

# CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Benefits and Services 2022-23



Adoption & Fostering Alliance Scotland

## AFA SCOTLAND

The Adoption and Fostering Alliance (AFA) Scotland is an independent charity that promotes and facilitates evidence-informed best practice in Kinship Care, Fostering and Adoption, through advising, training and influencing practitioners and policy makers and supporting them to improve outcomes for children and families.

Our vision is a future where every practitioner working with children, young people and their families is knowledgeable, skilled, confident and empowered to support the safe, secure and loving care to which every child has a right.

AFA Scotland continues to work in collaboration with CoramBAAF; membership of AFA Scotland entitles agencies and their staff to a service from both organisations.

AFA Scotland is dedicated to improving the lives of children, young people and the families who care for them. The values that underpin our work and guide our aims are:

**Children and young people are at the centre** of all that we do. We are committed to promoting practices which are always in the best interests of the child.

**Embracing Equality and Diversity** Through all AFA's activities we will respect and value diversity, promote equality and access, and challenge discrimination in all its forms.

**Independence** By maintaining our independence, AFA Scotland can provide impartial advice and guidance to our members and stakeholders, including practitioners and policymakers and advocate on behalf of our members for legislative and policy change.

## CONTACT US

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## CORE BENEFITS

- Training, Conferences and Seminars
- Direct Services
- Consultancy
- Forums and Consortia
- Information and Advice
- Publications
- Research Contribution

## TRAINING, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

AFA Scotland's multi-disciplinary team has a wealth of experience and up-to-date expertise in adoption, fostering, kinship care and wider carer practice, and delivers a range of training, consultancy and conferences to assist professionals to develop the knowledge and skills they require when working in this specialist area.

By supporting the continuing professional development of practitioners, the service also helps agencies to comply with the requirements of the National Care Standards in relation to staff training and development.

## DIRECT SERVICES

The team provides a range of direct services to agencies which include:

- Chairing adoption and fostering panels and appeal panels;
- Participating in adoption and appeal panels as a panel member;
- Chairing disruption meetings;
- Conducting or participating in complaints or complex case reviews;
- Provision of expert reports;
- Running practice sessions - focusing on a small number of cases.

## CONSULTANCY

In addition to general advice and guidance, consultation work is offered to help agencies manage particularly complex situations. Involving AFA Scotland is useful not only because of our team's knowledge and expertise, but also because of the independence and credibility that the involvement of a respected outside organisation offers.

## FORUMS AND CONSORTIA

AFA Scotland runs several national forums for practitioners from different professional backgrounds., helping members to keep up-to-date with the latest developments in policy, practice, legislation and research, as well as providing excellent opportunities to network and share examples of emerging practice.

Agencies also have the opportunity to join local consortia, which provide advice, guidance, support and training opportunities at a local level, not only to family placement practitioners but to the wider group of staff who are directly involved in the provision of services for looked after children. Consortia membership requires an additional subscription fee.

## INFORMATION AND ADVICE

AFA Scotland provides members with timely, authoritative information and advice including:

- Scotland-specific advice on legal, health and child placement dilemmas, including enquiries relating to adoption, fostering, kinship care, and cross-border/inter-country adoptions;
- Access to research expertise through AFA Scotland's Research Associate;
- A dedicated morning every week where the AFA Scotland Legal Consultant is available to practitioners for advice and information.

## PUBLICATIONS

AFA Scotland is directly involved in producing materials and resources tailored to the needs of practitioners in Scotland; most recently input in new publications from CoramBAAF - Moving to Adoption; Allegations Against Carers and Undertaking Checks and References in Fostering and Adoption Assessments.

## RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION

AFA Scotland's team works with a number of Scottish and UK universities to carry out and contribute to research studies that inform practice and policy. AFA Scotland's membership are invited to play an active role in influencing this research at all stages, from designing studies to reporting of findings. Our researchers provide regular updates to members about emerging research and evidence developments in the UK and internationally. We also run a forum that brings together researchers working in universities and third sector organisations across Scotland.