

CVAA Practice Workshop: Transitions: Managing introductions and relationships with foster carers, 23 January 2020

Please find below a summary of discussions at CVAA's Practice Workshop held in Bristol on Thursday 23rd January 2020. We hope this helps you to reflect on the day, share the learning and have similar discussions within your own teams.

CVAA are grateful to CCS Adoption for hosting this workshop, and to Emma Simpson, Head of Adoption at CCS Adoption, for sharing with us her experience of working in this area.

If you are a CVAA member please take a look at the members area of our website which holds a wealth of resources to support your CPD needs, including the slides from this workshop. Register for our website by [clicking here](#).

Key learning from group discussions – Transitions: what works?

Group 1:

- Professional communication
- Curiosity about any issues that might arise
- Planning for any issues
- Picture of foster care placement at selection visit
- Work up relationship between adopters, SW and SSW
- Maintaining communication throughout network
- Mid-ways/LAC renews – safe and open
- It is OK to say if there is an issue and feel it will be thought about constructively
- Even if disruption to introductions, professional network continues to work with foster carer and adopter regarding managing on-going direct contact can still be supported
- Work around defensiveness and build understanding
- Revert to multiple perspective slides from start of the training – show to foster carer or adopter if feeling defensive

Group 2:

- Preparation/training for foster carers and adopters
- Flexibility of LA ie. “bump in to”; involving family members; open communication and transparency
- Joint working (duty/worker to be available); link or match another worker to help or be aware of the case
- SSW invited to PPM; ask what support foster carer would need to avoid frictions

- Setting the PACE – therapeutic parenting; further preparation of adopters re. different type of parenting (age, needs)
- Planned long-term post-placement contact between foster carer and child
- Peer link
- Action: break for adopters during introductions

Group 3:

- Reflection and rest day
- Additional meetings between foster carer and adopter
- “Bump into you” meetings
- Gradual play-based introductions
- Preparing the child – introduction book for the child
- Planned post-placement contact with foster carer; clear expectations
- Localised placement visit
- Communication between foster carer and adopter and feeling okay to express anxiety

Group 4:

- Flexibility
- Foster carers giving children permission to move on
- Good preparation of all parties
- Foster carers trusting adoption practitioners in their matching process
- Good training and advice
- Expectations of introductions (set out expectations)
- Robust plan incorporating everyone’s views
- Buddy systems