

## Project update - March 2017

We are continuing to make good progress with the research and are currently undertaking our survey of adoptive families, prospective adopters, kinship and foster carers. Our local contact people and information officers in the 19 local authority areas taking part in the study have been very helpful in ensuring that the survey reaches the families in our sample. We are grateful to all of them for this help and for offering to forward on questionnaires to many of the families on our behalf. We are hopeful that the response rate will be as good as the social worker survey earlier this year (65%).

We are in the process of recruiting adoptive, kinship and foster families for the qualitative study and have so far met with eight sets of adoptive parents and kinship or permanent foster carers and their children across Scotland. The children have enjoyed the play session interviews with Helen and her bags of bright and imaginative toys. She uses these to explore with children, all aged between three and eight, the ways in which they make sense of living with a new family and how they have been helped to feel that they belong. The adults tell us that they value the opportunity to talk about their experiences of the adoption, or other types of permanence, process. We are very appreciative of the time they are giving to tell us their stories. The interviews are providing us with valuable insights into their experiences which we will be reflecting (anonymously) in our final report.

We are in the process of analysing the quantitative data we have collected on the pathways of children looked after away from home and are making good progress on reviewing relevant literature.

Maggie Grant has recently taken over from Cheryl Burgess as the main research fellow on the study and her contact details are as follows: Tel 01786 466433 [margaret.grant@afascotland.com](mailto:margaret.grant@afascotland.com).