

# Scotland's Adoption Task Force

## What is the Adoption Task Force?

Originally formed as a temporary planning group in 2014, the Adoption Task Force is a collective of organisations in Scotland who are striving to improve best practice in adoption nationally. The Task Force meets on a quarterly basis and is hosted by CELCIS (the Centre of Excellence for Children's Care and Protection) based at the University of Strathclyde, and supported by SWScotland and the Scottish Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies.

The group was initiated in recognition of the need to address aspects of the role of contemporary adoption within the Scottish Government's Permanence Planning improvement agenda to offer a safe, nurturing and committed option for the small proportion and number of children in the country who cannot be brought up within their family of origin.

The simple, yet ambitious, aim of the Adoption Task Force is to be a critical friend and force for the improvement of national practice in adoption, driving collective action to make changes for the better.

The Adoption Task Force is very much a 'doing' and 'action' group, reviewing ongoing purpose and tasks at completion of each activity.

## Who are we?

The current membership of the Adoption Task Force comprises a wide range of national agencies, including local authorities representing different geographical areas responsible for children, birth parents, adoptive families and adult adoptees at all life stages, voluntary adoption agencies, a children's rights professional, academic researchers, CELCIS' Protecting Children and Permanence team, and an independent chair of an adoption panel. Some members of the group are also adoptive parents. Including the voice and views of adoptees through attention to research and participation activities within member agencies is at the guiding light for our work.

## Current Adoption Task Force membership organisations

- Adoption UK
- AFA Scotland
- Barnardos
- CELCIS
- Perth and Kinross Council
- Scotland's Adoption Register
- Scottish Government
- Social Work Scotland
- St Andrew's Children's Society
- St Margaret's Adoption
- Unicef
- University of Stirling

## **Key Task Force actions and priorities**

- Events and conferences
- Constructive debate and sharing of experiences of priorities in adoption practice, particularly in the assessment and preparation of prospective adopters
- Good practice in assessment report writing; and good practice in supporting a child's ongoing connection with birth family members
- Historic adoption and applying the learning from past to current practice, especially in supporting the child's long-term connections between adoptive and birth family and supporting birth families at the time of adoption
- Guidance for writers of prospective adopter assessment reports
- Project collaboration with Scottish Adoption and Adoption UK Scotland
- Exploration of post permanence/adoption support based on good practice from research and stakeholder needs and feedback

## **[Read more about the Task Force's Journey to date](#)**