

Children's Social Care Review: Submission of Evidence CoramBAAF, March 2021

About CoramBAAF

CoramBAAF is a UK wide membership organisation that provides information, evidence, training, publications and support to local authorities, the voluntary and independent sector on all aspects of family placement, including adoption, fostering and kinship care. With nearly all family placement organisations in England and Northern Ireland in membership, and partnership arrangements with AFA Scotland and AFA Cymru, we are a unique community of practice and leading voice for the sector.

We have access to a wealth of resources and insights through our:

- Members
- Advisory committees and special interest groups
- Practice forums for practitioners from across the UK
- Publications including books and good practice guidance
- Training and events for practitioners and professionals
- Development of Practice Forms for social workers
- A peer-reviewed journal – [Adoption & Fostering](#)
- Members' advice line
- Information service
- Specialist members' library
- A regular Digest of current policy, research and legal developments
- Experts in social work, law, health and research who provide advice and guidance on complex policy and practice issues

The 40th anniversary edition of *Adoption & Fostering* published in September 2020 examined four decades of articles and advances to identify and articulate key trends in the development of children's social care since 1980. This provides an exceptional and accessible context and we would recommend it to the Review.

We welcome the chance to contribute to this fresh look at the *whole* system and the opportunity for progressive change. We hope that the Care Review will recognise the fundamental importance of the relational nature of children's services, and the qualities inherent in those relationships working well.

We believe that the sector serves many children and families well and has a skilled and committed workforce who are passionate about the children and families they work with. We urge the Review to build on the evidence base, the expertise and skills of the sector and to pay particular attention to the needs of black and minority ethnic children who are over-represented in children's social work. There is no doubt that aspects of the system urgently need reform, additional resources and attention, and CoramBAAF is pleased to be able to contribute to the Review.

Adoption

Adoption is one of the most developed permanence options. Below are several important articles and studies, which CoramBAAF has contributed to, that we would highlight to the Review:

- An international consensus statement: Palacios, J. et al, (2019) Adoption in the service of child protection: An international interdisciplinary perspective *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 25(2), 57–72.
- Neil et al, (2016) [Contact after Adoption: A longitudinal study of post adoption contact arrangements](#), CoramBAAF
- Selwyn, J., (2015), [Beyond the Adoption Order: Challenges, interventions and adoption disruption](#), CoramBAAF

Kinship

CoramBAAF has a long-standing commitment to progressing practice and policy in relation to kinship care. We facilitate a Special Guardianship Interest Group and chair the Kinship Care Alliance. As members of the Public Law Working Group we have contributed to the development of the Best Practice Guidance on Special Guardianship. Below are several important articles and studies, which we would highlight to the review:

Key evidence

- Simmonds, J. et al., (2019) [Rapid Evidence Review on Special Guardianship](#)
- Hunt, J. (2020) [Key findings from the last two decades of UK research on kinship care](#)
- Public Law Working Group (2020) [Best Practice Guidance Special Guardianship](#)

Fostering

CoramBAAF has a long-standing commitment to progressing practice and policy in relation to foster care. We facilitate a Foster Carers Advisory Committee and several national forums attended by professionals, academics and service leads from across the country.

Key evidence

- The Care Inquiry (2013) [Making Not Breaking: Building Relationships for Our Most Vulnerable Children](#)
- Schofield, G. and Beek, M. (2014) [The Secure Base Model Promoting attachment and resilience in foster care and adoption](#)
- Berridge, D. et al., (2020) [The Educational Attainment and Progress of Children in Need and Children in Care](#)

Migrant children and young people

CoramBAAF is committed to ensuring that migrant children and young people are fully protected with their safety, needs and welfare addressed in the services provided by local authorities and the voluntary and independent sector. Our work has included:

- addressing medical and health needs
- providing guidance on age assessments that are ethical and young person centred
- providing advice on the provision of suitable foster care placements
- providing support on the support needs of these young people

Key evidence

- <https://corambaaf.org.uk/books/caring-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-and-young-people-full-series>
- <https://corambaaf.org.uk/books/i-did-not-choose-come-here>
- <https://unitedkingdom.iom.int/fostering-across-borders-fab>

We would also refer the Review to the specialist reports and expertise of Coram Children's Legal Centre's Migrant Children's Project.

Health

CoramBAAF has worked with and provided guidance to the development of specialist health professionals and services. We facilitate a health advisory committee, which reviews existing and emerging research, policy and practice issues and its members contribute information and evidence from practice to a process of peer review and consultation. This results in publication of practice guidance in various formats.

Key evidence

- Studies, audits and conference reports published in the health notes section of the *Adoption & Fostering* journal.
- Special editions of the *Adoption & Fostering* journal have also collated studies on specific health-related topics such as neuroscience and FASD.
- Peer-informed practice guidance is collated for health professionals in the publication [Promoting the Health of Children in Public Care](#) (Merredew and Sampeys, 2015).

CoramBAAF publications

We publish many documents that range from forms to research studies to practice guidance every year. Appendix A and B sets out the full range of publications in 2015-2021. Please contact us if accessing this material is helpful to the Review.

For further information or for any questions about our submission, please contact Ellen Broomé, Managing Director, at ellen.broome@corambaaf.org.uk.

Appendix A – CoramBAAF publications 2015-2021

2015/16	
Parenting a child affected by domestic violence	Hedy Cleaver
Beyond the Adoption Order	Julie Selwyn, Sarah Meakings and Dinitha Wijedasa
GPG Dogs and Pets in Fostering and Adoption	Paul Adams
Key Changes to Family Justice (England)	Shefali Shah
GPG Organising an Adoption Activity Day	Eileen Fursland and Bridget Betts
Promoting the Health of Children in Public Care	Florence Merredew and Carolyn Sampeys
GPG Recruiting Assessing and Supporting Lesbian and Gay Adopters	Anisa de Jong and Sharon Donnelly
Ten Top Tips for Devising a Care Plan	Erica Amende and Linda Patterson
Ten Top Tips for Placing Disabled Children	Hedi Argent
Dennis Lives with Grandma and Grandpa	Paul Sambrook
Practice Note 58: Adoption leave and pay; new arrangements	Alexandra Conroy Harris
Practice Note 59: The provision of information to Fostering for Adoption carers	Alexandra Conroy Harris and Rosemary Wolfson
Practice Note 60: Undertaking overseas checks in fostering and adoption assessments	Paul Adams

2016/17	
GPG Adoption by Foster Carers	Elaine Dibben and Viv Howorth
GPG Group Work with Adopted Children and Young People	Henrietta Bond
Our Adoption Journey	Jayne Lilley
Parenting a child affected by sexual abuse	Biddy Youell
Parenting a child who has experienced trauma	Dan Hughes
The Adopter's Handbook on Therapy	Eileen Fursland
Thinking about Fostering?	Henrietta Bond
Undertaking a Child Assessment (Scotland)	Marjorie Morrison
GPG Access to Information for Adult Care Leavers	Julia Feast and Leonie Jordan

Practice Note 61: Home safety checks in fostering and adoption	Paul Adams
Briefing Note: Children and Social Work Bill	Alexandra Conroy Harris
Briefing Note: Regionalisation of adoption agencies: a view from the river	John Simmonds
Briefing Note: Permanence: a partnership over time between the UK and USA	John Simmonds
Briefing Note: Special guardianship: a policy and practice perspective	John Simmonds
Briefing Note: The Adoption Support Fund: operational and strategic objectives - reflections	John Simmonds
Briefing Note: Adoption support: the evidence base for interventions	John Simmonds, Paul Dugmore and Rachel James

2017/18	
GPG The Role of Fostering for Adoption in Achieving Early Permanence for Children	Elaine Dibben and Viv Howorth
GPG Dealing with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	Mary Mather
Undertaking a Connected Person/Family and Friends Assessment	Paul Adams
New beginnings and other writings on being in care	Coram Voice
Undertaking a Health Assessment	Florence Merredew and Carolyn Sampreys
The Adopter's Handbook on Education	Eileen Fursland
Caring for a Child who has been Sexually Exploited	Eileen Fursland
GPG Beyond Together or Apart	Shelagh Beckett
Practice Note 62: The impact of the decision in the UK Referendum	Alexandra Conroy Harris
Practice Note 63: Restraint and physical intervention in foster care	Paul Adams
Practice Note 64: Best practice in meetings between prospective adopters and children prior to matching	Sally Beaumont and Elaine Dibben
Practice Note 65: Decisions about the assessment of couples and other partnerships in foster care (England)	Paul Adams
Practice Note 66: The health of unaccompanied asylum seeking and other separated children	CoramBAAF

Practice Note 67: Local authorities' duty of fairness towards a parent seeking to revoke a placement order	Noel Arnold
Briefing Note: A return to the bridge: ten new views on the development of regional adoption agencies	John Simmonds
Briefing Note: Adoption support: integrating social work and therapeutic services – the AdCAMHS model	Alison Roy, Caroline Thomas and John Simmonds
Briefing Note: Containment for adoption support social workers	Caroline Thomas and John Simmonds
Briefing Note: The assessment of children and young people for adoption support	Matt Woolgar, Carmen Pinto and Olivia Tomaselli

2018/19	
GPG Complying with the GDPR and DPA 2018	Paul Adams and Leonie Jordan
Matching a Child in an Early Permanence Placement: The Importance of Identity	John Simmonds
Effective Adoption and Fostering Panels in Scotland	Marjorie Morrison
GPG Supporting the Mental Health Of Looked After and Adopted Children	Helen Rodwell and Karen Aldred
Practice Note 68: Reducing the risks of environmental tobacco smoke for looked after children and their carers	Mary Mather and Karen Lehner, revised and updated by Ellie Johnson
Practice Note 69: Assessing and supporting transgender foster carers and adoptions	Charlotte Andrew, Claire Brown and Paul Adams
Briefing Note: The Ethical and Human Rights Framework in adoption	John Simmonds
Briefing Note: Regionalisation of adoption services: a view from the river	Mike Hall

2019/20	
Parenting a Child with Toileting Issues	Kathryn Fenton
The Foster Carer's Handbook on Parenting Teenagers	Henrietta Bond
Preparing to Adopt in Scotland trainer's manual	AFA Scotland
Preparing to Adopt in Scotland workbook	AFA Scotland
The Foster Carer's Handbook on Education	Sarah Alix et al

Practice Note 70: The Fostering Decision Maker (England)	Paul Adams
Practice Note 71: Writing a Fostering Panel Annual Report	Paul Adams
Briefing Note: Adoption support: supporting contact after adoption	Mary Beek and Caroline Thomas

2020/21	
GPG Safeguarding Children living with Foster Carers, Adopters and Special Guardians: Learning from Case Reviews 2007-2019	Wendy Rose and Hedy Cleaver
GPG Safeguarding Children living with Foster Carers, Adopters and Special Guardians: A Guide to Reflective Practice	Wendy Rose and Hedy Cleaver
The Child's Legal Journey through Care	Shefali Shah
Devising and Updating Risk Assessment and Management Plans in Fostering	Paul Adams
Adoption & Fostering 40 th Anniversary supplement	Miranda Davies and Roger Bullock
Caring for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children pamphlets x 6: Intro, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq, Sudan and Vietnam	Henrietta Bond
The Foster Carer's Handbook on Health	Hannah Smith and Nikki Shepherd
Parenting a Child with Sleep Issues	Jay Vaughan and Alan Burnell
The Adopter's Handbook on Education (Scotland)	Alison Rennie Parkinson
Undertaking a Fostering Assessment in Wales	Dawn Owen and Roger Chapman
Practice Note 72: Planning the Assessment of a Foster Carer's New Partner	Paul Adams
Practice Note 73: Disabled Foster Carers	Peter Unwin, Becki Meakin and Alexandra Jones
Practice Note 74: Supporting Special Guardians to make Family Arrangements in the Event of a Health Emergency or Accident	Louise Sims and Leonie Jordan
Briefing Note: The future of the social work workforce	John Simmonds

Appendix B – CoramBAAF Consultation responses 2015-2020

2020

[Changes to the adoption and children regulations: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(30/07/2020\)](#)

2019

[NICE Consultation on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder](#)

[Public Law Working Group - Children Cases in the Family Court: Interim Proposals for Reform](#)

[Education Select Committee - Children's Social Care Workforce Inquiry](#)

[Parliamentary Taskforce on Kinship Care](#)

[Department of Health and Social Care: Learning Disability and Autism Training for Health and Care Staff](#)

[NICE Consultation on Draft Scope - Looked After Children and Young People](#)

2018

[Family and Friends Care Statutory Guidance Revision](#)

2017

[DfE Fostering Stocktake](#)