissions from across the world. Recent articles from Scotland have included Margaret Watts writing on progress in addressing FASD and Kirstie Maclean’s reflections on the non-accidental death of a foster carer. Further articles from Scotland are always welcome. Every issue of the journal also includes Scottish legal notes, authored by Rhona Pollock.

An interesting and varied selection of articles is planned for 2017/18, including a special edition on the contribution of neuroscience to family placement policy and practice, to be co-edited by CoramBAAF’s John Simmonds and Matt Woolgar from the Institute of Psychiatry.

Exclusive access to the members’ area of the CoramBAAF website

In April we will be launching a new CoramBAAF website. With enhanced content, improved search and navigation, and a fresh, clean design, the site will provide visitors with valuable information and advice, all the latest news and updates, and access to the full range of CoramBAAF products and services.

The exclusive, password-protected members’ area of the site can only be accessed by those in current membership. It will continue to contain a wealth of invaluable resources including the *Adoption & Fostering* journal, the *Adoption & Fostering Digest*, CoramBAAF Advice Notes, Practice Notes and Briefing Notes as well as the latest statistics, financial data, legislation and guidance. A range of key services will also be available via the members’ area including the Library and Information Service and the jobs listing service.

Resources available in the members' area include:

- [Electronic access to Adoption & Fostering journal](#) – Members can also view the back file dating back to 1977.
- [Electronic access to two other journals](#) – *Journal of Social Work* and *Qualitative Social Work*.
- [Out of print books available for download](#) – There are currently 16 titles available with more added periodically.
- [Practice Notes available for download](#) – The Practice Notes series is designed for social workers and other practitioners and covers a range of topics. There are currently 33 Practice Notes available.
- [Advice Notes available for download](#) – The Advice Notes series is designed for prospective adopters and foster carers as well as members of the general public. The Notes cover a range of adoption and fostering issues in clear and simple terms and are available for members to print and distribute.
- [Sample health and social report forms](#)
- [Briefing Notes available for download](#) – The Briefing Notes series addresses a range of contemporary issues that are currently affecting adoption and fostering across the UK. New Briefing Notes are produced regularly.

Committees and groups

'CoramBAAF is at the centre of policy and practice development as well as maintaining its position in providing Government with an independent, honest and well-informed adviser.'

Ian Brazier, Executive Director, The Foster Care Co-operative

CoramBAAF's multidisciplinary committees as well as our advisory and special interest groups provide opportunities for members to engage with us and each other, discuss and debate new developments and practice dilemmas, and contribute to shaping policy and practice across the UK. In particular, representatives from agencies in Scotland are invited to attend:

- Health Group Advisory Committee
- Research Group Advisory Committee
- UK Social Work Practice Advisory Committee

Full details about the work of the wide range of committees and groups can be found in the members' area of the CoramBAAF website.

Adoption & Fostering Digest

'I look forward to the monthly Adoption & Fostering Digest when it pops into my email. Everything is in one place with links to the key debates, new research, consultations and even links to relevant parliamentary questions and answers. Without the Digest I would need to spend hours trawling the internet to find the right document. I often read something of interest that I was unaware of.'

Julie Selwyn, Professor of Child and Family Social Work, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol

The Digest is the only comprehensive monthly information bulletin covering news on policy, legislation, research and parliamentary affairs concerning adoption, fostering and related issues UK wide. It is an invaluable tool for keeping professionals and practitioners up-to-date with all the latest debates, developments. Available free to AFA Scotland members, non-members would be charged £100 per annum to receive it.

CoramBAAF News

CoramBAAF's monthly membership e-newsletter contains information on our work as well as that of AFA Scotland and Association for Fostering and Adoption (AFA) Cymru. It also includes news about our latest publications and events and ways for our members to get involved with the activities of CoramBAAF across the UK.

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