

Members' Week | 25-29 September 2023

Join us for this year's [Members' Week](#)! Over the course of the week, we will explore key topics and best practices that mirror the journey of children and young people through the care system. The theme for this year's Members' Week is taken from our publication, [A child's journey through placement](#).

Throughout the week we will be sharing a daily update in a dedicated newsletter delivered straight to your inbox. Remember to sign up for [CoramBAAF News](#) to receive this newsletter if you haven't already. The update will feature frequently asked questions from our advice line, with sample answers to help you improve your practice. Each day we will also be running short surveys on key topics and issues - we will collate your answers and share them with you in the following weeks.

Outside of this daily content, you can expect webinars, podcast episodes, pre-recorded presentations, blog posts, new resources and more. See more about the topics and content for the week below:

Monday | 25 September | The child



LISTEN TO a discussion between our legal consultant, Alexandra Conroy-Harris, and our adoption consultant, Jane Poore, about how to use your legal department in social services.



READ OUR special collection of articles from our [Adoption & Fostering](#) journal, which we will be publishing exclusively for Members' Week.

Tuesday | 26 September | Care planning



Challenges and complexities in kinship care planning

1pm - 2.30pm | Zoom

JOIN OUR webinar led by our kinship care consultants, Ann Horne and Clare Seth, exploring the challenges and complexities of care planning in kinship care. They will map out the care planning journey from early identification of potential carers to securing legal permanence. They will explore the challenges including assessment, regulations and guidance but also offer suggestions for good practice.

[Book here →](#)



READ OUR blog written by Sharon McPherson, of [Families in Harmony](#) and [Churchill Fellow](#), where she will contextualize her research, outline her intent, and share her next steps in her exploration of reimagining kinship care through cultural curiosity.



Wednesday | 27 September | Changes



Should care experienced people be a protected characteristic?

11.30am – 1pm | Zoom

JOIN US for our key panel event. "Care experience" refers to the experiences of individuals who spent part of their childhood in the care. Children are only taken into care when there is a significant risk to their well-being. With the right support, many do well after leaving care, however, they are more likely to have lasting negative outcomes compared to children not in care. Many care experienced people have said that they have experienced discrimination

in their lives which has contributed to this situation.

Terry Galloway is a longstanding campaigner for making care-experienced people a protected characteristic. He has been an influential figure in the passing of this motion by 49 councils across the UK. His views on the legal status of care experienced people were reflected in recommendations from the Independent review of children's social care but omitted from the government's reform plan announced in February 2023.

On the 27 September, Terry will be joined by a panel of children's services leaders, campaigners, care-experienced adults and councillors to discuss, debate and share his vision of a more equitable future for care-experienced people. We will also be discussing the pathways and priorities for bringing "care experienced" under the protection of law and what this could mean for policy and practice.



[Book here →](#)



WATCH our health consultant, Ellie Johnson; in discussion with our head of policy, research and development, James Bury, explore what a health assessment is and how it can be used to better the lives of children and young people.

Thursday | 28 September | Support



Opening doors or closing futures: writing about young people in care

9am – 10am | Zoom

JOIN OUR fostering consultant, Emma Fincham; and Rebekah Pierre, a care-experienced author, social worker and campaigner, for their upcoming workshop. They will explore how thinking, speaking and writing about young people directly impacts on increasing or decreasing their opportunities, their choices and decisions available to them.

[Book here →](#)



WATCH OUR conversation with Coram Voice. Linda Briheim-Crookall shares research findings from the Bright Spots Programme, and considers how 16- and 17-year-olds feel they should be supported.



Learning from Research: Creative Life Story Work

2pm - 3.45pm | Zoom

JOIN US and hear the results and implications of a research project that took place over a year into Creative Life Story Work.

Jenny Young will share information about what an All About Me Creative Experience involves and what learning took place between the three local authorities.

[Book here →](#)

Friday | 29 September | Lifelong impact



READ OUR blog by Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor, Alison Halford, Kusha Anand. They will help us to explore identity and how that's important to encourage and explore during a child's journey through care. They will share what they have found during their research projects (Journeys of Muslim Children in the Care System in England and Expressions of Self), and how they plan to further their understanding in their upcoming work.



LISTEN TO Augusta Itua, our legal consultant, in conversation with author Julia Feast. They will be talking us through the current barriers and support available to care experienced people wanting to access their records.



To end the week, **READ OUR** blog by John Simmonds, our director of policy, research and development. He will consider how we can work together to strengthen the social work profession.

Stay informed

Stay informed about our upcoming events and activities via our newsletters. [Sign up](#) to hear announcements about our panelists and more updates about our Members' Week. To receive daily updates during Members' Week, make sure to sign up to CoramBAAF News.

We will be posting before, during and after Members' Week across our Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook pages. Make sure to [follow](#) us!

Not a CoramBAAF member?

94% of local authorities are members, is yours? Take advantage of your organisation's membership by creating a [personal website account](#). This will grant you free access to a range of membership benefits, including webinar recordings, access to our journal, and much more.