

SEMINAR

Beyond Together or Apart - making plans for siblings in care

Wednesday 6 November, 2019 Jurys Inn, Glasgow 10.00am – 4.30pm

THEME

The work of the Stand Up For Siblings (SUFS) project has done a great dealt to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining relationships between brothers and sisters in the care system - but there are significant challenges for social workers when trying to assess the quality of those relationships, particularly in the context of making plans for permanent placement. Where a placement together cannot be achieved for siblings, social workers are tasked with trying to achieve the best permanent options for each child whilst trying to maintain a meaningful ongoing relationship for those children and their siblings. Courts and judges are urging social workers to be more creative about how they seek to preserve sibling bonds.

The seminar will give practitioners the opportunity to hear about updated practice guidance on working with siblings and on assessing their relationships and be introduced to some of the new tools to use in this work. **Shelagh Beckett**, author of CoramBAAF's newly published Good Practice Guide 'Beyond Together or Apart' will present her work alongside inputs from **Dr Chris Jones** from Strathclyde University, who has led the SUFS work, and **Karen Morrison** from the STAR project which provides an inspiring example of how relationships can be successfully maintained.

AIMS

The seminar will:

- share updated practice guidance on working with siblings and assessing their relationships and introduce some of the new tools;
- examine recent research findings and practice developments particularly from the Stand Up For Siblings project, which will help social workers think about the life-long implications of planning for siblings;
- provide examples of practical ways that meaningful sibling relationships can be maintained where brothers and sisters are unable to live together;
- consider the support needed for adopters in promoting and supporting sibling relationships.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The seminar will be particularly relevant for children's services social workers and managers; reviewing officers, adoption agency staff, independent fostering providers, local authority or private law solicitors, adoption and fostering panel members, and health and education professionals.

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