



## University of East Anglia Research Findings Event 4 December 2018

### Recent research into support needs of adoptive families

Julie Young will be leading this morning session which will be focused primarily around the learning from a recent adoptive parent survey in the Yorkshire and Humber area. There will be a close look at some of the detail given by adoptive parents concerning their support needs including contact, educational needs and their experiences of accessing services.

**Julie Young** has been working at the University of East Anglia for over 15 years as a researcher at the Centre for Research on Children and Families in the field of adoption and foster care. Key research projects include: the Nuffield funded 'Contact after Adoption' study; 'Researching Adoption Support' (part of the DfES Adoption Initiative); 'Establishing Outcomes of Care Proceedings Before and After Care Proceedings Reform' (ESRC funded); and the recent 'Survey Investigation of Adoptive Parents' Experiences and Support Needs in the Yorks and Humber Area' (with Prof Beth Neil).

### Moving to Adoption – Improving our understanding. Factors that create successful introductions

Research shows that: *“Children are statistically more likely not to be living at home if their adopters considered the introduction to have been handled badly”* (Beyond the Adoption Order – Julie Selwyn, 2014). As social workers we want to ensure that we do all we can for children to ensure their introduction process provides them with a solid foundation for the future success of their placement.

Mary Beek will lead this workshop and will be considering learning from research into introductions and sharing information about a new project the UEA are piloting. “Moving to Adoption” is a practice development project, the aim being to develop a social work practice programme which supports positive moves from foster care to adoption and addresses the needs of all parties before, during and after the move. Mary will present an outline of this project, share some of the practice materials that were developed and discuss the findings from the pilot agencies.

**Mary Beek**, *Research Fellow, Centre for Research in Children and Families, University of East Anglia, UK*  
Dr Mary Beek has had a long career in social work, mainly in the fields of foster care and adoption practice and management. Since 1998, she has combined her social work career with a series of research roles, based in the School of Social Work at the University of East Anglia, UK.

Most of Mary’s research has been connected with foster care and adoption and she has been involved in longitudinal studies of children growing up in foster care (with Professor Gillian Schofield), and in open adoptions (with Professor Beth Neil). With Gillian Schofield, Mary has developed the ‘Secure Base model’ - a framework and resources to promote therapeutic caregiving, now widely used in social work practice.

Mary is currently working on a practice development project - 'Moving to Adoption'. This involves developing and piloting practice guidance to support positive transitions from foster care to adoption.

**Date:** Tuesday 4 December 2018

**Time:** **10.00am – 4.00pm.** The morning session will run from 10.00am – 12.30pm and the afternoon session will run from 1.30pm to 4.00pm

**Venue:** Adoptionplus, Moulsoe Business Centre, Moulsoe, Nr. Milton Keynes, MK16 0FJ

**Price:** £140.00 + VAT (£168.00 inc VAT)  
Lunch and refreshments are included

**Booking:** For further information or to book please visit [www.adoptionplus.co.uk](http://www.adoptionplus.co.uk) or contact Alice Hollingdale on 01908 218251 or email [alice.hollingdale@adoptionplus.co.uk](mailto:alice.hollingdale@adoptionplus.co.uk)

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