

ONE DAY CONFERENCE WITH WORKSHOPS

LETTERBOX CONTACT: NEGOTIATING LONG TERM SOLUTIONS



DATE: TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2007
TIME: 8.45AM FOR 9.15AM START – 4.30PM
VENUE: LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY CIVIC QUARTER CAMPUS
LECTURE THEATRE B3, LS1 3HE
COST: £100.00 IF BOOKED BEFORE 28/08/07
£110.00 IF BOOKED AFTER 28/08/07
£45.00 FOR FAMILIES / CARERS

DISCOUNT: **10% DISCOUNT TO GROUPS OF 3 OR MORE
FROM THE SAME ORGANISATION
(MADE AT SAME TIME OF BOOKING)**

SRA CPD Accreditation

Solicitors can gain CPD points for attendance of our courses. (Grade: Intermediate). Solicitors please quote DFZ/PAFC, to claim CPD credit for attendance of this course. CPD Credit: 6 Hours

TARGET AUDIENCE

Social Workers, Children's Guardians, Solicitors, Barristers, Adoption Support Agency Workers, Foster and Adoptive Carers, Family Placement Workers (Fostering & Adoption), Education Professionals, Health Visitors, Play Therapists, Medical Advisors, Policy Makers.

PROGRAMME

8.45	WELCOME & REGISTRATION	(30 MINS)
9.15	OPENING & INTRODUCTION <i>CHAIR: JOAN FRATTER, SOCIAL WORKER, ADOPTION & SUPPORT SERVICES, WALTHAM FOREST</i>	(15 MINS)
9.30	THE NEW LEGAL REGIME FOR CONTACT IN ADOPTION – THE IMPACT OF THE ADOPTION AND CHILDREN ACT 2002 <i>MARY LANE B.A HONS. [PSYCHOLOGY], MASTER IN SOCIAL WORK [CQSW], AND LL.B, SOLICITOR IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AND CHAIR OF BAAF LEGAL ADVISORY GROUP COMMITTEE</i>	(60 MINS)
10.30	EXAMINING WHAT RESEARCH CAN TELL US ABOUT PLANNING LETTERBOX CONTACT, DRAWING ON RECENT FINDINGS FROM FOSTER AND ADOPTION RESEARCH <i>JULIE SELWYN, DIRECTOR OF THE HADLEY CENTRE FOR ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STUDIES, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL</i>	(50 MINS)
11.20	REFRESHMENTS	(15 MINS)
11.35	JUST LETTERBOX? A LONGITUDINAL STUDY – IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY & PRACTICE <i>EDWINA BROCKLESBY PHD BSc (ECON) CQSW, DIRECTOR, PARENTS FOR CHILDREN</i>	(55 MINS)
12.30	LUNCH	(60 MINS)
1.20	LETTERBOX: 12 YEARS OF CHALLENGE, CHANGE AND LEARNING IN ONE LOCAL AUTHORITY <i>JENNY JACKSON, SUPPORT AFTER ADOPTION, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POST ADOPTION TEAM</i>	(55 MINS)
2.15	WORKSHOPS A) 18+...WHAT NEXT? <i>JENNY JACKSON, SUPPORT AFTER ADOPTION, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POST ADOPTION TEAM.</i> B) COPING WITH THE CHALLENGES <i>SPEAKER TBC</i> C) WORKING WITH BIRTH FAMILIES – DOUBLE JEOPARDY, <i>EDWINA BROCKLESBY, DIRECTOR, PARENTS FOR CHILDREN</i>	(50 MINS)
3.05	REFRESHMENTS	(10 MINS)
3.15	FEARS & EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE TRANSITION TO DIRECT CONTACT; THE ROLE OF AN ADOPTION SUPPORT AGENCY <i>SUE KELLY, SERVICE MANAGER, AFTER ADOPTION</i>	(60 MINS)
4.15 – 4.30	PLENARY & CLOSE	(15 MINS)

To book a place on this conference contact Charlotte Lindsell on 020 7520 2880 or by E-mail at charlotte@parentsforchildren.org.uk www.parentsforchildren.org.uk **By 05/09/07**

AIMS & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Research indicates that letterbox contact is often viewed as a plea-bargained outcome for disputed contact matters in adoption. Increasingly, contact is anticipated in planned adoption placements. This conference aims to explore the complexity of letterbox contact, viewing it as an outcome in its own right. New research findings will be presented within the context of the current legal and social work policy and practice.

Letterbox contact is often viewed as the 'least detrimental' way forward. Letterbox contact is complex – can it meet the needs of all parties? What are the long-term implications? These issues will be explored by a range of speakers and workshop opportunities to explore the dilemmas raised over long periods of time.

This conference will offer detailed analysis of current knowledge of establishing and managing letterbox contact. There will be an expectation that the attendee will have experience in family courts.

From attending this conference, delegates should have a full appreciation of the complexity of letterbox contact and the potential need for an ongoing involvement.

BIOGRAPHIES

Edwina Brocklesby – PhD BSc (Econ) CQSW Director, Parents for Children. After 20 years of fostering, adoption, child protection and promotional work of the Children's Act '89 with its duty to promote contact, Eddie felt compelled towards researching the realities of post-adoption contact. 10 years later, in the lives of 138 children, her qualitative research focuses on letterbox contact that became the norm. Eddie is now the Director of Parents for Children, where many of the placements have ongoing and increasingly complex contact.

Jenny Jackson - Support After Adoption, Nottinghamshire Post Adoption Team. Jenny Jackson began her social work career in Wandsworth in 1977 and after a period of generic work in London and Nottinghamshire, started to specialise in childcare and then fostering and adoption. In 1997 Jenny joined Support After Adoption, and since 2003 she has been responsible, amongst other things, for managing the Nottinghamshire Letterbox scheme.

Sue Kelly – Service Manager, After Adoption. Sue has been a practicing social worker since 1973, specialising in adoption since 1988. She worked in a local authority family placement team until 1998 when she moved into the voluntary sector, and has been with After Adoption since 2003. Sue has several years experience of managing a voluntary adoption agency letterbox service and now manages both indirect and direct contact, on behalf of a large local authority.

Mary Lane B.A Hons. [Psychology], Master in Social Work [CQSW], and LL.B Mary began her career as a social worker in 1971 specialising in child care, adoption and fostering, and subsequently as a Children's Guardian and Reporting Officer. She qualified as a solicitor in 1994 and now has her own practice following seven years working in local authority legal departments. She is legal adviser to two voluntary adoption agencies and to Adoption UK, and trains solicitors, social workers and CAFCASS officers in childcare and adoption law. Mary is chair of the BAAF legal advisory group committee and the co-author of two BAAF legal publications and author of 'adoption Law for Adopters' published by Adoption UK in September 2006.

Julie Selwyn – Director of the Hadley Centre for Adoption and Foster Care Studies, at the University of Bristol. The centre aims to link research, policy, practice and training in all aspects of permanence and planning for looked after children (www.bristol.ac.uk/hadley). She recently completed a study of older children placed for adoption. She is currently working on a DfES funded study 'Pathways to permanence for children of black, Asian and mixed parentage: dilemmas, decision-making and outcomes.' Julie qualified as a social worker in 1981 after lengthy residential childcare experience and then worked in local authority children's services until joining the University in 1993.

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Venue Address and Contact Details

Leeds Metropolitan University
Leslie Silver Building
Lecture Theatre B3
Civic Quarter Campus
Calverley Street
Leeds
LS1 3HE

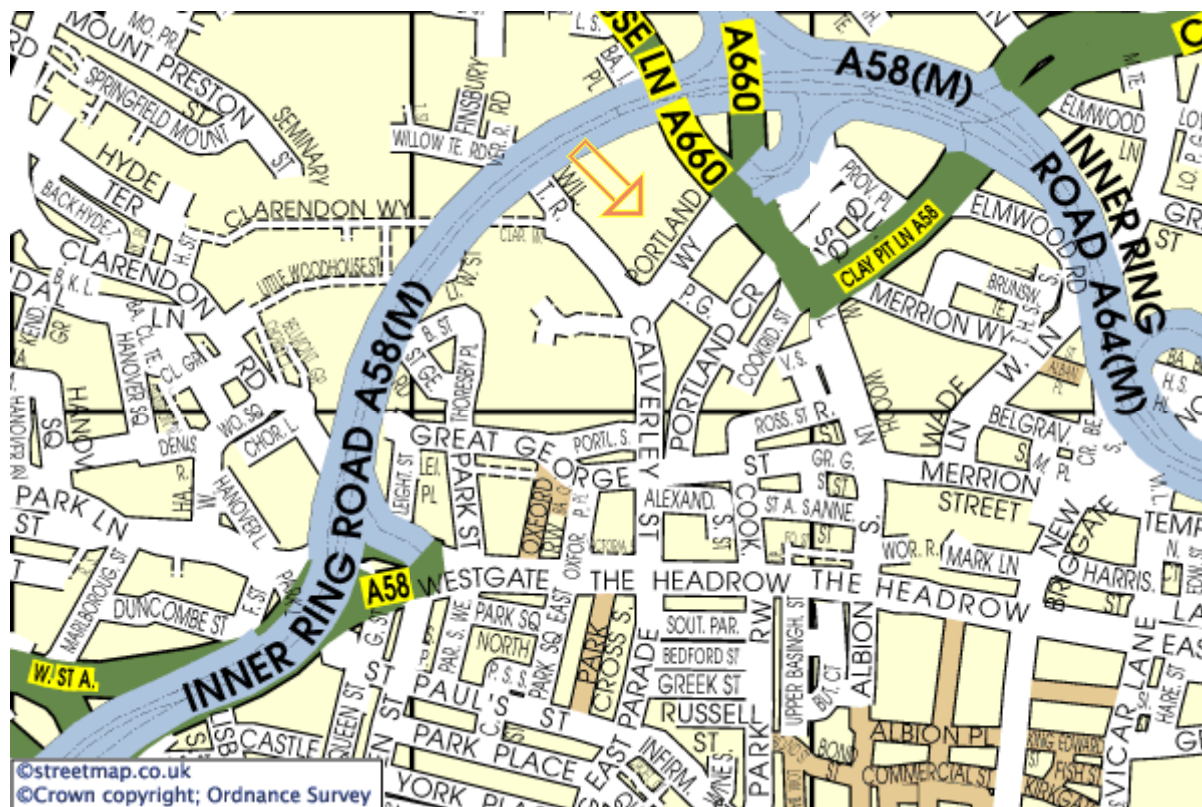
T – 0113 812 7713

Please go to the Leslie Silver Building, Lecture Theatre B3 in the Civic Quarter Campus for registration (8.45am).

Website Links for Maps and Travel Information

Please follow the link below for maps to the Civic Quarter Campus in Leeds, together with car parking information.

http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/maps/current_map.pdf



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