



Annual Review 2022

I know many of the children, young people and families you work with are struggling and times feel tough. If there is anything CoramBAAF can do to support you in your work, please get in touch.

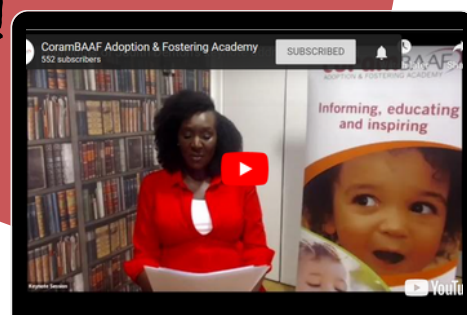
All of us at CoramBAAF continue to be impressed and inspired by the commitment, skill and passion you bring to your work and we are looking forward to working with you this year!

Ellen Broomé, Managing Director

Members' Week

We devoted a whole week to member engagement with events and activities exploring the theme of 'The Power of Relationships'. Over 200 people attended our main online event and heard from keynote speaker Judith Denton as she explored her journey through care, and discussed what helps improve the outcomes and life chances for children and young people in care and care leavers.

Find all webinar recordings, resources and results on our website!



At our Committees Networking Day, our eight advisory committees came together for the first time to discuss the key issues facing the sector and the priorities for our organisation in the coming year.

Our consultants also delivered a range of themed webinars. Hundreds of members attended sessions on: 'Relationship-based practice in kinship care', 'Sibling relationships', 'Forming relationships with the court', and 'Early permanence - building relationships'.

Policy, Research and Development

Our advisory committees and practice forums

We updated our advisory committees and practice forums to better align with the practice landscape and to increase diversity on offer to members. We also made our practice forums accessible to members from across the country. These groups are key to enabling us to reflect lived and learned experience and we are delighted that over 1,000 members and practitioners attended meetings throughout the year.



The Independent Review of Children's Social Care

In May 2022, the Care Review published its final report. We engaged with the review on behalf of our members and were pleased to see the focus on kinship care as we called for a kinship strategy and a new legal definition of kinship care. Read our submissions [here](#).

With the announcement of the Government's response to the review, we will continue to engage with members, officials and colleagues in the sector to secure the best deal for children in and leaving care and the professionals who support them.

Somerset case

In November 2021, the High Court ruled that ten placement orders made in Somerset were in breach of the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005. Based on rapid feedback from our members, it became clear that this could affect many hundreds of children's placements across the UK. Given the scale and potential implications, the case was transferred to the President of the Family Division and we provided written and oral submissions to the court. In April 2022, the President handed down his judgement and we published [advice](#) for our members.

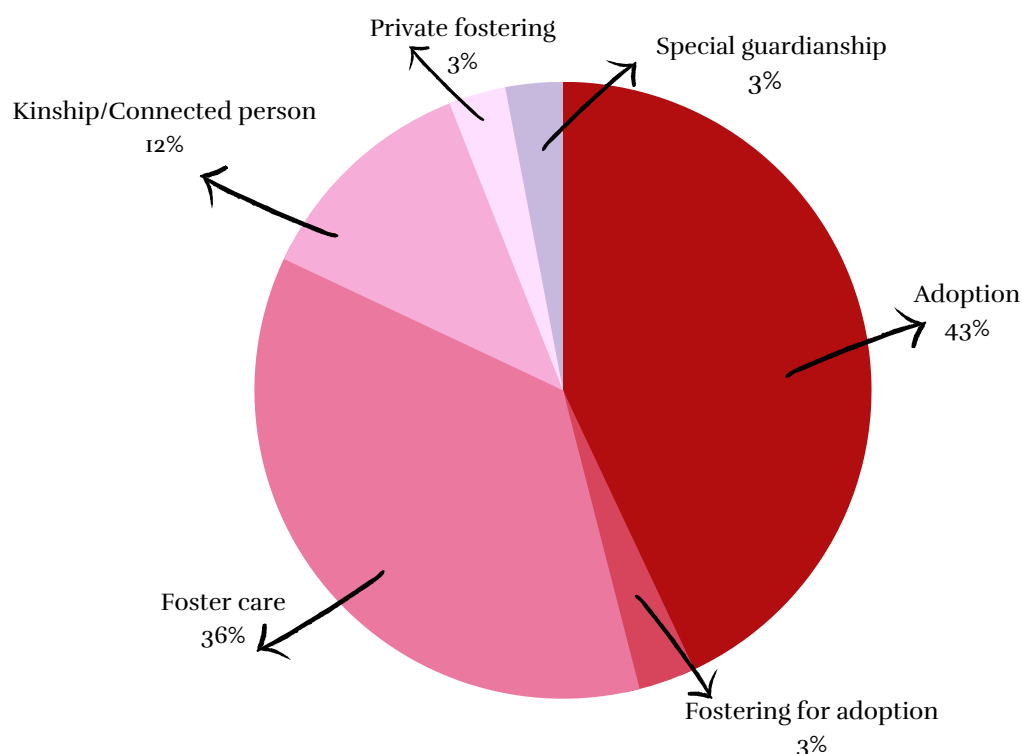
Advice and Information

Our Advice Line responded to over 2,700 enquiries this year. Topics included:

- The expiry of Coronavirus regulations and continuing difficulties obtaining adult health assessments
- Kinship assessments, timescales and risk management
- Pressure on foster placements, recruitment, placing children outside foster carers' terms of approval
- Access to records, record retention and disclosure in adoption and fostering
- The Homes for Ukraine scheme, and hosting unaccompanied children

“Many thanks again for your invaluable help. Your team are really incredible and I'm hugely thankful for all the sound advice I receive from you.” Local authority

Advice line enquiries



Our UK-wide monthly bulletin, *CoramBAAF Digest* increased its circulation to over 10,000 members working in family placement and child welfare, with updates on the latest developments in legislation, Parliamentary activity, policy, consultations and research. Sign up to receive it [here](#).

Events and Training

Exploring Expertise

Our free monthly Exploring Expertise webinars showcase innovative developments and share best practice. Sessions have included: 'Neurodiversity in the workplace', and 'Supporting the LGBTQ+ community to become foster carers' in partnership with Proud2BParents.

Learning from Research

Our Learning from Research sessions highlight the latest research projects and have included 'Adoption support services' and 'Supporting kinship care'.

Annual Health Conference

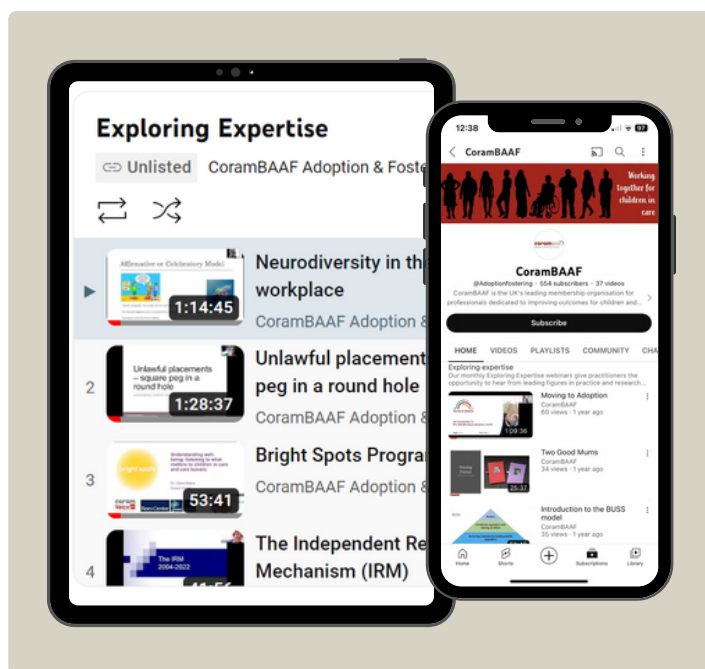
Our in-person Annual Health Conference focused on 'The changing landscape of adoption, special guardianship and kinship care — pathways to permanence and the role of health professionals'.

Feedback from attendees included:

“Topical and highly informative”

“Interesting and thought provoking”

“Networking adds so much to learning”



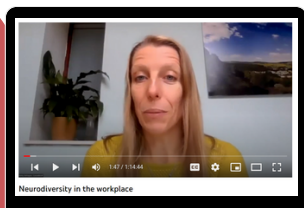
Kinship Care Week

We celebrated Kinship Care Week with a joint event with Research in Practice. 'Unlocking the potential of family networks' explored the recommendations of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care for kinship care. Speakers included Professor Joan Hunt of Cardiff University, experienced kinship carers, Lucy Peake, CEO of Kinship, Dr Susannah Bowyer, Assistant Director of Research in Practice, and Clare Seth and Ann Horne, Kinship Consultants at CoramBAAF.

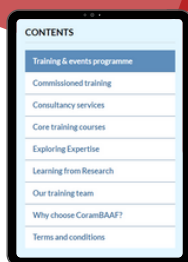
National Adoption Week

We supported National Adoption Week with a series of events, including 'National adoption strategy — why, where and when' with Sarah Johal, National Strategic Lead, and three webinars on this year's theme of maintaining relationships in adoption.

Over 2,250
people attended
our events this
year.



View our
training and
events
programme!



Open courses

Our most popular topics for training are making good fostering assessments, panel advisers, panel administrators, the role and responsibilities of the supervising social worker, and learning from case reviews. New courses on supporting special guardianship families and therapeutic interventions were also well received this year.

Commissioned training

We ran 145 commissioned training courses, delivering to over 2,000 delegates. Our most popular training requests were on planning for permanence, sibling assessments, the Secure Base Model, and making good fostering assessments.

Over

2,000

people attended our
commissioned training

Over

1,000

people attended our
open courses

The Future of Care

Our first hybrid event was a panel discussion on 'The future of care' chaired by Carol Homden, the Coram Group Chief Executive. Guest speakers included: Andy Elvin, Chief Executive at TACT; Alison Alexander, Former National Association of Young People In Care Representative and Director of Children's Services; David Akinsanya, member of the Expert by Experience Panel of the Care Review; Kathy Evans, Chief Executive at Children England; and Carolyn Willow, Founder Director at Article 39.

*"Engaging,
relevant,
aspirational,
motivating.
Lots I will be
able to use
immediately,
lots to
reflect on and
unpack further"*

Making Good
Fostering Assessments
course attendee

Publications

Members received copies of a range of titles for social workers, adopters and foster carers, with easy to read, practical advice. New books explored subjects including parenting children affected by self-harm, the role of the supervising social worker, and caring for children who have experienced domestic abuse.



We revised several of our bestselling guides, including updates to *Effective Adoption Panels*, *Access to Information for Adult Care Leavers* and *Dealing with Disruption*.

More than
29,000
books sold

We also developed new resources to help make our publications more accessible. Each month our online Editor's Exclusive sees the free release of a selected chapter from a popular title, and we continue to add to our series of audio interviews with authors, to help provide practice insights in shorter, bite-sized form.

Our journal

Our journal, *Adoption & Fostering*, continued to attract global submissions. Standout articles published this year included 'Attachment state of mind and trauma in mother and baby home adoptees', and 'The challenges that social care services face in relation to looked after children with neurodevelopmental disorders'.

