



May - June 2026

NEWSLETTER



The SWAC Newsletter is for anyone working in or with a SWAC agency, to keep you up to date with what's happening in adoption in the region and nationally.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter within the region to panel members, medical advisers, LAC nurses, and your colleagues in the South West local authorities.

[SWAC Website](#)

Updates

Please note that Heather will be on leave from Monday, 25th May to Monday, 8th June. For any urgent matter, please contact Becky at becky@ccsadoption.org during this time.

Heather heather.freeman@ccsadoption.org

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Becky becky@ccsadoption.org



SWAC Open Sessions

These are held monthly and are open to anyone, in any role, working in or with a SWAC agency, whether as a social worker, support worker, in an administrative capacity, as a panel chair or panel member.

The Open Sessions are all held via Teams. There is no need to sign up in advance to them, just join us on the day by clicking on the links embedded below.

[Read More](#)



- **19th May 2026** – 9.30-11.30 am

Led by Al Coates. Al is a social worker and a parent through fostering and adoption of six children. He has co-authored several publications and reports and is a Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) practitioner. He works with carers/parents of children with challenging behaviour and trains professionals in relation to managing children's complex and challenging behaviour. He founded and runs an online peer support community, "Walking with Families", for adoptive parents living with CPV and will be talking to us about this.

[Join the meeting](#)

Please note that Al has kindly offered to stay on for another half an hour beyond our usual finish time of 11.00 am to lead peer reflection on the session for social workers for their CPD for Social Work England. Do stay on – it will save the panic of trying to meet this requirement at the last minute in November!

- **16th June 2026** – 9.30-11.00 am

Jane Poore from CoramBAAF will lead a session entitled "Safeguarding in a Digital World".

[Join the meeting](#)

- **9th July 2026** – 9.30-11.00 am

Polly Baynes from the University of Bristol will lead the session. It is based on her research and is called "I lived for those mornings – parents' experiences of visiting their children in care".

[Join the meeting](#)



- **11th August 2026**

Sue Westwood, formerly of Adoption Counts, will lead a session on Family Network Meetings. Sue co-authored a recent CoramBAAF Practice Guide on the subject.

[Join the meeting](#)

- **24th September 2026**

We will have our annual visit from Sarah Johal, the National Adoption Strategic Lead from Adoption England, keeping us up to date with national developments in adoption.

[Join the meeting](#)

Let Heather know if any other topics would be helpful to your practice, or if you know of anyone who would be able to run a session for us, by emailing her at heather.freeman@ccsadoption.org.



SWAC Best Practice Sessions

These are reflective sessions for those working in a specific area of adoption work, in whatever role.

They are held via Teams every couple of months. There is no need to sign up for them or to book in advance.

[Read More](#)

- **25th June 2026** – 9.30 am-11.00 am

Those providing access to records

[Join the meeting](#)

- **26th June 2026** – 9.30 am-11.00 am

Annual Joint Meeting for Panel Advisers and Panel Chairs

[Join the meeting](#)

- **6th July 2026** – 9.30 am-11.00 am

Those working in adoption support



- **7th July 2026** – 9.30 am-11.00 am
Panel Administrators
- **7th July 2026** – 11.30 am-1.00 pm
Those supporting birth relatives
- **13th July 2026** – 9.30 am-11.00 am
Recruitment and assessment workers
- **13th July 2026** – 11.30 am-1.00 pm
Family finders for children and adopters
- **17th August 2026** – 9.30 am-11.00 am
Panel Advisers
- **18th August 2026** – 9.30 am-11.00 am
Those providing access to records

SWAC Management Board Meetings

There are two SWAC Boards, the SWAC Governance Board and the SWAC Operational Management Board.

Meetings are held either in person or via Teams.

[Read More](#)



- **15th June** – 11.30-1.00 pm
SWAC Operational Management Board meeting
- **24th July** – 10.00 am-12.00 pm
SWAC Governance Board meeting



SWAC Profiling Events

The Profiling Events are held online via Teams for 2 hours, depending on the number of children and prospective adopters profiled.

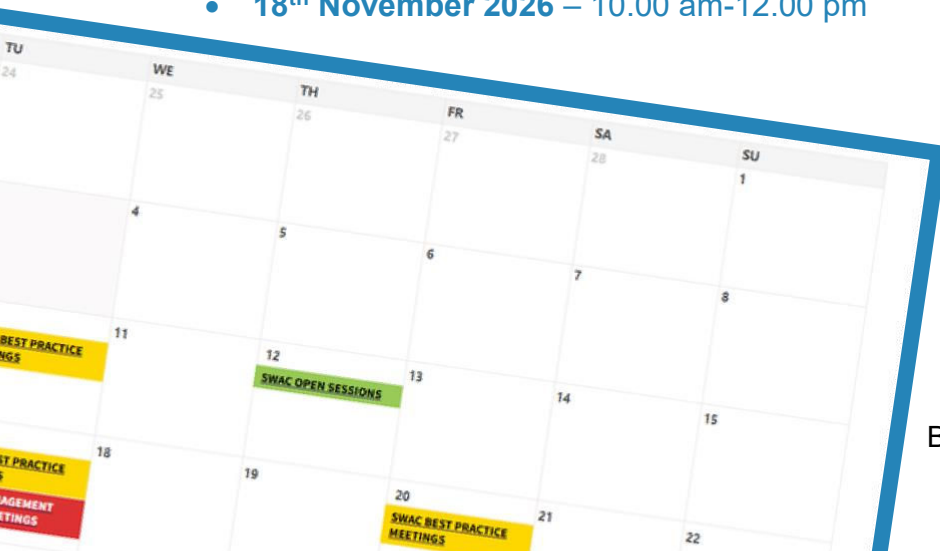
[Read More](#)

Profiling Children

- **20th June 2026** – 10.00 am-12.00 pm
- **12th August 2026** – 10.00 am-12.00 pm
- **14th October 2026** – 10.00 am-12.00 pm
- **9th December 2026** – 10.00 am-12.00 pm

Profiling Prospective Adopters

- **20th May 2026** – 10.00 am-12.00 pm
- **15th July 2026** – 10.00 am-12.00 pm
- **16th September 2026** – 10.00 am-12.00 pm
- **18th November 2026** – 10.00 am-12.00 pm



Check out the SWAC

[Calendar](#)

Becky becky@ccsadooption.org



LinkMaker

The SWAC tab on LinkMaker is now up and running so that you and your prospective adopters can more easily identify the children waiting in the 3 SWAC RAAs, and those who are family finding for their children can look for regional matches. Contact Becky if you have any problems accessing it.

Whilst it is always important to cast the net widely to find the best family for any child, there are advantages in placing the child with another SWAC agency if you do not have a suitable family within your own RAA. From the many years of cooperation and collaboration across the region, all the SWAC agencies work in very similar ways, which eases the discussions, the planning and the support around a potential placement. Transitions are also easier over a more contained geographic area, as is ongoing support both immediately after placement and post Adoption Order. The child retains a link with the region they originally came from, too.

We are hoping to encourage those family finding for their prospective adopters and the prospective adopters themselves to make use of the button to look first at the children in our region in need of a family, before looking nationally.



Heather Freeman
SWAC Project Lead



Becky Hosken
CCS Adoption