



Parents And Children Together

Adoption Panel Members





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Amy Weir

Independent Panel Member - Chair



"I have worked with children for more than 40 years, mostly in London. I have always wanted to do what I can to support parents but I have also tried to ensure every child has the best possible childhood experience. Much of my work has been with children in care and about finding alternative families for them. For some children, being placed with another family is best for them. Adoption can provide some of them with a permanent new family and new opportunities to have a stable and loving family life. I am married and we have three children. They are all working and starting to have their own children. We now live in the country and have a variety of different animals. Before we moved, I lived in London for 30 years."



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Anne Bateman

Independent Panel Member - Vice Chair



"I spent most of my career working for a local housing authority, mainly working with families who were in significant social and housing need. This also involved working with refugees, asylum seekers and young people leaving care. I was adopted in the mid 1950s by loving parents who had already adopted a little boy, two years older than me, who became my brother. As an adult my 'family' and child experience included co-parenting my (female) partner's daughter and, through tragic circumstances, being very involved with my nephew's upbringing when he was a toddler. They have both grown up and have families of their own and we no longer all live together, but we have maintained very close, caring relationships and as a result I know that different styles of family do work."

Jeffrey Coleman
Independent Panel Member



Jeffrey is a social worker whose particular involvement with adoption dates from 1999 when he began work for a national adoption charity, first as director of its southern England team, and then as a director of special adoption/fostering and international projects. He says his 'real world' knowledge of parenting probably started in earnest only in 2003 when he and his wife had their daughter, now nearly 14. He regards adopters as a very precious resource, and adoption as a very positive outcome for children who cannot live with their families and he welcomes the greater attention now being paid to adoption support. Jeffrey has a history degree and he is a tennis fan.



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Ana Dauwalla Independent Panel Member



Ana joined the PACT panel in April 2019. She has worked previously in international companies in the field of company secretariat, legal, operations and property.

Ana has been the lead parent of Great Ormond Street Hospital, (IBD), for a number of years and is passionate about sharing best practices to promote the welfare, safety, educational achievement and individual needs of children from all walks of life!

Ana loves to travel, cook and enjoys helping her clients to lose weight and get health!

Carol Jenkins

Independent Panel Member and Vice Chair



Carol has worked as a social worker and team manager in children's services in Milton Keynes, West Sussex and Surrey. She has knowledge and experience of developing and implementing permanence plans for children. Most recently Carol managed the West Sussex Adoption Support Team which has provided her with enhanced insight into the needs of adopted children and young people and their adoptive and birth families.

Annabella Marks
Independent Panel Member



Annabella is a retired physician who spent many years working in palliative medicine. During this time she worked closely with families at a very stressful time in their lives, supporting them during their loved one's last illness and afterwards helping them come to terms with their loss. Since retiring she has worked in a primary school helping children with reading and has also supported families at home working for a voluntary organisation in Reading.

She has two adult daughters and spends her retirement writing, reading, gardening, walking and travelling with her husband.



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Elaine McPherson

Independent Panel Member
and long-term foster carer



Elaine is a mother of one - a daughter who she became a foster carer to 23 years ago. Elaine enjoys spending time with her family, particularly the younger members, attending museums, the theatre, cinema or the outdoors enjoying the fresh air. Elaine and her daughter have travelled extensively and enjoy any opportunity to visit a new country and to explore new cultures. When not working as a career coach, Elaine is a mentor at university and also a trustee on a carers centre board based in the Midlands.

Rita Newman
Independent Panel Member



Rita, a social worker for many years, has a background in children and families and adult mental health. She has worked as a service manager for the local authority and more latterly as a NHS director. She has also worked in education and in the private sector.

Rita very much enjoys being a member of the PACT panel and looks forward to meeting you.



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Rosie Peart Independent Panel Member



Rosie is a qualified social worker with more than 30 years experience, working for many years in child protection, training and more recently, with looked after children, as an Independent Reviewing Officer. Rosie's current role involves reviewing children in the care system where, for some, adoption is their plan. Rosie is an adoptee and has experienced the journey of meeting her birth family when, as an adult, she met her birth mother, full and half siblings. This was a positive experience for Rosie, but she says her adoptive family will always be "her family". Rosie is a fan of rugby and cricket and she lived and worked for several years in New Zealand.



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Kirsty Picton
Senior Social Worker



"I joined PACT in 2014 as a social worker in the London team. Prior to that I worked for 22 years in local authority children's services, most of which in an adoption and permanency team. I also previously spent several years in residential work with adults with learning disabilities. Ever since becoming involved in adoption work it has been my passion, as I have seen the difference adoption has brought to the lives of vulnerable children. I have also really enjoyed working closely with so many fantastic adoptive parents and being a part of their journey towards completing their families.

I have two birth children, a daughter and a son, who are now almost grown up."

Kamna Pruvost

Independent Panel Member and adoptive parent



An adoptive parent herself, Kamna has experience and knowledge of international adoption and has worked for a short time at Adoption UK. Kamna has a background in science and the voluntary sector. She has worked for Oxfam for several years and subsequently she is a programme manager at the University of Oxford, where she was responsible for trans-European science projects. She is currently a freelance consultant.

Maxine Slade
Independent Panel Member



I joined the PACT adoption panel in April 2019, having retired from a life long career in education in December 2016. In recent years, I held the post of virtual school headteacher in a local authority. This meant that I was responsible for ensuring that children and young people in the care system were experiencing the best education possible. In this role, I also worked with adopters and prospective adopters in supporting them in choosing schools and providing information, support and guidance if needed.

In my spare time, I enjoy travel to far flung places, scuba diving and running (albeit slowly!)"

Kris Fernandez
Independent Panel Member



"I am proud mum to two adopted children, now both young adults, so I can understand some of what applicants have gone through and will go through in the panel process and family finding/placement. I've been on various adoption and fostering panels since 2003, in London and the south east.

My work life has been centred around nursing, safeguarding and education. Since 2001 I have worked in university, teaching healthcare students, mostly nurses, on topics such as child development and safeguarding children. "



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Eddie Elliott Independent Panel Member



Eddie is an independent panel member and lives with his family in Croydon. Eddie is the proud adoptive father of a sibling pair of boys, now aged four and five. As a gay, interracial family, Eddie and his partner are passionate about promoting diversity in adoption and are real champions of adoption in general. Eddie is often found talking at adoption event evenings, online Q & A events and basically to anyone who will listen! He is an actor by trade but has also spent years teaching children and young people dance, drama and performance, as well as being a teaching assistant in many mainstream and special needs settings.



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Neil Hooley Independent Panel Member



"I am an adoptive parent of two daughters who are now in the teenage years. I work for PACT as an adopter champion, as well as having done some voluntary work for PACT. I also work as a social worker in adult mental health services. In my spare time I enjoy cycling, walking, as well as making things out of wooden palettes."

Darryl Pottinger
Senior Enquiries Officer and foster carer



I am an approved foster carer with 14 years experience working with both with an independent fostering agency (IFA) and local authority. Throughout this time, I have cared for 14 children ranging in age from 0–18 years old from diverse backgrounds and with varying needs providing respite, short and long term care. I currently have three children in my long term care.

I have, for the last nine years, worked within the enquiries and preparation team for PACT.

Anna Berry
Teacher and Safeguarding Manager



Anna has worked as a teacher and in safeguarding management roles within education for a number of years. She has worked with primary and secondary aged children, including supporting young adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. She currently works in the charity sector in domestic abuse services, and has significant experience of supporting families and young people in very challenging situations. Anna is a trainee psychotherapist and is interested in the experiences that shape us all as children and as members of a family. She is committed to providing empathic and inclusive services, and is committed to promoting and safeguarding the wellbeing of children



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Anne Reilly Nurse and Adoptive Parent



My name is Anne & I adopted my daughter through PACT in 2019 as a single adopter. PACT enabled me to fulfil my dream of being a mum & it has been a complete joy to watch my little girl grow up & become the happy & confident child she is today.

I also work as a children's nurse in my local hospital, so working with children and families from all backgrounds & situations has been my life for over 20 years."



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Alex Lund

Independent Social Worker



I have been a social worker for seven years and currently work in a London local authority as a supervisor, in a long term child protection team. I have been the children's social worker for quite a few different children being adopted and found supporting them in their adoption journey incredibly rewarding. Before social work I worked in higher education for two years, helping hard to reach groups such as care leavers access university. Outside of work I enjoy keeping fit and seeing as much of the world as possible.

Rushika Wickramasinghe

Senior Community Paediatrician/PACT Medical
Advisor



Rushika Wickramasinghe is a senior community paediatrician working for the NHS. She has extensive clinical, operational and service design experience in relation to both permanence and looked after children health, including sitting on adoption panels and medical adviser role. She is a practicing senior clinician in child protection and is a CSA hub clinician. She has a masters degree in child studies from Kings College and an interest in children's rights and championing meaningful participation of children. Other specialist practice areas include child refugee and migrant health. She has lead design of the health offer and standards for a regionalised adoption service arrangement. She is a mother to two children and has experience of adoption in her family. She has been involved in the Coram-BAAF design of national guidelines around risk of blood-borne infections and currently sits on the Coram-BAAF research ethics committee as an independent member.



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Efun Johnson
PACT Medical Advisor

Efun is one of the PACT medical advisors working to assist PACT with the adopter medical assessments.

Maxine Tomlinson
Adoptive Parent



Maxine is a mother to one daughter via Adoption, and has also subsequently been blessed with two grand-daughters.

Professionally, she is a senior leader in the NHS strategically commissioning services around children and young people's mental health and neurodiverse diagnosis. Prior to this, Maxine worked as a Political Leadership in local and central government.

Maxine has a keen interest in children and families and is looking forward to welcoming you to Panel.

Sarah Stollard
Panel Adviser



Sarah has been a social worker for nearly 30 years, and worked for half that time in local authority in child protection. She then left to become independent, carrying out PARS and parenting assessments for the court. In addition she has been, and still is, a children's guardian working for the last fifteen years for CAFCASS representing children in court proceedings and frequently making recommendations about where children should be permanently placed. In this role she meets lots of children, which she regards as a lovely side to the work.

Sarah lives in London with her husband, daughter and dog and also has two great stepsons who are frequent visitors.



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Stephanie Raymond Panel Administrator



Stephanie joined PACT as Panel Administrator in December 2020. She has previously worked for two other charities within the fundraising department and for a large pharmaceutical company as a PA and events organiser. When not at work Stephanie enjoys time with her two children, and cooking at home, She also volunteers on her son's school PTA, assisting with the fundraising events.



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To find out more about
PACT's adoption panel and
watch a short film please
visit:
www.pactcharity.org/panel



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