

Contact in Context

Friday 20th October 2023

25 years of experience working with families
to maintain relationships

For professionals, parents and carers
to explore the complexities of how to support contact for
children in adoption, fostering and kinship care.

How do we improve the
experience for children
going forwards?

Hear from a range of voices

- Adopted and care experienced people
- Adopters and birth parents
- Special guardians and kinship carers
- Experienced social workers & therapists

Highlights...

Listen to lived experience

Our speakers and workshop leaders all have first hand personal and/or professional expertise.

Understand how to support and improve meaningful contact arrangements at each stage of a child's development – integrating their sense of safety, attachments and identity.

Learn about the frameworks that support this vital aspect of care and feel confident to navigate the benefits and challenges contact presents.

Receive a free good practice guide and learn from the Family Futures team informed by 25 years of facilitating contact with family members and life story work.



Watch on demand for 90 days

All of the events in the programme are available to watch again.

Network with other parents or professionals

Create your profile based on background and interests, join a round table discussion in the breaks, or book a chat with a Family Futures team member.

Gain 7 hours of CPD and expand your understanding of how to facilitate and support contact.

Attend from anywhere and join the conference via vFairs platform.

Programme

09:00-09:30 – **Register/Create profiles/Network**

09:30-09:40 – **Introduction by Alan Burnell OBE and Jay Vaughan MBE**

(co-founders of Family Futures) 25 years of Family Futures exploring the use of contact as a therapeutic intervention and achieving the best outcomes for children and young people.

09:40-10:30 – **Keynote: Cassie and Dee**

Cassie, an adopted young adult, with Dee, her adoptive mother, will talk about their experiences of adoption and the role that contact has played - highlighting the challenges, the benefits and what has helped along the way. Dee is also a Senior integrative arts psychotherapist and has worked with families for many years at Family Futures.

10:30-11:00 – **Break/Networking**

11:00-11:45 – **Family Futures framework for Facilitated Contact by Sue Hughes**

Sue, a Senior Therapeutic Social Worker, will be joined by an adopted person, her adoptive parents and birth mum, and they will share their experience of working together to facilitate contact. Sue will also talk about the research into what makes 'good contact' in the context of trauma, identity building and the long-term mental health of each child.

11:45-12:30 – **Panel discussion facilitated by Sue Hughes**

The panel will be made up of parents, young people and professionals with questions from the online audience discussed.

12:30-13:30 – **Lunch break/Networking**

13:30-14:30 – **Workshop session 1 (Choose one of the 4 Workshops)**

14:30-15:00 – **Break/Networking**

15:00-16:00 – **Workshop session 2 (Choose one of the 4 Workshops)**

Sibling Facilitated Contact This workshop will be presented by Julia, an adopted young person, and Jay Vaughan MBE, CEO & registered manager (dramatherapist, Theraplay practitioner & supervisor, Somatic Experience Practitioner & Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapist), with Karlien Smith-Claassens, senior child and adolescent psychotherapist.

Facilitating contact between birth parents and children – a practical framework for contact

This workshop will be presented by Sue Hughes (Senior therapeutic social worker & integrative child psychotherapist) and Stephen Mulley (Therapy services manager). They will discuss the experience and preparation of all parties for reunion and contact, the facilitation of the reunion and contact, as well as follow up and therapeutic support.

How to respond when children make contact online without their adoptive parents/carers prior knowledge. This workshop will be presented by Alison, an adoptive parent and GP, alongside Alan Burnell OBE, co-founder of Family Futures and Michael Kerman from Family Futures.

Contact in Kinship Care

This workshop will be presented by Geoff Hudson, Senior Supervising Social Worker at Family Futures and Michelle, a special guardian. Geoff is experienced in working with Special Guardian, foster and adoptive families and will explore with Michelle the value of ongoing contact with birth parents in the context of special guardianship and kinship care placements, for which there is currently no framework or facilitation.

16:00-16:30 – **Pulling it all together - key issues that surround contact arrangements by Jay Vaughan**

Closing Q&A



View the full programme and book at www.familyfutures.co.uk
Prices from £90. Pay in 3 with Paypal. Concession tickets on request.