

Meeting summary

29 November 2024 | 9.30am - 12.00pm | Zoom

1. Forms, pilots and updates

- 1.1 Adoption Support Plan and accompanying guidance** – these have been updated and a launch in January is planned. There was positive feedback from the group. The APR has been amended slightly to sit alongside, but will have major revision next year.
- 1.2 CPR** – the pilot has finished. The form has been very well received, including positive feedback from the judiciary. The form enhances the voice of the child, updates the ‘Staying in touch plans’, and modernises language. It may take longer to complete but it is more of a collaborative process which social workers should find helpful. Publication is expected in March.
- 1.3 PAR** – a pilot working group has been set up with representation from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, an RAA and VAA all sitting in various roles. Adopted people and adoptive parents will be consulted along with other stakeholders. The first meeting will be held on 9 December and a pilot process rolled out in the summer of 2025. Jane invited input from all members. Any comments to be sent to: [Jane Poore](#).
- 1.4 Kinship Care Assessment (Form K) and Support Plan**– will be published in February 2025 alongside guidance, followed by an updated version of the publication [Undertaking a connected person/family and friends assessment](#).
- 1.5 Form F** – the revised form will be published in March 2025 alongside guidance and an updated version of the publication [Undertaking a fostering assessment in England](#). There are parts of Forms F and K that may be incorporated into the PAR.
- 1.6** Webinars and updated online training will be provided to support practitioners with the launch of the new forms.

2. Public Law Working Group report: Recommendations for best practice in respect of adoption

- 2.1** The [report](#) was published in November. CoramBAAF have produced [chapter summaries and analyses](#). There is no legislative change; these are recommendations only.
- 2.2** Jane outlined some of the recommendations in the chapters on contact, access to records, practice and procedures and adoptions with an international element.
- 2.3** Practice in relation to contact tends to be way ahead of practice standards. Jane has raised this with the Department for Education. She noted that a new Children Wellbeing Bill is currently going through parliament which may create opportunities for some legislative change.

3. Early permanence placements

- 3.1 A member raised a case involving delay in placing a child with adoptive parents under an early placement arrangement. The adopters were willing but the local authority did not act, raising concerns about the delay. There was discussion on whether this was a care planning issue and the need for better knowledge and training of social workers about EP placements. Such delays were seen as a practice issue to address through panel feedback and meetings. The importance of early identification of suitable children for EP placements was emphasized.

4. **Disruptions**

- 4.1 There was a discussion about how learning from disruption is managed and how information is processed and fed back to panels. There were varying practices and the following points were made:
- Some chairs are routinely invited to attend disruption meetings where they hear the case from start to finish, which they found useful. Another agency did not receive a summary or themes of the meeting for training purposes.
 - A number of panels received training on learning from disruption and would share this with colleagues. One agency had received training on post-order disruptions and another agency has it as a standing item at panel training .
- 4.2 Tracking disruptions post Adoption Order has become more difficult since RAAs were set up. Members shared examples of some of the ways agencies were tracking. Another agency said they were putting systems in place with ADMs to rectify this.
- Jane was asked if CoramBAAF had issued any guidance to RAAs on learning from disruption and processes that should be followed. Jane referred to the Good Practice Guide, '[Dealing with disruption](#)'. CoramBAAF would be recommending it as a standing item at panel training as an absolute minimum.
- 4.3 The group stressed the importance of being as invested in post placement disruptions as the ones we are placing now. Jane has proposed a piece of work to Coram's Impact and Evaluation Team around disruptions.

Action: Jane to follow this up.

- 4.5 Jane referred to a piece of research she was involved in in 2012 called [Failing to Settle: A decade of disruptions in a voluntary adoption agency in placements made between 2001 and 2011](#) by John Randall. A piece of work on long term fostering breakdowns had highlighted the most significant influence and factor in breakdowns of families were mobile phones, internet and social media. One of the areas to work on in the PAR is adopters' ability to support children's online resilience and be aware of the implications of social media.

5. **Panel Chairs and Advisers Conference**

- 5.1 There will be a one day in person panel chairs and advisers conference at Coram Campus on 3 March 2025. See [here](#) for more information.

6. **Any other business**

- 6.1 Matching children in England with adopters approved in Scotland practice note – Jane shared a draft to be published in December. The document does not apply to children moving from Scotland to adopters who have been approved in England as this does not present the same challenges in regulations.
- 6.2 Jane said there were about seven cases where children have been placed without this process being followed. This will be followed up by CoramBAAF’s Legal Consultant.
- 6.3 Siblings at panel – a question was raised about practice with regard to separate/combined minutes and Adoption Placement Reports when siblings are presented to panel for a match. The general consensus was that separate APRs and minutes were needed. This is also in the guidance that comes with the APR form. There was a discussion about the need to redact minutes if the minutes and APR were combined.

Date of next meeting: 7 March 2025