

# CONSORTIA MEMBERSHIP

Benefits and Services 2023-24

Annual Cost: £3250 + VAT = £3900



## WHAT'S ON THIS YEAR?

Each agency will have the opportunity to attend four Consortia meetings and two Pan Scotland Meetings. On top of these regular meetings, we will also be providing four Legal Surgeries, a Research Conference and carrying on after the success of last year, monthly "lunch and Learn" Sessions. *Also, after discussion with Consortia members, AFKA will pilot a Community of Practice for Fostering Practitioners. This will be a national, online forum with an opportunity to focus more on the role of the fostering social worker and current themes in the fostering world. As we adapt and change to meet the aspirations of the Promise we are thinking about how fostering will look in the future. This community will enable practitioners to share emerging practice and ideas and build networks of support with peers.* Further details to be announced.

### LUNCH AND LEARN SESSIONS: 12.00 - 13.00

- Supporting kinship carers (25 April 23)
- Social work duties towards siblings (23 May 23)
- An agency decision maker's view about helpful form F/PARs' (13 June 23)
- Joy for healthy development (30 August 23)
- Safer caring plan and risks (26 September 23)
- Supporting foster carers and kinship carers at children's hearings (26 October 23)
- Managing unplanned endings (20 November 23)
- Moving children to permanence (07 December 23)
- Keeping the Promise: language and destigmatising practices (16 January 24)
- Life story approaches (07 February 24)
- Friendship and lifelong connections (01 March 24)

### LEGAL SURGERIES: 10.30 - 12.00

#### North East of Scotland

05 April 23  
06 June 23  
19 September 23  
09 February 24

#### West of Scotland

26 April 23  
13 June 23  
21 September 23  
07 February 24

### CONSORTIA MEETINGS: 14.00 - 15.30

#### North East of Scotland

18 April 23  
30 August 23  
28 November 23  
23 January 24

#### West of Scotland

25 April 23  
22 August 23  
01 November 23  
31 January 24

### PAN SCOTLAND MEETINGS: 10.00 - 12.00

26 September 23

07 March 24

## CONTACT US

Association for Fostering, Kinship and Adoption (AFKA) Scotland

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## ABOUT THE CONSORTIA

AFKA Scotland hosts two Consortia (West & North East of Scotland) funded by a separate membership fee, providing a local forum for members to hear about, and share latest developments in policy, legislation, practice and research.

The purpose of the Consortia is to help agencies to support the staff who are directly involved in adoption and fostering work. While AFKA's national forums allows a representative from each agency (normally a manager) to participate in Scotland wide meetings, the Consortia are focused on providing advice, guidance, support and training opportunities to the much greater number of staff who are directly involved in the provision of services. Because it is a relatively specialist area of work, it is often particularly difficult for agencies to give social workers and others involved in progressing adoption and permanence plans, access to the full range of knowledge required and the opportunities to develop their skills.

## MEMBERSHIP

### WEST OF SCOTLAND

Facilitator: Elizabeth Ross

Argyll & Bute Council  
Barnardo's  
East Ayrshire Council  
East Dunbartonshire Council  
Inverclyde Council  
Glasgow City Council  
North Ayrshire Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
South Ayrshire Council  
South Lanarkshire Council  
St Margaret's Children & Family Care Society  
West Dunbartonshire Council

### NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND

Facilitator: Rhona Pollock

Angus Council  
Barnardo's  
Clackmannanshire Council  
Dundee City Council  
Fife Council  
Highland Council  
Perth & Kinross Council  
Stirling Council

## CORE BENEFITS

- Quarterly meetings at which input is provided from a range of AFKA Scotland staff including our Legal Consultant, Researchers and on occasion, external speakers.
- Two Pan Scotland Meetings providing an opportunity for the two Consortia to meet. Members have particularly appreciated the chance to hear about and explore the significant differences between practice in the West and East of the country.
- Monthly, 1-hour "Lunch and Learn" sessions providing an opportunity to learn more about the current topic with the AFKA team and other practitioners in your community of practice. Each agency can send two delegates to each session.
- As part of our commitment to support members in the work being undertaken to promote best practice in permanence, online legal surgeries which will provide practitioners with the opportunity to send questions in advance or attend and ask on the day.
- Sharing documentation about the development of best practice across the country and then discussing how this can be put into practice locally.
- Easy access to information about latest developments in policy, practice and legislation across Scotland and more widely in the UK.
- Opportunity to develop and enhance the direct skills involved in adoption, fostering and kinship care work, which staff frequently find difficult to access in any other way.
- Opportunity to participate in the newly developed Community of Practice for Fostering Practitioners Forum.