

## Practice Newsletter, August 2017

Dear Practice Leaders,

Happy August! Welcome to our first Practice Excellence newsletter. We hope you find regular correspondence from us to be a valuable way of helping you stay engaged in our work programme. We will gather useful articles and interesting blog posts about use of evidence informed practice, and work which addresses our priorities for outcome improvement.

### What we're reading!

Hear from Andrew Findlay, CEO of Interest Link Borders, a volunteer befriending organisation creating and supporting friendships for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities in the Scottish Borders. Andrew talks about his experience of [finding the right evaluation model](#), and how it helped his organisation to produce a torrent of rich evidence.

This [blog post](#) by Donald Forrester, Professor of Social Work at Cardiff University, argues that the system is missing a means of recognising and rewarding good practice. We'll be looking out for future posts in this series with interest.

What changes have you made to a programme you are funding or a service you are delivering as a result of the data you collected? [Alliance magazine](#) explore the importance of asking this question.

### Q & A with ARC NE

Catch up with an adoption professional who is working on an interesting project. Lynn Applegarth, Adoption Support Worker at ARC NE, talks us through what a typical day looks like for her, and provides us with an update on ARC's digitalising life story project which was presented at our first practice excellence event back in April. Please [click here](#) to read more.

### What have we been up to?

We continue to enjoy learning about how you approach your practice team meetings. Thank you to Adoption Matters and Family Care Nottingham for hosting us most recently. We were interested to learn about how autism presents itself, as well as about your relationships with academics. We also had CVAA's Practice and Service Impact Subcommittee meeting this month, through which we continue to benefit from expert input on this programme of work.

We have redeveloped our [website](#) in order to create an easy to use platform for this work. Please check it out and let us know what you think!

### Practice Excellence Events

We are going to be in Bristol on 19 October to discuss what the evidence base tells us about interventions around adoption support, and will be hearing from Julie Selwyn about her own research in this field and what it means for practice.

In December we are going to be in Birmingham. More information will be coming soon.

Materials from our previous events [can be found here](#), on the member's area of our new-look website. Please do make use of them, and [let us know](#) what else might be helpful to you in supporting evidence-based practice development.

### Call for Practice Examples

CVAA are interested in the work you do to tackle the three priorities for outcome improvement: placement of priority children, early permanency and adoption support to all parties to adoption including birth families. Please do get in touch and let us know about the work you are doing to improve children's and families' outcomes in these three areas. We are keen to host materials about your evidence-based practice on our website, so please do share with us evaluations, reports or summaries of your work. You may also like to present your practice at one of our events, and benefit from the expert and peer review in this forum with your colleagues.

CoramBAAF are seeking examples of sibling assessments for inclusion in the revision of their practice guide, *Siblings: Together or Apart*. They would like to receive written material and or case studies explaining how you have sought to assess, prepare and support your adopters in taking on sibling groups. They are particularly interested in what you have found to work well when dealing with contact issues between adopters caring for parts of sibling groups. To submit an example please email [shelagh@childcareconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:shelagh@childcareconsultancy.co.uk) before Friday 29 September.

Finally, the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) are looking for examples of good practice in supporting families with children aged 0-5 who have disabilities or complex needs and are adopted or in early permanence placements. CDC is interested in children whose needs only become well known by parents/carers after the child's placement with them. Find out more on [this website](#). This call is open until **13 September 2017**.

To get in touch, for more information, or if you would like to feature in a future newsletter, please email: [leah.mair@cvaa.org.uk](mailto:leah.mair@cvaa.org.uk)

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and look forward to seeing you in the Autumn!

Best wishes,

Jessica and Leah