

Attachment Matters for All

Scottish Attachment in Action is committed to promoting better experiences of attachment to enhance our relationships between ourselves, our children and our society



**ANNUAL REPORT
2013 - 2014**



2014 has been an extraordinary year in Scotland with major sporting and political events focusing the eyes of the world on our country. No matter your personal views on this year's events, I think we can all agree that Scotland has shown itself to be a dynamic, intelligent, welcoming and caring society, not only in how we welcome visitors to our country, but also our commitment to making a better and fairer society.

This spirit of generosity and fairness is what SAIA has been built upon, generosity of sharing our knowledge and skills with and willingness to learn from others, combined with our desire to contribute to Scottish Government stated aim of making Scotland 'The Best Place in the World to Grow Up', has once again ensured that 2014 has been a very fruitful year for SAIA.

This annual report outlines our achievements and I wish to thank all our members who have contributed to our growing success. This year I step down as Chair, having served my 2 year tenure and I wish to personally acknowledge the support of all members of the Advisory Group and fellow post holders, have given me during this period.

I will remain a member of SAIA and continue to support the organisation and new chairperson as we enter the next exciting stage of our development.

Paul Gilroy

Paul Gilroy

Chair

On behalf of the Advisory Group



Introduction

Since our last AGM there have been several changes within SAIA. At the February committee meeting a decision was put forward for Barbara Godden and Fiona Lettice to carry out nine months work for as a Development Team. As well as carrying out existing administrative tasks for the organisation the aim was to:

- Raise the profile of, and increase individual and organisational membership of SAIA throughout Scotland
- Move organisation to SCIO status and source additional funding
- Develop website and social media presence
- Hold three network seminars
- Organise AGM & Annual Conference, with all income to stay with SAIA
- Produce quarterly newsletter
- Influence Scottish Government
- Survey the Advisory committee and membership re input and resource information

This plan was agreed by the committee and the work commenced on April 1, 2014.

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Advisory Group

The Advisory group consists of 16 members. During the year we welcomed Alison Russell, a recently retired Principal Educational Psychologist onto the committee. The post holders, Paul Gilroy [Chair], Tracy White [Secretary] and Fiona Lettice [Treasurer] would like to record our thanks and appreciation to for the support provided by all members of the Advisory Group throughout the year. We are proposing that the current advisory group remain in post until we hold an Extraordinary General Meeting later in the year to finalise our move to SCIO status. We wish to have representation from kinship carers as we move forward.

Activities

Annual conference

The 2013 Annual Conference “*Why Attachment Matters....Beyond the Early Years*” was held in December. The keynote speaker was Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People, Tam Baillie. Contributors on the day were Judy Furnivall, Helen Minnis, Sally Wassell, Christine Gordon and Karen Wallace.

This was a well attended conference and feedback was very positive.

Network Seminars

- In March 2014 SAIA hosted a network seminar in Dundee, discussing the impact of Secondary Trauma on carers, parents and professionals with contributions from adoptive and foster parents, facilitated by Heather Drysdale.
- In September 2014 Dr Jonathan Sher spoke on the report ‘Keeping the baby IN the bathwater’ at a network seminar in Edinburgh.

Additional Activities

Additional activities members of the advisory group contributed to and attended include:

- Early Years Collaborative [Learning Sets]
- Training for the Scottish Childminding Association
- Initial discussion on ‘Mellow Parenting’ programme for kinship carers
- The Child’s Curriculum
- Maternity Public Health Special Interest Group - Attachment subgroup
- The ‘Jeely Piece’ Learning Together About Making Choices Advisory Group
- Met with CELCIS to discuss the Attachment Mapping Exercise for Children's Services in Scotland. Following the successful publication of this joint report by SAIA and CELCIS, further discussions have taken place with on plans to develop the themes and recommendations identified in this report

Finances

Our accounts were audited up to June 30, 2014.

Balance in current account: £3,613 Balance in deposit account: £15,016

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Membership July 2013 – June 2014

We have initiated rolling membership so whenever people join they get the benefits of 12 months membership.

We have: 61 Individual members

We have: 15 Organisational members

Resources

Committee Members Judy Furnivall and Edwina Grant have written an Insight Number 27 for IRISS on 'Trauma Sensitive Practice with Children in Care.'

SAIA have produced an updated version of Dr Dan Hughes "Think 'S' for success in attachment building." This practical resource is available to all SAIA members.

Future Plans

There are a number of activities and developments that SAIA plan to be involved in and progress during 2014/ 2015

Interest Beyond the central belt of Scotland: We are committed to extending our influence beyond the central belt and plan to hold our 2015 Annual Conference in the North East of Scotland, in Aberdeen

Continue our collaboration with Scottish Childminders Association: In the last few months we have spoken to childminders from around the country, with more events planned

Practice Papers: We plan to produce a series of practice papers, based on past and future events. The aim of these papers will be to provide practical guidance for **parents**, carers and practitioners on Attachment Informed practice

Pledge to Attachment Informed Practice: It has been proposed that SAIA develop a 'Pledge' to promote Attachment Informed Practice that we would invite all members, influential people and groups and other interested parties to sign. Members of the Advisory group will be working on this Pledge which we will launch when we move to SCIO status.

Network Seminar: In March 2015 Dr Lio Moscardini from Strathclyde University will update us on the three year research that has been carried out following up on children who had attended the 'Jeely Piece Club' in Castlemilk.

Moving Beyond the Early Years; We plan to organise network seminars to cover "Why Attachment Matters" in Learning Disabilities and in "Later Life"

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