

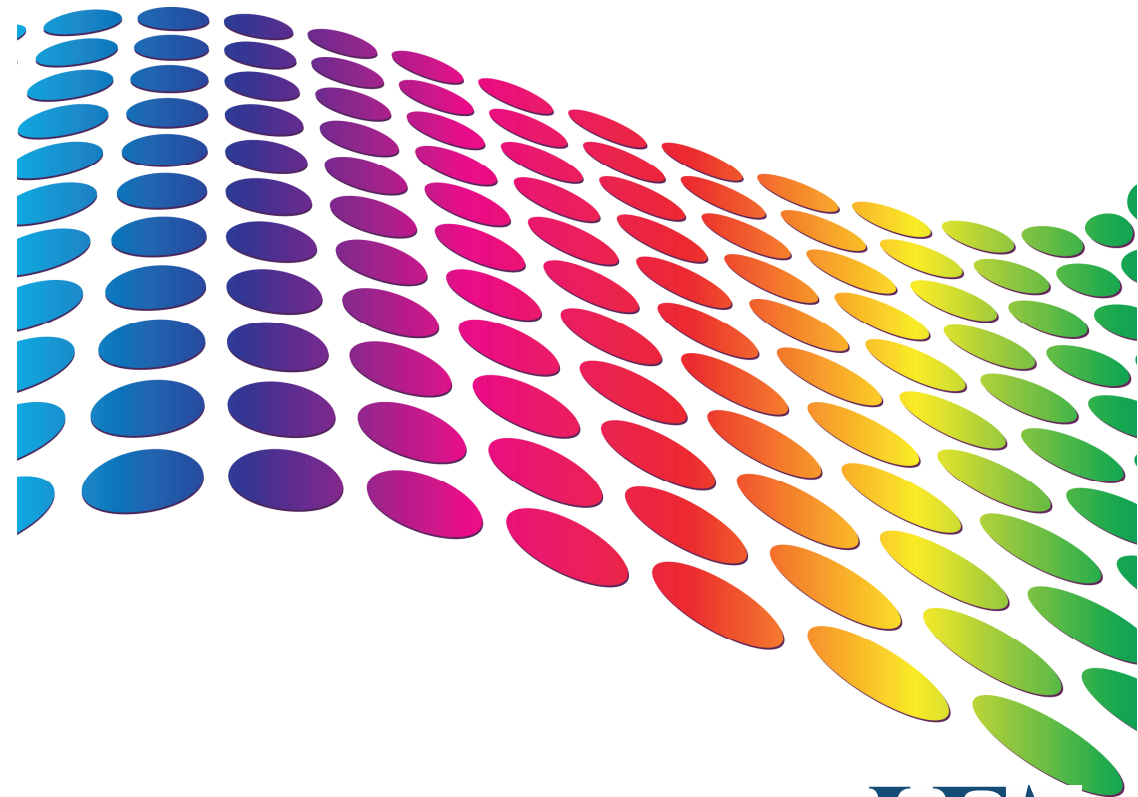
Woburn House is the London headquarters of Universities UK and is situated centrally in Bloomsbury. It is a short distance from Euston, Kings Cross and St. Pancras railway stations, and has good underground and bus links to other London rail terminals. The building is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Centre for Research on the Child and Family

Annual Conference

Supporting Birth Families and Contact in Adoption

New Research for Practice



**Centre for Research on the Child and Family
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**Tuesday 6 July 2010
Woburn House
London**

UEA
University of East Anglia

Centre for Research on the Child and Family

The Centre for Research on the Child and Family was founded in 1996 and is based in the School of Social Work and Psychology at the University of East Anglia. It is at the forefront of research on vulnerable children, parenting and family change. The Centre's research spans a wide range of important topics including fostering and adoption, substance misuse, child maltreatment, grandparents and fathers in family life.

The 2010 Annual Conference will report the findings of two major studies funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families as part of their Adoption Research Initiative. The *Helping Birth Families* study looks at the provision of independent support for birth relatives, and the *Supporting Contact* study examines the role of agencies in helping families maintain face-to-face contact. The British Association for Adoption and Fostering are publishing both studies, and the conference will include the launch of the *Helping Birth Families* book. The main speakers will be members of the research team and the event will include pre-recorded contributions from birth relatives, and a contribution from an adoptive parent.

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This conference will be particularly relevant for support workers, social workers and managers working with looked after children, in adoption and post-adoption teams, and in Adoption Support Agencies; children's guardians; legal practitioners; researchers in the field. It will be of interest to professionals in adult mental health, learning disability, and substance misuse services, who work with parents who have lost their children to adoption.

June Thoburn is Emeritus Professor at UEA. As founding Director of the Centre for Research on the Child and Family and of the Making Research Count collaboration, she has a particular interest in finding innovative ways of helping social workers to use knowledge from a range of sources in their practice.

Elsbeth Neil is Senior Lecturer in Social Work at UEA. Her research over the last 14 years has focused on the impact of adoption and of post-adoption contact arrangements on adopted children and their birth and adoptive relatives. She directed the *Helping Birth Families* and *Supporting Contact* studies.

Jeanette Cossar is a Lecturer in Social Work at UEA. Since joining the faculty in 2006 her research has focused on young people's involvement in the child protection process and on adoption, specifically the challenges involved in postadoption contact. She has been a member of the research team since 2007 and has an interest in service user involvement in research.

Julie Young is a Research Associate at UEA. The focus for her research over the last five years has primarily been in the field of adoption, and more specifically the influence of post-adoption contact on all parties within the adoption triangle, and the adjustment of birth relatives to the adoption of their children.

Rob Claxton-Ingham is an adoptive parent of two children, and works as an adoption social worker. Rob will share reflections and some of the joys and disappointments that he and his children have experienced through the annual direct contact that they have with their 5 siblings.

Conference Programme

Tuesday 6 July 2010
Woburn House, London
Chaired by Professor June Thoburn

9.30
Coffee and Registration

10.00
Introduction
Professor June Thoburn

10.15
Helping birth families: The impact of adoption on birth family members
Julie Young

11.15
Tea & Coffee

11.45
Helping birth families: Birth relative support services - what difference do they make?
Dr Elsbeth Neil

12.45
Lunch

1.45
Supporting contact: What is complex about direct contact for children, adoptive parents and birth relatives?
Jeanette Cossar with Rob Claxton-Ingham

2.45
Tea & Coffee

3.15
Supporting contact: The agency role in supporting direct contact arrangements
Dr Elsbeth Neil

4.15
Questions/ Concluding Remarks

4.30
Finish

Booking Form

Supporting Birth Families and Contact in Adoption: New Research for Practice. 6 July 2010

Name

Job Title

Agency

Address

Telephone

E-Mail

Dietary Requirements

Conference fee £100

This includes lunch and tea/coffee

I/we enclose our cheque for £
Please make cheques payable to the 'University of East Anglia'

Please invoice me/us

A cancellation fee of £50 will be payable up to 15th June, after which the full fee is payable.

Please return the completed booking form to:
Nicole Hamilton (Conference Administrator)
School of Social Work and Psychology
Elizabeth Fry Building,
University of East Anglia,
Norwich, NR4 7TJ
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Email: nicole.hamilton@uea.ac.uk