

## **BAAF NI Workshop programme: April – June 2009**

### **Improving the quality and assessment of family contact visits for looked after children**

**21 April 2009 VSB**

This workshop will explore the legal framework for planning for contact in temporary and permanent placements and consider the key purposes of contact at different stages of the planning process. Participants will gain skills in organising and improving family contact visits for looked after children and will consider the support needs for children, birth families and carers in relation to contact.

### **Human Rights for Family Placement Social Workers**

**6 May 2009 Cookstown**

This workshop will be an opportunity for social workers to explore current and proposed domestic and European Human Rights legislation specific to the task of the family placement social worker. The workshop will explore current practice and what the courts want in light of recent case law; consider the need and rights of all involved in planning for permanency and current practice dilemmas in this difficult and contentious area.

### **Challenges in step-parent adoption including those with an inter country aspect**

**21 May 2009 Antrim**

Step parent adoptions can be complex and challenging for the social workers and Guardians involved in reporting to the court. This workshop will explore the legal context and the roles and responsibilities of the Trust and the Guardian when issues occur. The emerging arena of step parent adoptions involving a child born overseas will be explored. Participants will have the opportunity to share practice dilemmas and explore ways of working with the children at the centre of these complex and challenging situations.

## **Learning from Disruption**

**9 June 2009 VSB**

The disruption of a permanent placement is a devastating event for children, likely to have long term consequences for their emotional welfare and life chances. It is also a distressing experience for those children's carers, former carers and the professionals involved in making and supporting the placement. This workshop will explore theory and research around disruption, building in protectors against disruption when making placements, helping children when disruptions happen and using disruption meetings to learn lessons and aid healing.

## **Cultural competency in children's services: trans-cultural and trans-racial placements**

**18 June 2009 VSB**

Increasing numbers of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are requiring placements in Northern Ireland. Most of these children are not able to be matched with placements that meet their ethnicity needs. This workshop will explore what social workers and foster carers can do to ensure that these children's identity and cultural needs are met.