



CVAA Practice Workshop: Transitions: Managing introductions and relationships with foster carers

Workshop Guide
23 January 2020
Bristol

About

CVAA's Practice Workshops have been developed through extensive consultation with the sector, and with an aim to embed the learning and build on the success from our 2017-18 PIF funded practice excellence programme, where we facilitated sharing of the very best practice our sector offers, encouraged networking between VAAs, and equipped our members with the skills and resources to incorporate evidence into their practice and measure their own impact.

Our practice workshops are regional facilitated events to support practitioner development. Based on feedback from the sector we have designed these as opportunities to look in depth at priority areas of practice. We are delighted to continue to run events of greatest benefit to our members and expand our reach to provide services to new audiences.

For more information about CVAA's events programme for 2020 please visit [our website](#).

Thank you for coming, we hope you enjoy the event.

Petra Jodlova

Agenda

CCS Adoption, 162 Pennywell Rd., Bristol, BS5 0TX

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| 10:30 – 11:00 | Morning refreshments |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Welcome and introduction from CVAA
Petra Jodlova, CVAA |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | Background and the research base
Petra Jodlova, CVAA |
| 11:30 – 12:15 | Not Forgotten: The importance of maintaining relationships with former foster carers
Izzy Roberts, The Fostering Network |
| 12:15 – 13:30 | CCS' approach
Emma Simpson, CCS
<i>Hear from Emma about the issues and experiences of CCS regarding transitions, with a focus on the relationships within transitions.</i> |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | Break for Lunch
<i>To keep costs low CVAA ask you to please bring along your own lunch.</i> |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | Group Discussion |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Feedback and plenary |

Pre work activity

To ensure you and your peers get the most from the day, please take some time to complete the below activity before coming to this workshop. You can also find a reading list on page 3 of this brochure to help you prepare.

- 1) Note down below your own thoughts on what we as a sector are already doing to manage and support transitions. Please also bring along any resources which will help demonstrate this.

- 2) Mention to another practitioner in your agency that you are coming to CVAA's practice workshop on transitions. Try to capture their opinion on what you as an agency do or could do in this area. This will help us to benefit from increased perspective on the day.

Your CPD Activity

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

All delegates will receive a certificate stating the number of CPD hours logged after attending this event. Attendees are now required to log their attendance online with [Social Work England](#). Please also see below some suggested reading, and an activity to help you disseminate the learning from this event when you return to your agency. We also encourage you to work through CVAA's Theory of Change model, on your own or in teams. Please find the model on the next page of this guide.

Reading List

- [Fostering Devon and Devon Adoption 'Good practice in supporting a fostered child's transition to their new adoptive family'](#)
- [University of East Anglia Centre for Research on Children and Families Resources](#)
- [Not Forgotten report](#)
- [The Children Were Fine](#)

Replicate this session in your agency

See below for a one-hour session plan based on today's workshop.

Please encourage your team members to have a look at the suggested reading in this guide before attending your session.

5 Minutes	Introduce the session by discussing your thoughts on the pre-reading.
10 Minutes	Look at the 'pre work activity' on page 3 of this guide. Brainstorm the questions.
30 minutes	In pairs, take a look at CVAA's Theory of Change Tool. This can be found on page 5 of this guide and in the member's area of CVAA's website. Try to map out what this would look like for the adoption support service in your agency.
15 minutes	Feed back to the group.

Questions for consideration

Listed below are some questions we will be considering at this workshop, with space for you to note down your ideas throughout the day. What are the specific challenges and risks involved in the following areas of our transitions work, and how might we best approach them?

A) Managing introductions
B) Relationships with foster carers
C) Moving children after disruptions

Theory of Change Model

A theory of change is a way of describing how the activities and programmes you carry out lead to outcomes and impact. It can help you to think through a journey from the need you are trying to address to the change you want to achieve, and the steps involved in getting there.

Developing a clear, concise and convincing explanation of the work you do can provide a theoretical framework for evaluating your impact and helps you know how to measure what matters. A good theory of change should help you establish if you are carrying out the right activities to reach your goals, what things you are doing that might not help you get there, which activities and outcomes you can achieve alone, and which require you to work with others.

We first introduced this model to delegates at our Adoption Support Practice Excellence Event in October 2017. Many of our member agencies have found it a great tool to be used in team meetings.

Can you fill in the below model for practice in your agency?



