

AFA SCOTLAND UPDATE

IN THIS ISSUE:

Adoption Week Scotland

Form F Update (adoption and permanence)

Newly developed courses

Events Update

Dates for your diary

Adoption Week Scotland 19th - 23rd November 2018

AFA Scotland and Adoption UK have been successful in their joint bid to develop and deliver a programme of events for Adoption Week Scotland in 2018 and 2019. The key theme of the 2018 week will be to hear the voices of children who have been adopted including, for example, what they tell us about staying in touch with their siblings.

The main programme of events has been finalised for the week together with a fringe programme, including local events organised by agencies across Scotland as part of Adoption Week.

Main Programme

17/11	Family Event, Edinburgh
19/11	Conference, Edinburgh
20/11	Information Roadshow, Inverness
21/11	Information Roadshow, Stirling
22/11	Information Roadshow, Glasgow
23/11	Information Roadshow, Musselburgh
24/11	Family Event Workshop, Glasgow

Fringe Events

20/11	ACE's Workshop, Edinburgh
22/11	Therapeutic Parenting Workshop, Glasgow
22/11	Sibling Contact Workshop, Perth

Full details can be found on our website. If you have any events that you are organising locally, please let us know and we will continue to update the Fringe Programme.

Form F Update (adoption and permanence)

A small working group has been established to draft a revised version of the Form F. It is anticipated that the text for the revised template will be completed by the end of the year. The timescale for making this available to agencies will be dependant on the publication schedule with Coram/BAAF.

Newly developed courses

"Bump Into Meetings"

AFA Scotland invites professionals to come to a session on 15 November 2018 in Edinburgh that will 'throw the spotlight' on to certain new ways of working.

It will allow those attending to explore the concept of 'Bump Into' meetings with Rhian, who devised and promoted the concept, Elaine, who authored the CoramBAAF Practice Note 64: *Best Practice in meetings between prospective adopters and children prior to matching* on the concept, and Kate, Fiona and Robin 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.

This session will be run jointly with:

- Rhian Beynon, Adoption Support Manager, One Adoption, West Yorkshire
- Elaine Dibben, Adoption Development Consultant, CoramBAAF
- Kate Richardson, Senior Practitioner, Linking and Co-ordinations Family Based Care, Edinburgh
- Fiona Dunbar, Adoption UK Scotland
- Robin Duncan, Director, Scotland's Adoption Register

Moving Images

This project, funded by the *Big Lottery Awards For All* and *University of Glasgow's Knowledge Exchange Fund*, is exploring the use of videos or other 'moving images' in the family finding and matching process within adoption. It is being carried out by the University of Glasgow and AFA Scotland, supported by Scotland's Adoption Register.

The process involved in finding the best possible match between a child identified as requiring adoption, and prospective adoptive parents is unusual - this is not something that families in other circumstances have to be involved in. This project considers the extent to which creating videos of the children can help to inform this critically important decision and ensure the best possible match is found for each child. Through surveys and interviews with adopters, social workers and foster carers, many stories emerged of the way in which these videos helped communicate a real sense of the child, alongside the information shared in more conventional written profiles.

A resource pack will be produced by the end of the year to provide advice and guidance to social workers and foster carers where the possibility of making a video is being considered. The pack will provide advice about how to approach the process, how best to communicate a true picture of the child on film, the technical aspects of making, editing and storing videos, and the legal and data protection issues involved.

The findings of the project will be presented at two free ticketed workshops on Tuesday 4th December (Edinburgh) and Friday 7th December (Glasgow). Further details on these events will be forwarded to agencies.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)

Adverse Childhood Experiences have been widely discussed and interpreted in terms of meeting children's needs. They also have relevance for adults reflecting on their histories; the approach however is not without controversy. A workshop is scheduled for 20 November 2018 in Edinburgh which will aim to explore the relevance of ACE's in relation to the assessment of prospective adopters and foster carers. It will be facilitated by Ravinder Kaur.

Events Update

Legal Conference - 22 June 2018

Adoption, Permanence Orders and Kinship Care - finding the best options for our children

This conference was delivered with a high standard of speakers, knowledge and fun. We heard from The Honourable Lady Wise, Judge of the Supreme Courts whose incisive summation of the Court's approach to permanence decisions was gripping. John Simmonds OBE, Director of Policy, Research and Development, CoramBAAF, provided a far reaching overview on the subject in which he is a world expert. Our own members, Roger Mackenzie, Associate, Digby Brown and Leigh Jolly, Social Work Manager, Corporate Parenting, Aberdeenshire Council demonstrated why they are so well respected in their fields with invaluable descriptions of how they discharge their professional duties. Shona Spence helpfully talked us through Scottish Government policy and the final input from 2 kinship carers was both insightful and moving. The proceedings were presided over by the chair and compere, Lynda Brabender QC who kept us informed and amused in equal measure. There was again a huge turn out of delegates from all disciplines who took full advantage of the opportunity to catch up with each other. Thank you to everyone involved in this wonderful day. We will meet again in Dundee on **14 June** for our 2019 Conference.

Health Group Conference - 28 September 2018

More than the sum of their parts - responding to the complexity of our looked after and adopted children

From epigenetics to the voice of trans youth in care, and from the challenges of growing up affected by FASD through to the challenges of helping children heal their trauma, this years conference continued the tradition of doctors and social workers working together to learn and share understanding as knowledge of their multi-disciplinary area of practice develops and changes. Many thanks to all our speakers for their time and effort to help us as we strive to learn how to offer best care to looked after and adopted children and young people. Delegates have given positive feedback which, as always, will be used to tailor further AFA efforts to the needs of its members.

Sixth International Conference on Adoption Research

Adoption researchers and practitioners from around the world headed to Montreal, Canada in July for this conference. Maggie Grant from AFA Scotland presented research on adopted people's experiences of parenthood, the use of video clips in family finding and early findings from the Permanently Progressing? study. Abstracts from all presentations are available online: (search by topic and then click 'learn more' under presentation title).

Permanently Progressing? Study

Findings from the first phase were reported at a lively and well-attended conference at University of Stirling on 19 September. AFA Scotland will be working with the research team over the coming months to ensure the findings are widely disseminated and aim to feedback into practice and policy. Jane Scott, an independent research consultant who has previously worked for WithScotland, will be joining AFA on an associate basis for 6 months to support the research dissemination and funding applications for Phase Two. If you would like to sign up for updates - please follow the link: <http://eepurl.com/ducBOv>

Securing Children's Futures

Our new course will commence December 2018 and will again be held at the Jury's Inn, Edinburgh. Further details are available on our website with applications now being accepted.

Dates for your diary

FORUMS (Members only)

- **Medical Advisers**
6 November 2018
Edinburgh
- **Chairs Development**
30 November 2018
Edinburgh
- **Family Placement**
3 December 2018
Edinburgh
- **Legal Adoption and Fostering
December (tbc)**
Edinburgh

CONSORTIA (Members only)

- **Pan Scotland Meeting**
25 October 2018
Stirling
- **WOS Skills Development Session - Later Life Letters**
13 November 2018
Glasgow
- **NE Meeting**
29 November 2018
Perth
- **WOS Meeting**
12 December
Glasgow
- **NE Skills Development Session - Later Life Letters**
11 December 2018
Perth

WORKSHOPS

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)**
20 November 2018
Edinburgh
- **Moving Images (ticketed events)**
4 December 2018
Edinburgh
7 December 2018
Glasgow
- **Permanence Matters for Solicitors**
5 December 2018
Glasgow

SPOTLIGHT SESSION

- **Bump into Meeting**
15 November 2018
Edinburgh

SEMINAR

- **Moving to Adoption**
18 March 2019
Glasgow

POSTGRADUATE COURSE

- **Securing Children's Futures**
Introductory Day
17 December 2018
Edinburgh
Module 1
14, 15 & 16 January 2019
Edinburgh

OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

24 December 2018 - 3 January 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