afka SCOTLAND

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026

Legal Conference: 29 October 2026, Stirling Court Hotel

Theme: The Evolving Legal Landscape of Permanence and Adoption in Scotland

This conference will bring together highly esteemed professionals working across the law, psychology, social work and children's services to examine the evolving legal landscape in permanence and adoption. The programme will examine current developments in judicial decision-making, children's rights and permanence planning, including post-adoption and sibling contact, the impact of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, and emerging approaches to safe and meaningful lifelong connections for children.

Read more and book here

Postgraduate Course - Relative Matters: Good Practice in Permanence Planning in Kinship Care

Offers practitioners a unique opportunity to develop their knowledge and practice in the area of kinship care. It follows the journey of the child from the early identification of concerns, parenting capacity and their route to stability, along with the assessment and support needs of their carers. The latest findings from research and practice, as well as the legal framework in Scotland are covered in-depth.

Read more

NEW AND UPDATED WORKSHOPS

Further details are available and all will be held via Microsoft Teams

Role of the Kinship Care Worker - 12 November 2026

Suitable for practitioners who are involved in assessing and/or supporting kinship carers, including practitioners who are supporting children and young people living with kinship families.

Read more

Whose Minute is it Anyway? - 18 November 2026

For administrative staff who take minutes for adoption and fostering panels.

Read more

Writing Permanence Order (S80) Reports for Court - 20 January 2027 - NEW

Aimed at supporting all social work practitioners who are involved in preparing and writing Section 80 Reports, including independent Reviewing Officers. This workshop will be beneficial to both practitioners who have never written a Section 80 Report and those who have and want to continue to develop their practice.

Read more

Introduction to Assessing Kinship Carers - 18 February 2027

This course will look at good practice in the assessment of kinship carers and how this differs from the assessment of other types of family-based carers. Issues of power and partnership as well as risk assessment will also be considered.

Read more

Role of the Supervising Social Worker - 18 March 2027 - UPDATED

This course will provide supervising social workers with the opportunity to consider how the role has evolved, the various strands of their work with foster carers and how to supervise, support and challenge foster carers in supervision. Also, how to manage difficult conversations and exercise safeguarding responsibilities.

Read more

PROJECT WORK

Adoption Week Scotland: 16 - 20 November 2026

Look out for the latest information sheets sent to your adoption agency about activities. These include a practice exchange event in Glasgow for adoption and childcare social workers on 19 November and an adoptive family event at Glasgow Science Centre on Saturday 21 November. If your agency has not received its information email info@afkascotland.org to view all adoption week activities and access the communications toolkit visit www.adoption.scot

Evaluation of Adoption UK Education Service

We are currently undertaking an independent evaluation of this service which will explore the strengths and challenges of the education service model, its impact on carers and educators, and how it can best support care-experienced children and their families in the future.

We are keen to hear from anyone who has accessed AUK's education service. Your views and experiences will help us understand what works well and identify opportunities for improvement, ensuring support continues to meet the needs of care experienced families across Scotland. Families are being invited to share their insights and experiences.

- **Format:** Online focus group or 1-2-1 interviews
- **Duration:** One hour up to 90 minutes
- **Purpose:** To help shape future support for kinship carers and care-experienced families

If you are interested in taking part or would like more information, please contact **Andrew.burns@afkascotland.org**.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DATES AND FORUMS

We run several forums, community practices and consortia sessions for our members working in the area of fostering, kinship care and adoption.

Find out more and scheduled 2026/27 dates

OTHER WAYS WE CAN HELP

Commissioned Training

Training for you and your colleagues on a variety of topics outlined in our training brochure. Newly developed / updated courses include Life Story Work, Role of the Supervising Social Worker and Writing Permanence Order (S80) Reports for Court.

In 2027, we intend to develop new training courses on the New Form F and the Childs Permanence Report (CPR). We anticipate these training sessions being booked up fast, therefore if you would like to register your interest in booking, lease contact us.

View Training Brochure

Consulting Services

Consultation work is offered to help agencies manage particularly complex situations. Involving AFKA 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.

Find out more

Internal Research

Our research team can provide bespoke consultancy on internal research projects or other data gathering activities such as consultations and service evaluations. This could include literature reviews to provide context and advice on the design and deployment of methods of data collection and analysis.

Find out more

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE SECTOR

Publication of Scottish Government Intercountry Adoption Guidance

Developed in collaboration with stakeholders, this detailed guidance is intended to support practitioners, as well as prospective adoptive parents, to navigate the often complex Intercountry Adoption process.

Scottish Social Work Partnership Strategic and Delivery Plan

When the SSWP was created, partners drew on a range of evidence to identify how best to progress shared priorities. To help shape these priorities, they ran the Your voice matters engagement between October 2025 to January 2026. Feedback received was analysed and collated into a report, which is available on Iriss' website.

What they heard has played an important role in shaping the SSWP Strategic Plan 2026-2029. Contributions from across the sector continue to be considered by partners through the plan's development. It is hoped to be published early 2027.

HOSTED SERVICE

Scotland's Adoption Register
Funded by the Scottish Government

We are excited to announce that the Annual Report for 2025-2026 has now been published.

View here

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To access your members only benefits including access to the members only section of the website full of free resources and support, you must first set up an account.

The new edition of **Child Care Law Scotland** has been printed and copies are now being sent to agencies in Scotland. Please look our for this delivery.

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AFKA Scotland

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