

Radically Improving the Adoption System: Meeting the Needs of Children and Families?

10.00 *Registration and Morning Refreshments*

10.40 Chair's Introduction

Chris Waterman, Editor, Children's Services Weekly

10.45 Morning Policy Session: Radically Improving the Adoption System

- Examining the new 'Adopters' Charter' – recruiting more people wishing to adopt or foster
 - The impact of the reform of the family justice system
 - Will the publication of transparent data challenge local authorities to do better?
 - Strategies to reduce delays in the system
 - Changes to the Ofsted inspection framework: a sharper focus and shorter notice
 - Will intervention in poorly performing local authorities be effective?
 - The contribution of voluntary sector agencies in improving the process
 - The Adoption Assessment Working Group: overhauling the assessment process for potential adopters
 - Matching the hardest to place: children aged over 5, BME children & those with disabilities
 - Balancing the needs of looked after children and the wishes of their parents
 - The impact on outcomes for children of early adoption
 - The financial implications of adoption: the cost of keeping a child in care
 - The training of social workers in dealing with families wishing to adopt
- **John Goldup**, Deputy Chief Inspector, Ofsted
 - **Jessica Lee MP**, Secretary, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Adoption & Fostering
 - **Jan Fishwick**, CEO of PACT (Parents And Children Together) and the Chair Designate of Consortium of Voluntary Adoption

11.45 *Open Discussion and Q & A Session*

12.50 Interactive Voting Session

13.00 *Networking Lunch*

13.45 Afternoon Session: Policy into Practice

- Case Study examples of best practice
 - Sharing experiences and examples locally & nationally
 - Tensions and pressures
- **Joanne Alper**, Service Director, Adoption Plus
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15.10 Chair's Summary

15.15 Event Close

For further details please contact guy.evans-tipping@westminster-briefing.com or on 0207 593 5741.

Policy and Practice Briefing – Westminster, 24th April

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