

Meeting summary

5 December 2025 | 10.00am - 11.15am

1. Matters arising

- 1.1 Re. case X&Y – the Supreme Court hearing will be held on 4 February 2026. This is a significant but complex case which could mean that adopted people, adoptive parents, birth parents, relatives etc. would be able to challenge Adoption Orders.
- 1.2 A briefing note has been published looking at recent court rulings covering contact/staying in touch plans for children with a plan of adoption: [Making of s26 Orders in relation to sibling contact/staying in touch plans.](#)

2. Forms update

- 2.1 Jane attended a meeting with Liquid Logic about integrating CoramBAAF forms into their systems as part of wider on- going CoramBAAF discussions with providers including Mosaic, Eclipse etc.

Health forms – updated versions of forms [AH and AH2 Health forms](#) - are available and have had some minor updates agreed by Medical Advisers and DP Working Group. As well as [New child health assessment forms.](#) Links have been sent to membership holders.
- 2.3 PAR – the working group have completed their initial phase of work. A pilot is planned for in the Spring. Jane has been discussing with Robbie Duschinsky about including attachment interviews in the PAR. The IAC version will follow on from the main PAR and be aligned accordingly. Scottish and Welsh versions are planned
- 2.5 CAR/B Wales is currently being piloted. Scottish and version also in draft.

3. AI Discussion

- 3.1 The group discussed how they were utilising AI in their work. Key points included:
 - AI lacks some of the nuances.
 - Re. transcripts from meetings – it produces what everyone says verbatim.
 - Names and pronunciation are often wrong as it cannot always pick up accents.
 - There are issues around confidentiality and how long recordings/minutes/transcripts etc. should be retained.
 - Assists with minute taking rather than relying solely on AI – everything needs close checking afterwards.
 - AI can be good for redacting a document extremely accurately and reliable.
 - It can be very useful for: writing funding bids, producing presentations; researching and summarizing documents. .
 - It could be useful for birth records - scanning in documents and redacting names etc. summarising documents.

4. Appraisals

A discussion was held around different ways that Panel appraisals were conducted. This can feel like a 'tick box process' and all appraisals very similar.

- A number of agencies did group appraisals. Gave the opportunity for good discussions amongst panel members around policies, processes etc.
- Individual appraisals were good, especially if they had a personal issue or an issue with other panel members.
- A number of agencies use part of their training days to have a group discussion between panel members and use this as a type of group appraisal.
- A number of agencies have designated time at the end of panel for a panel debrief/reflection which has been found to be really helpful.

5. Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF)

- 5.1 The level of funding for next year has not been confirmed. It is uncertain whether a formal consultation will be held in the New Year. CoramBAAF continue to work with partner organisations (CVAA, Adoption UK, FRG and Kinship) to represent members. There is a very active [ASGSF campaign group](#).

6. Upcoming events and AOB

- 6.1 There are a number of new practice notes available:

- [Matching Children in England with adopters in Scotland](#)
- [Matching children from England with adopters from the Isle of Man](#)
- [Matching children from Wales with adopters approved in Scotland](#)
- [Making of s26 Orders in relation to sibling contact/staying in touch plans.](#)

- 6.2 [Adoption conference - 'Can modern adoption meet the needs of today's children and families](#) will be held on 11 May 2026. HHJ Frances Judd has agreed to give the keynote speech.

- 6.3 [Black Workers Practice Forum](#) – this is open to all members. You can sign up on the [website](#).

- 6.4 [Chairing with care: Insights from adoption panels](#) – a podcast from Alistair McKintosh (a former member of the Panel Chairs Practice Forum).

EurAdopt Conference 2026 – will be held in Malta on 16 and 17 April. *Reflecting on Intercountry Adoption - learning from lived experience research and practice* – speakers include Dr Tam Cane, Jesus Palacios, Lynelle Long and Gera Ter Meulen plus professionals from Taiwan speaking about their work with birth parents in country.

7. AOB

- 7.1 This was Elaine Dibben's last meeting. Jane thanked her for all of her input, guidance, knowledge and wisdom which she had shared with the practice forum over a number of years.

- 7.2 *Date of next meeting: 10 April 10.00am -12.30pm*

- 7.3 *Items to carry over – Training discussion, Helen Little, CoramBAAF Training Team Manager*