

Exploring Permanency: the theory and practice

A NEW and UNIQUE series of CPD workshops for all professionals working in adoption, fostering and permanence

PAC is mindful that there are many social workers and other professionals who are new to adoption or who need to update their skills. With the new timeframes legislated for in the reform agenda this course of study is designed to allow professionals to acquire the skills required to feel empowered and competent when working in adoption/permanence and to gain CPD certification.

The workshops are designed to be available in bite sized, manageable chunks with a new option of evening sessions to fit in to a working day. **You can pick and choose how many you want to attend, with discounts when booking six or all 21 workshops!**

The programme follows the Continuous Professional Development curriculum framework (Gillian Schofield and John Simmonds), available here: https://www.tcsw.org.uk/uploadedFiles/TheCollege/Social_Work_Education/CurriculumFrameworkCPDPlanningSupportingPermanence.pdf

Specific continuous professional development curriculum content covered in each workshop is highlighted in the programme below. All workshops incorporate curriculum content: Values, Ethics, Diversity and Rights

PAC looks forward to welcoming you to this new workshop series!

Please note the discounts listed at the end of the programme outline. This is a very economical model for training your teams as well as for individuals

The Workshop Series

October 2, 2014

Theme – Permanence: the context

- 9.45 – 12.45 **The Adoption Reform Agenda –**
will be outlined and the implications for practice and practical ideas about how to accommodate the new time frames will be discussed –
John Simmonds, Director of Policy, Research and Development, BAAF
- Knowledge:**
1. Policy context of child placement in fostering and adoption
- 1.30 – 4.30 **Adoption support: principles of assessment and its provision –**
This workshop brings us up to date with what is expected from adoption support teams and professionals to support parents –
Facilitator TBC
- Knowledge:**
1. Policy context of child placement in fostering and adoption
- 18.00 – 21.00 **Evidence based practice in adoption –**
exploring and interpreting what the research tells us about various aspects of adoption and adoption support –
Franca Brenninkmeyer, Head of Child and Family Service, PAC
- Knowledge:**
Critical Reflection and Analysis

October 8, 2014

Theme: Parties involved in permanence: birth parents, prospective adopters, special guardians

9.45 – 12.45

Working with birth mothers –

Rita Cleary, Birth Parent Support Worker, PAC

What the workshop will cover:

Birth mother support work can bring very real challenges. Often, there can be a sense of professional helplessness. This workshop is designed to help participants consider how best to meet these challenges in order to provide a useful and supportive service.

Benefits of attending:

Participants will learn practical strategies for working with birth mothers – what to say; how to manage emotional situations; help with direct and letterbox contact, etc.

Skills and Interventions:

5. Supporting Birth Families

13.30 – 16.30

Infertility and loss (including assessing prospective adopters) -

Maggie Rogers, Head of Training Service, PAC,
Associate of ASART

What the workshop will cover:

It is recognised that prospective adopters begin the process only after any fertility treatment is finished and the couple has come to terms with the loss and disappointment of not having an own child. This workshop provides a space to explore how to assess for grief and loss in prospective adopters.

Benefits of attending:

Professionals will explore: The impact of loss and grief on prospective adopters. How to work with prospective adopters to help them respond to the child that is placed who is likely to be very different to the child they hoped for. Assessment strategies.

Knowledge:

5. Caregiving/parenting

Skills and interventions:

2. Assessment of families

18.00 – 21.00

**Improving SGO assessments –
Fiona Start, Counsellor, PAC**

Skills and interventions:

2. Assessment of families

October 15, 2014

Theme: Placement, prospects, patterns

9.45 – 12.45

Post placement blues, including secondary trauma in professionals and adoptive parents and carers –
Maggie Rogers, Head of Training Service, PAC,
Associate of ASART

What the workshop will cover:

This workshop will help professionals think about the not commonly identified phenomenon of the post placement blues. It will explore case material and provide pre-placement training suggestions.

Benefits of attending:

Professionals will:

Learn about post placement blues and its frequency in adoptive placements.

Have a space to discuss your own case experience of adopters and the blues.

Learn about secondary trauma and how to recognise and work with it.

Skills and interventions:

9. Supporting Adoptive Parents

13.30 – 16.30

Assessing foster carers and prospective adopters caring for BME children –
Nick Banks, Consultant Child Psychologist

Skills and interventions:

2. Assessment of Families;

3. Matching children and foster carers/adopters

18.00 – 21.00

Attachment patterns in adults

Franca Brenninkmeyer, Head of Child & Family Service, PAC

What the workshop will cover:

Introduction to Adult Attachment theory

Overview of assessment methods with regard to adult attachment

Relationship between adult attachment pattern and parenting style as well as attachment development in children

Benefits of attending:

Increase in understanding of attachment patterns in adults and their origins

Increase in knowledge of how adult attachment patterns can be assessed

Increase in understanding of how adult attachment patterns affect parenting style and subsequent child development

Heightened awareness of your personal attachment patterns and how it influences your practice in the field adoption and permanency

Knowledge:

4. Child development theory and research

October 22, 2014

Theme: Court, care and contact

9.45 – 12.45

**Going to court – robust assessments –
Prity Patel, LLB (Hons)**

Knowledge:

**2. Law, regulation and guidance role of the courts and
care planning**

Skills and interventions:

1. Assessment and care planning for children

13.30 – 16.30

**Preventing adoption disruptions –
Maggie Rogers, Head of Training Service, PAC;
Associate of ASART**

What the workshop will cover:

This workshop engages with the question ‘why do some
adoption fail/disrupt and how can this be prevented?’

Benefits of attending:

Professionals will explore:

The factors that lead to disruption.

Strategies to prevent disruption.

Ways of dealing with disruption including what can be learnt
from disruptions to make better placements.

Critical Reflection and Analysis

Skills and interventions:

9. Supporting adoptive parents

18.00 – 21.00

**Contact: direct, indirect and social media –
Facilitator TBC**

Knowledge:

4. Child development theory and research

- **Family and social relationships**

November 5, 2014

Theme: Transitions and resilience

9.45 – 12.45

Handling transitions –
Kira Storbeck, Independent Social Worker

What the workshop will cover:

Planning the move from foster care to adoption with the child in mind.

Good quality introductions.

Preparing children for the move.

Thinking about contact after placement.

Benefits of attending:

Developing practical skills in working with children, adopters and foster families when planning for a move to adoption.

Sharing information with each other about good practice in moving children to adoption.

Skills and interventions:

4. Supporting and working with children

13.30 – 16.30

Life story work –
Sue Dromey, Practice Manager Child and Family Service, PAC

What the workshop will cover:

The workshop will explore theory, skills and emotions involved in helping a child with their story; starting with the 'hear and now', building self-esteem and safety; words and ways of working.

Benefits of attending:

Increase in: Understanding of how to work with children.

Awareness of the challenges of this work, the positives and the concerns.

Confidence as to what to do.

Skills and interventions:

4. Supporting and working with children

Knowledge:

4. Child development theory and research identity

18.00 – 21.00

Resilience (including adaptive grieving) –
Clara Hammond-Garcia, Child and Family Therapist, PAC

Skills and interventions:

4. Supporting and working with children

November 12, 2014

Theme: Care planning and development

9.45 – 12.45

Siblings, together or apart? –

Franca Brenninkmeyer, Head of Child and Family Service, PAC

What the workshop will cover:

What research tells us about sibling placements

Motivation of adopters to adopt siblings, and of professionals to place siblings

Practice models with regard to assessment of the children and preparation of the parents

Benefits of attending:

Increase understanding of the emotive, rational and practical issues involved in sibling placements

Gain insight into practical assessments of siblings and prospective parents/carers

Receive ideas on team working (with colleagues and other professionals) when considering placing siblings together or apart

Skills and interventions:

1. Assessment and care planning for children

13.30 – 16.30

The adopted child in school –

Emma Gore Langton, Educational Psychologist, PAC

What the workshop will cover:

Many permanently placed children experience additional difficulties at school. This workshop explores what help this group needs at school, and how to work effectively with parents and schools to support them.

Benefits of attending:

Understanding the needs of permanently placed children at school.

Get up to date with key changes to education support systems.

Enhance the post-adoption support you provide for families with education issues.

Knowledge:

4. Child development theory and research Education

18.00 – 21.00

The impact of neglect and trauma: the brain science and its implications for practice –

Roz Read, Child and Family Therapist, PAC

Knowledge:

4. Child development theory and research

- **Health: physical**
 - **Emotional and behavioural development**
- Caregiving/Parenting**

November 19, 2014

Theme: Supporting adopted adults

9.45 – 12.45 **Doing intermediary work –**
Lyndsey Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive, PAC

Knowledge:

3. Family Placement theory and research

13.30 – 16.30 **Supporting adopted Adults – the journey towards reunion**
and beyond –
Vanessa Moon, Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist and Supervisor

What the workshop will cover: This workshop will provide a space for professionals to explore and think about what it is that their service users experience on their journey towards reunion, and beyond.

Benefits of attending:

Professionals will gain insight in to the process of Reunion
Increase in awareness of the pit falls and the fantasies.
To help professionals support service users when the fantasy becomes real.

Skills and interventions:

4. Supporting and working with children

18.00 – 21.00 **Supporting adopted adults: The Primal Wound and how it plays**
out in adult relationships –
Vanessa Moon, Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist and Supervisor

What the workshop will cover: This is a real opportunity for professionals to think about what it is that adopted individuals experience. There will be space to explore how this early experience impacts service users in terms of their relationships with others and themselves.

It would be useful if all attendees had read the primal wound prior to attending.

Benefits of attending:

To help professionals to get a sense of what their adopted service users experienced in the past, how this impacts in the present and its potential for the future.

Skills and interventions:

4. Supporting and working with children

Costs

Each workshop costs £50 + VAT to attend and can be booked individually

DISCOUNT: Six workshops (individuals) / Six places on one or more workshop (local authorities/agencies) for the cost of five = £250 + VAT

DISCOUNT: Book all 21 workshops for the discount amount of £750 + VAT (as saving of £300)