



coramBAAF
adoption • fostering • kinship

Annual review 2025

corambaaf.org.uk

CoramBAAF
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To our members...

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with the work of CoramBAAF. Your dedication and commitment to making a positive difference to the lives of children, young people and families drives and shapes the tools and resources we develop, the training and events we deliver, the networks we facilitate and the guidance, legislation and policy we seek to influence.

Practice support is a vitally important component of CoramBAAF membership. A primary focus for us in 2025 was therefore on revising, updating and developing many of the key forms used by social workers and health professionals. These resources support the assessment of prospective carers and their needs, and care planning for children and young people.

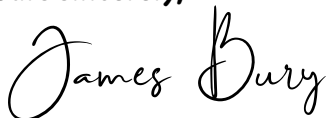
Months, and in many cases years, of planning, consultation and testing went into the development of the forms and hundreds of members across the country played a vital role in the process.

Engagement with the launch of the new forms was extremely high and feedback has been positive. Thousands of practitioners joined us for a range of live online briefings and many more continue to download and view the recorded sessions.

We were delighted to see so many of you at our events throughout the year, including at our three sold out conferences. These provide an excellent opportunity for us to hear directly from you, to listen and learn from each other, and to discuss ideas and issues together.

Thank you for being a CoramBAAF member. We look forward to working with you and seeing as many of you as possible in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



James Bury, Managing Director of Policy, Research and Development



Michelle Bell, Managing Director of Membership and Commercial Development

Stay informed

Sign up to receive our regular newsletters and keep up to date with the latest news, publications, training, events and job vacancies.

<https://corambaaf.org.uk/subscribe>

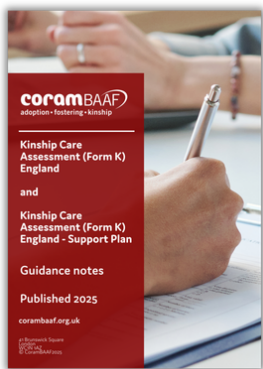
Follow us
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Policy, research and development

Revised and updated Forms (England)

In 2025, we launched a range of new and updated forms across adoption, fostering, kinship care and child and adult health. We know how important our forms are for practice and therefore why keeping them relevant and up to date is essential. We recognise the potential impact these assessments, the decisions made and the documents themselves can have on those being assessed, and those who come back to read their own records at a later date.



We wanted our forms to be as good as they can be, and we wanted them to be versatile enough to be used across different local authorities and agencies.

We took into account feedback, research, lived experience, learning from safeguarding reviews and practice knowledge, and ensured that all forms are legally compliant.

We piloted our forms to test them in practice before launching new versions. We are grateful to all those who contributed to the development of our forms and the local authorities who piloted them.

Throughout 2025 we published the finished forms for use by local authorities and agencies, alongside a suite of dedicated guidance notes, briefing sessions, and feedback surveys to support take up and implementation.

New revised and updated forms

- Kinship Assessment (Form K), England
- Adoption Support Plan (ASP), England
- Child's Permanence Report (CPR), England
- Prospective Foster Carer Report (Form F), England
- Child Health Forms, England

In 2026 we will publish a revised and updated Prospective Adopters Report (PAR), as well as the Child's Adoption Report and Annex B for Wales, and the Kinship Assessment (Form K), Wales in partnership with the Welsh Government and AFKA Cymru.

Updates to our special interest groups

Community of practice for the kinship local offer

In response to the Government's statutory guidance, (October 2024), we launched a community of practice to support our members in developing a kinship local offer that works for children and families.

[The community of practice](#), which meets bi-quarterly, is for managers responsible for the development of the kinship local offer. Currently, over 50 local authorities are part of our growing community of practice with strong representation in the North East, East of England, London and South West.

The sessions provide a forum to share ideas and exchange knowledge and experience of what works with other kinship managers leading on the development of their local offer.

Adoption Agency Decision Makers Group

Last year, CoramBAAF was commissioned by Adoption England to deliver training sessions across the country to Adoption Agency Decision Makers (AADM). We developed a new CoramBAAF AADM group in response to what ADMs attending those sessions told us would be useful.

The Decision Maker role can be a particularly isolated one, with a distinct lack of guidance. [The Adoption Agency Decision Makers group](#) is a dedicated space to discuss, share and reflect on cases, practice and procedures with peers. While not a traditional practice forum, these 'surgery sessions' for Adoption Agency Decision Makers and Agency Advisers are run by our Adoption and Legal Consultants, Jane Poore and Alexandra Conroy-Harris.

Get 50% off your forms licence with a
CoramBAAF membership

[Click here to
find out more](#)



Representing members' voice on the Department for Education's Fostering Advisory Board

As the government developed its reforms for fostering services (Renewing fostering: homes for 10,000 more children), CoramBAAF was directly represented the views of our members to the Department for Education. Our Fostering Consultant has been a member of their Fostering Advisory Board (FAB) since its inception in December 2023 while the Co-Chair of our Fostering Carer Advisory Committee has represented the views of foster carers. Membership of the board has meant that examples of current practice challenges, as well as potential solutions and new approaches have been shared with the fostering team officials. While not all of the ideas and views shared with the Fostering Advisory Board were incorporated into the proposals put forward by the DfE, a seat at the table has allowed us to be part of important discussions and prepare resources, learning sessions, and briefings to support members through this period of changes.

Delivering on child-led outcomes in health

CoramBAAF worked in partnership with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) to deliver the new Initial Health Assessments Standards published in 2025.



The new [IHA Delivery Standards \(2025\), by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health \(RCPCH\)](#), aim to improve children and young people's experience of IHAs, their outcomes and their health and wellbeing. This will contribute to a reduction in the longer-term health disparities experienced by children and young people in care compared to their peers.

The Standards aim to set a benchmark for the delivery of IHAs in the UK. They can inform discussions between healthcare and social care professionals, provider organisations and service planners. They are designed to meet eight child-led outcomes, as well as empowering clinicians across the four UK nations to identify excellence and to recognise how practice might be improved. Each standard is accompanied by guidance to help foster improvement, even if the standard itself is not yet attainable.

The standards apply to all children and young people in care regardless of where they live, including those placed out of area, children and young people seeking asylum and refuge, children in secure settings and children with disabilities receiving prolonged respite care.

Intervening in the Court of Appeal regarding sibling contact - section 26

CoramBAAF was permitted to intervene in this appeal and had the opportunity to explain that prospective adopters receive training on the importance of contact in meeting a child's identity needs and that many are willing to consider direct contact, especially between siblings.

We had been concerned that in a series of cases, up to *Re D-S (A child: Adoption or fostering)*, courts had been refusing placement orders, and therefore the possibility of adoption, for very young children where ongoing sibling contact was required. This judgement makes it clear that when making a placement order the court may 'set the template' for contact going forward to allow children to be placed for adoption without losing contact with their siblings. The court accepted that it may be appropriate for such an order to be flexible and to adapt to the needs of the child before and after placement. It was also clear that there was no change to the principle that imposing a contact order on unwilling adopters post-adoption order would be very unusual but that it was hoped that by ensuring contact during the currency of the placement order, prospective adopters would have an embedded plan for contact to continue post-adoption.

Read the full legal notes in the [Adoption & Fostering Journal](#)

Private Fostering Awareness Day

On 5 November our Private Fostering Awareness Day shone a spotlight on what private fostering is, its significance and the requirement for parents and carers to notify a local authority of a private fostering arrangement.

Without data on the number or characteristics of the often hidden group of children who are privately fostered - such as age, gender, ethnicity, languages spoken, or duration of arrangement - it is difficult for policymakers to effectively consider their needs. To address this, our Kinship Consultants and Information Team developed a survey to collect this crucial data and [published the findings](#) in a report.

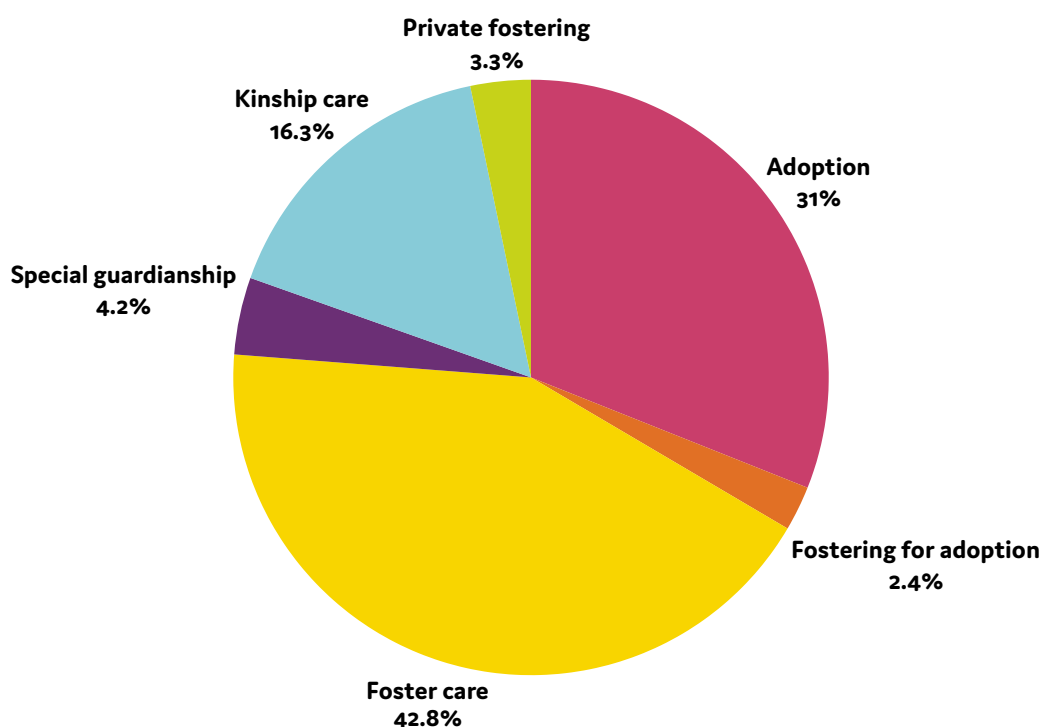
We ran two events across the day to help raise awareness around private fostering for education, health and social care professionals. We also produced a range of fact cards for sharing within teams.

Find all of our resources and sign up to next year's Private Fostering Awareness Day here.

Advice and information

Our advice line for CoramBAAF members was busier than ever and replied to over 4,000 enquiries during 2025 by telephone and email.

Member Advice Line enquiry type 2025



“This is incredibly thoughtful and wise advice, informed by expertise and evidence.”

“Thanks you so much for all your advice this year - it makes having Associate membership really worthwhile”

Advice Line caller

“I feel so lucky to have such a clear and brilliant resource in this advice line, and will be using this reassurance and direction in action.”

Advice Line caller

Outbound Permanence Service

During 2025 Outbound Permanence service advised on nearly 400 cases. This specialist advice and training on placing children overseas is now available to CoramBAAF members across the whole of the UK, and we have strengthened our team to assist with the growing demand for this service.

Practice Note: placing children with relatives overseas

This Practice Note emphasises the initial aspects to consider before seeking to assess a potential kinship carer who lives overseas. It is not intended to cover all aspects of the topic, but to help establish basic eligibility. It also highlights obstacles and legal complexity that may cause difficulty and delay, and in some cases may lead to a local authority recognising – sooner than might have been the case – that the proposed kinship arrangement will be impossible to achieve.

Available [free as a PDF version](#) for all CoramBAAF members. Click [here](#) to find out more about becoming a member.

Information service

Our information service produces the ever-popular Digest, our regular bulletin of the latest developments in policy, research, consultations, parliamentary activity, statistics and online resources across fostering, adoption and kinship.

Our physical library collection moved to its new home within the Coram Library of Care and is now open to visit by appointment – contact info.desk@corambaaf.org.uk

“Knowing that there is a point of contact for advice on overseas cases in CoramBAAF is so very helpful. I raised a query during the session, and received a response later that same day. I was able to pass that response onto colleagues who have been struggling with the legalities of assessing someone in a different country.”
Outbound Permanence Service caller

Publications

We are one of the leading UK publishers of books and guides for social workers, health and legal professionals, adopters, foster carers, kinship carers, and children. Our books help practitioners and parents/carers to make informed decisions, gain valuable insights, and receive expert advice and information. This year we sold 18,000 books in total.

New titles in 2025

- [Recruiting and retaining foster carers](#)
- [Child sexual abuse in foster and kinship care, special guardianship and adoption](#)
- [Undertaking a Kinship Care Assessment: A guide to collecting and analysing information for Form K \(England\)](#)
- [Undertaking a Foster Carer Review Wales](#)

Our books were featured in a range of places, including Foster Talk magazine, Proud 2b Parents, and Al Coates' influential 'Adoption and Fostering Podcast'.

We have also taken our bookstalls on the road, as a benefit for CoramBAAF members, attending a range of events organised by local authorities and agencies. As well as providing easy access for agencies' staff and carers, these allow attendees to browse our books in person and purchase without postage fees.



New practice notes

- [The implications of National Minimum Standards in fostering on kinship foster care](#)
- [Parental consent and children living in private fostering](#)
- [Matching children in England or Wales with adopters approved in Scotland](#)
- [Matching children in England with adopters approved in the Isle of Man.](#)

'Adoption & Fostering' journal (100,000 article downloads 2025)

Our [quarterly peer-reviewed journal](#) has an international reputation as a leading source of research, knowledge and information for academics, practitioners and all those interested in adoption, fostering, kinship care, and childcare practice. We continued to attract a range of global submissions. The journal podcast shared the work of article authors with a wide audience. New podcasts in 2025 included:

- Recruiting people with disabilities as foster carers;
- Allegations of abuse in care;
- How foster carers hold the life stories of the children in their care;
- The intergenerational transmission of attachment;
- Adult adopted people's experiences of first-name changes.

Members, [log in](#) to your CoramBAAF website account, then click the journal cover image to access SAGE and read the Adoption & Fostering journal for free.



Listen to CoramBAAF Conversations!

Our [podcast series](#) delves into key topics on adoption, fostering, and kinship care, featuring insightful interviews with authors and journal article researchers.

New catalogue for kinship carers

We produced a catalogue of curated resources suitable for those who are, or who are considering becoming, kinship carers. This provides easier access to trusted information for carers and families in this growing area.

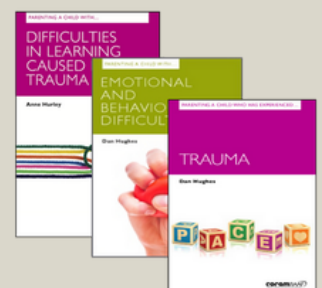
Read about kinship care



Working with care-experienced children in schools

We created curated packs for educators, parents and carers which provide authoritative guidance and advice for all those involved with looked after and adopted children's learning.

Working with school children



Training and events

We are a leading provider of specialist training for social workers, practitioners, and all professionals associated with children's social care. We reach more than 6,000 professionals through our annual [programme of training](#), including open courses, conferences and webinars as well as [commissioned training](#).

New courses

- Chairing adoption disruption meetings
- Planning for children
- An introduction to the Secure Base Model and its role in assessment and support practice
- Writing analytical and evidence-based assessments
- Anti-racist practice and cultural humility in social work
- Medical advisers update day
- What makes a good kinship assessment?
- Approval, support and review of kinship foster carers
- Kinship practice for panels
- Facilitating parent and child arrangements
- What makes a good fostering assessment?
- Fostering assessments for panel
- Effective minute taking
- Assessing trans-gender and non-binary prospective adopters
- Safeguarding for panel
- Neurodiversity awareness for managers
- The role of panel in formulating questions

86%

of course materials
were updated in 2025

Watch the recordings



Supporting members

In 2025, CoramBAAF launched new and revised assessment forms. To support practitioners we ran a series of briefing sessions to keep practitioners informed and updated through the transition to the new forms.

As an organisation that supports anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice our priority is for children to feel safe, secure, and proud of all aspects of their identity. To support professionals to deliver the best outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children and young people, we gave free places on our anti-racist practice and cultural humility in social work course to members this year. This was well received and we will continue to offer this next year.

Catch up on our webinars

Learning from Research recordings

- [Improving opportunities of physical activity for care-experienced young people](#)
- [Breakfast Briefing: The Adoption Barometer - key findings and analysis](#)
- [Developments in attachment research](#)
- [Walking with families living with care experienced children's challenging, violent or aggressive behaviour](#)
- [Evaluating mediation for strengthening relationships](#)
- [Care experienced young people on local and national policy](#)
- [Learning from Research: Post adoption depression](#)

Exploring Expertise recordings

- [Accountability, allyship and Anti-Racist Practice](#)
- [Keeping children in care connected to their cultures- Key messages from international and national research informed practices](#)
- [A new approach to building lasting relationships for children in care](#)
- [Learning from evidence on Parenting Through Adversity for parents of babies and children 0-10](#)
- [FASD - Supporting children and families through research-informed practice](#)
- [Lifelong links - creating lifelong support networks for children in care](#)
- [Digital content and addiction](#)

Conferences

Panel chairs and advisers: Courageous and curious conversations - the role of panel

March 2025

In March our inaugural conference for Panel Chairs and Advisers aimed to enable attendees to build meaningful relationships with colleagues and exchange strategies and ideas to strengthen panel recommendations. With a stellar line up of speakers in the morning followed by a series of focused workshops led by CoramBAAF consultants in the afternoon, delegates expressed how much they valued the opportunity to focus solely on the role and activities of panels.

Putting equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of health services

June 2025

Our annual health conference was again sold out to an audience of health practitioners who specialise in working with children in care. Highlights from the programme included a presentation on disability by Coram Voice, and a panel discussion during which care-experienced young people explored what makes for accessible and equitable health care.

Developing a kinship local offer - what can we learn

October 2025

Our second sold out kinship care conference focused on the kinship local offer with presentations on the legal perspective, the experiences of birth mothers and a keynote speech by Jahnine Davis the Kinship Ambassador.

The packed agenda featured speakers, panel discussion, workshops and the opportunity to see three local authorities 'Pitching Practice', whilst there was also time and space for delegates to network, share ideas and make connections.

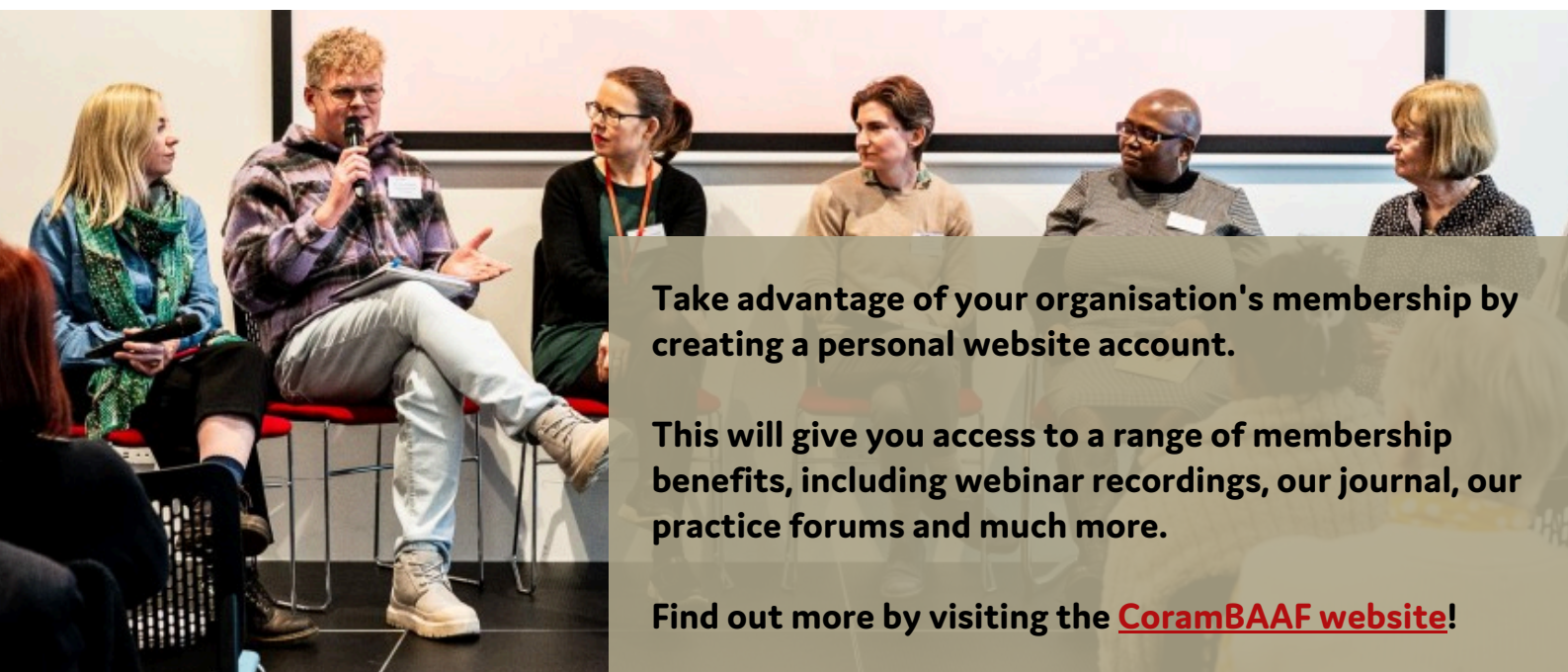
What our delegates said:

"Worthwhile day that was informative, (always learn something new), provided food for thought and opportunities to network and be supported"

"The second time I have attended - lovely to attend a day with high relevance to my work in children's safeguarding and adoption"

"The conference was timely and highly informative helping me as a frontline manager to clearly prioritise key issues and develop an achievable action plan"

Did you know that you're probably already a member?



Take advantage of your organisation's membership by creating a personal website account.

This will give you access to a range of membership benefits, including webinar recordings, our journal, our practice forums and much more.

Find out more by visiting the [CoramBAAF website!](#)