

Meeting summary

17 July 2026 | 10.00am - 12.30pm

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1** Jane Poore provided feedback from the CoramBAAF Adoption Conference 2026: *Can modern adoption meet the needs of today's children and families?* Feedback was very positive and participants valued the content and networking opportunities. Read the [blog](#).

2. Updates

- 2.1** [**Supreme Court Judgment X & Y**](#) – has now been published. The court confirmed that adoption orders cannot be revoked solely on welfare grounds where the original order was lawfully made. Any change to this position would require legislative reform by Parliament.
- 2.2** [**M \(A Child: Adoption: Duty of Disclosure\) \[2026\] EWCA Civ 568 \(11 May 2026\) \(Duty of Disclosure\)**](#) – CoramBAAF was invited to intervene in a case concerning disclosure of Annex A information at the point of application to revoke an adoption order. The court determined that full disclosure of Annex A was not appropriate at that stage but supported further communication between the birth mother and adopters. Alexandra Conroy Harris and Jane Poore represented CoramBAAF.
- 2.3** **Government apology for historic forced adoption practices**
- 2.4** [Department for Education press release](#)
[CoramBAAF press release](#)
[Telegraph article 'I'm not a 'survivor'.. my adoptive parents gave me opportunities, hope and love'](#)
- 2.5** The Government has announced plans to improve support for adopted adults and birth relatives seeking records and information. The Church of England apology was also noted.

3. CALGG/ARA/CB records project

- 3.1** Jane provided an update on the CoramBAAF Archives and Records Association (ARA)/Chief Archivists in Local Government Group CALGG Project, a partnership to make it easier for adopted and care-experienced people to find and access records relating to their adoption and time in care. The initiative will develop a free online resource, to be launched later in 2026. [See presentation slides](#). [Read the press release](#).

4. Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund consultation

- 4.1** Jane advised that feedback from the consultation is expected during Autumn 2026. Discussion with the DfE suggests that decisions have not yet been made regarding future funding arrangements.
- 4.2** [**ASGSF Responses to consultations & inquiry submissions**](#)



5. The death of Preston Davy

- 5.1 Jane discussed the impact of the recent case on adoptive families, practitioners and adoption services, as well as the emotional impact on panel members and Chairs. Members discussed safeguarding learning, practitioner wellbeing and the effect media coverage has had on LGBTQ and adopters in particular. The following were key points from the discussion:
- Several agencies had arranged additional support sessions and informal discussions for panel members following the case. Concerns were raised about the isolation experienced by some independent panel members who do not have access to workplace support.
 - The need to maintain robust assessment processes despite the continuing shortages of adopters.
 - The importance of critical analysis and professional curiosity.
 - The importance of challenging assumptions based on an applicant's profession, presentation or lifestyle.
 - Ensuring assessments fully explore family relationships, support networks and coping strategies.
 - The value of "thinking the unthinkable" when undertaking risk assessments.
 - Should unannounced visits become routine within adoption services? They are already standard practice within fostering.

Action: The safeguarding review has been completed and is expected to be published later in the year. Members agreed to review the findings once available.

[CoramBAAF statement](#)

[Proud 2 b Parents briefing note for Regional Adoption Agencies – responding to current media coverage of the death of Preston Davey case](#)

6. Relinquished babies

- 6.1 Alexandra Conroy-Harris, CoramBAAF Legal Consultant, delivered a presentation on Relinquished babies, providing historical, legal and practice context ([see slides](#)).
- 6.2 The forum discussed:
- The increasing use of Part 19 applications to seek court directions.
 - The role of CAFCASS and local variations in practice. Cafcass have a national protocol where they would want a panel decision e.g. adoption is the planned decision, before they get involved.
 - Particular complexities relating to non-British children and parents, including citizenship, consular involvement and potential delays caused by overseas processes. Members were advised to seek specialist legal advice where international issues arise. Approval of foster carers as adopters
- 6.3 Members discussed differing approaches across agencies when foster carers apply to adopt. Issues raised included:
- Whether foster carers should complete adoption preparation training.
 - The importance of undertaking file reads, particularly where carers have transferred between agencies.
 - The importance of generic adoption assessments rather than child specific assessments.
 - Whether approval and matching should take place at the same panel meeting or separately.
 - Ensuring that enthusiasm for a particular match does not reduce critical scrutiny of the assessment process.
 - Members agreed that practice remains inconsistent nationally and that this would be a useful area for future discussion.

7. Any other business and future agenda items



7.1 Future agenda items – please send in any suggestions.

- Publication of the Preston Davey safeguarding review.
- ASGSF response form Government when published.

7.2 Date of next meeting: 27 November 2026, 10.00-12.30, Teams.

7.3 Members can register to attend [here](#).

7.4 [BBC Sounds, Later Life Letter, Luke Wright, July 2026](#) - Jane was invited to record with Luke on this documentary. Members reported that it is very useful as a training tool to endorse the lifelong nature of adoption. Luke is also on tour and well worth going to see.