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Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies

CVAA Practice Newsletter - October 2017

Dear Practice Leaders,

Welcome to your autumn newsletter. We really enjoyed catching up with those of you who came to our Adoption Support Practice Excellence Event. For those of you who were unable to attend, you can see a [summary of how it went](#) on our website, and we hope to see you in Birmingham on 6th December. Find below a look ahead to what you can expect as participants in our practice excellence programme this autumn. We have also gathered a number of useful articles and blog posts about use of evidence informed practice and evaluation.

What we're reading!

This blog from NCVO, [Impact Round-Up](#), summarises the latest news in impact and evaluation. The collection of useful guides, resources and tools compliment the [resources from CVAA's Practice Excellence Events](#). In particular, Head of NCVO Charities Evaluation Services [Sally Cupitt's latest blog post](#) has tips on using evaluation for fundraising.

A report from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), [Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People by Spreading Innovation](#), reviewing the DfE Social Care Innovation Programme, highlights "learning from failure" as a "system-wide issue" that needs to be considered in the future. Read more in [CYPN here](#). The briefing highlights a number of common characteristics from successful projects, including effective communication with children, families and communities, and a realisation that improving practice is a long-term commitment.

Read [here about the new What Works Centre](#) for children's social care, charged with fostering a change in the culture of the children's social care sector and with making a real difference to practice at the front line. Nesta's [standards of evidence](#) are useful to refer to.

Click [here](#) to access a very interesting presentation from NPC on the effective use of evidence in the charity sector, outlining what a good evidence journey looks like and describing steps towards using evidence more effectively.

Check out Evaluation Support Scotland's new Impact Measurement Tool. [Measuring Up](#) is designed to help you plan, evidence, communicate and learn from the difference that your work makes. This straightforward, step-by-step self-assessment tool allows you to review and improve your organisation's impact practice.

Finally, NSPCC have published a list and comment on [how to choose the best tools for measuring outcomes](#) for children and families.

Practice Paper

See our website for an outstanding example of a practice paper. Helen Williams at After Adoption has written about Safeguarding. Please [click here](#) to read more. If you would be interested in writing a practice paper, or have something prepared which you would be willing to share, please [get in touch!](#)

Practice Excellence Events

We had a really positive day in Bristol last month, discussing Adoption Support and the Theory of Change Model. Read a summary of the day, and access resources from the event, including a video of guest speaker Julie Selwyn discussing evaluation, impact and supporting relationships within sibling groups [here](#). Please do make use of these resources and [let us know](#) what else might be helpful to you in supporting evidence-based practice development.

We have been busy progressing plans for our Practice Excellence Event in Birmingham which is just around the corner on Wednesday 6th December. We will be discussing how we can best achieve equality of outcomes for different groups of children awaiting permanence. Expect lots of opportunity to engage and actively participate, as well as useful tools for you to take back to your agency and disseminate learning. To reserve your space please RSVP via your Eventbrite invitation, and [email Leah](#) if you have any special dietary requirements. If you have not yet received an invitation please contact [Leah](#).

On Thursday 25th January we will be holding an event in London, focusing on Early Permanency. More information and an invitation will be coming soon.

Call for Practice Examples

CVAA are interested in the work you do to tackle the three priorities for outcome improvement: achieving equality of outcomes for children awaiting permanence, 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.

To get in touch, for more information, or if you would like to feature in a future newsletter, please email [Leah Mair](#).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Chris, Jessica and Leah



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