

CoramBAAF Membership Benefits 2023-24

CoramBAAF is an independent membership organisation for professionals, foster carers and adopters, and all those looking after or working with children and adults who are in care or who have experienced the care system. We aim to inform, educate and inspire professionals and practitioners, and work with them to ensure that children and young people who cannot live with their birth families receive the support they need throughout their lives.

We continue to work in partnership with AFKA Scotland to deliver membership services. CoramBAAF's membership extends to Wales and Northern Ireland; together our members make up the largest UK-wide network of organisations and individuals involved with children throughout the care system. Membership of AFKA Scotland entitles agencies to receive the following benefits from CoramBAAF.

Authoritative and informative publications

"CoramBAAF draws on the very best internationally renowned research on what works best for children and families, but also offer a range of invaluable practice guides that translate what we know is helpful into the daily lives of families to help children recover from trauma and fulfil their potential."

Professor Gillian Schofield, Centre for Research on Children and Families, University of East Anglia

Members receive access, via our eBookstore, to four CoramBAAF titles each year, written by leading experts and addressing relevant and topical issues across the spectrum of adoption, fostering and permanence. (Associate member agencies receive a CoramBAAF bookshop voucher to spend on any titles of their choosing). Our practice guides are particularly popular with members and recently we have published *Caring for children who have experienced domestic abuse* and a new edition of *Access to information for adult care leavers*. In 2023-24, we aim to publish a selection of good practice guides and handbooks on themes including working with black and minority ethnic families, sexual abuse, and working with care leavers. Members can also access Practice Notes and Briefing Notes on various topics in the members' area of the CoramBAAF website.

Adoption & Fostering journal

"With articles that inform, challenge and inspire, Adoption & Fostering plays a key part in informing best practice in children's services."

Kate Cairns, social worker, teacher, trainer and author of *Attachment, Trauma and Resilience*

Adoption & Fostering is the only quarterly peer-reviewed journal with an exclusive focus on permanence options for children and the wide range of issues that this encompasses. The journal is

highly respected and attracts submissions from across the world. Other stand-out features include regular legal and health notes, occasional book reviews and thought-provoking editorials from the Editor-in-Chief, Dennis Golm. Every issue of the journal includes Scottish legal notes, authored by Rhona Pollock from AFKA Scotland.

The journal is published online and all issues (including the extensive back file) can be accessed via the members' area of the CoramBAAF website.

Social work and health assessment forms

CoramBAAF publishes legally compliant health and social work report forms for adoption, fostering, kinship care and other care plans. These are widely used throughout the UK and are available to use under licence agreement. Members receive a 50% discount on licence fees.

Exclusive access to the members' area of the CoramBAAF website

Membership of CoramBAAF means that all agency staff – adoption, fostering and kinship specialists, children's social workers, service managers, child care lawyers, medical advisers etc. – can gain access to the members' area of the CoramBAAF website. The password protected members' area contains a wealth of invaluable resources, including the *Adoption & Fostering* journal, the *CoramBAAF Digest*, *CoramBAAF News*, Advice Notes, Practice Notes and Briefing Notes, free downloads of a growing number of CoramBAAF publications, guidance for panel members, the latest statistics and more. A range of key services are also available via the members' area, including the Library and Information Service and the jobs listing service.

The site enables us to run a range of member-only online events, promotions and special offers. As a result we have been able to offer exclusive member discounts in our online bookshop, special offers on training, early bird prices for open course bookings, and a wide range of free events including regular exploring expertise, learning from research, and equality, diversity and inclusion webinars. These offers will continue during 2023-24.

Resources available in the members' area include:

- Electronic access to *Adoption & Fostering* journal – members can also view back issues dating back to 1977.
- Electronic access to two other journals – *Journal of Social Work* and *Qualitative Social Work*.
- Books (PDF files) available for download – There are currently over 40 titles available (with more added periodically) including *Evaluating Obesity in Substitute Carers*, Mather and Lehner (2010); *Direct Work*, Luckock and Lefevre (eds) Betts (2008); *Recruiting Black and Minority Ethnic Adopters and Foster Carers*, Rule (2006); *Fostering Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People*, Wade et al. (2012); and *Seeing the Difference? Using video clips to help find families for children*, Grant (2010).
- Practice Notes available for download – The Practice Notes series is designed for social workers and other practitioners and covers a range of topics. There are currently more than 35 Practice Notes available.
- Advice Notes available for download – The Advice Notes series is designed for prospective adopters and foster carers as well as members of the general public. The Notes cover a range

of adoption and fostering issues in clear and simple terms and are available for members to print and distribute.

- Briefing Notes available for download – The Briefing Notes series addresses a range of contemporary issues that are currently affecting adoption and fostering across the UK. New Briefing Notes are produced regularly.

Committees and groups

“CoramBAAF is at the centre of policy and practice development as well as maintaining its position in providing Government with an independent, honest and well-informed adviser.”

Ian Brazier, Executive Director, The Foster Care Co-operative

CoramBAAF’s multidisciplinary groups and committees provide opportunities for members to engage with us and each other, discuss developments and dilemmas, and contribute to shaping policy and practice across the UK. Representatives from member agencies in Scotland are invited (through a nomination process) to join the committees on adoption, Black and minority ethnic perspectives, foster carers, fostering, health, kinship, legal issues, and research.

Full details about the work of the wide range of groups and committees can be found on the CoramBAAF website.

CoramBAAF Digest

“I look forward to the monthly Digest when it pops into my email. Everything is in one place with links to the key debates, new research, consultations and even links to relevant parliamentary questions and answers. Without the Digest I would need to spend hours trawling the internet to find the right document. I often read something of interest that I was unaware of.”

Julie Selwyn, Professor of Child and Family Social Work, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol

The Digest is the only comprehensive monthly information bulletin covering news on policy, legislation, research and parliamentary affairs concerning adoption, fostering and related issues UK wide. It is an invaluable tool for keeping professionals and practitioners up-to-date with all the latest debates, developments. Available free to AFKA Scotland members, non-members would be charged £150 per annum to receive it.

CoramBAAF News

CoramBAAF’s monthly membership e-newsletter contains information on our work as well as news about our latest publications and events and ways for our members to get involved with the activities of CoramBAAF across the UK.