

Speaker Biographies

Renuka Jeyarajah - Dent

Renuka is an Educational Psychologist and Deputy CEO at Coram the country's first children's charity. Her management portfolio includes Coram's consultancy service; research and policy and a number of direct delivery services to vulnerable children and young people, including those in or leaving care. Previous experience has included training and consultancy at local and international level and authorship/chairing of Serious Case Reviews.

Direct experience relevant to adoption includes posts as: the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering's first black issues consultant; Agency Decision Maker for Coram; management of the Coram/Kent integrated partnership for the delivery of adoption and independent Adoption and Permanence Panel Chair for the London borough of Hounslow. Project management of DfE funded projects include practice related issues relevant to Foster for Adoption, adoption support and 'matching'.

Renuka has served on the trustee boards of Fostering Network, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) and Shaftesbury Young People. Renuka has also been a school governor and a member of LEA Exclusion Appeal Panels.

Dr Debbie Watson

Dr Debbie Watson is a senior lecturer in Childhood Studies at the University of Bristol and is part of the Centre for Family Policy and Child Welfare in the School for Policy Studies. Debbie's research interests focus on childhood identities, diversity in childhood and research with children involving arts based methods. She has been working with Coram for over 2 years on the PASS project, particularly in the life story book research. This research led into her collaboration with Chloe Meineck on the 'trove' project developing and testing a product that enables adopted children and those in care to attach stories to their precious objects.

Chloe Meineck

Chloe Meineck is a designer, inventor and social entrepreneur. Chloe's first product called Music Memory Box for people with dementia, developed over two residencies with Crafts Council and Design Museum, and received lots of awards including the Blueprint Award for Design 2014. Chloe was recently selected for British Council's Elevate Fellowship 2015 showcasing and advancing innovators for social change across the world. Chloe specialises in co-design work with people using interactive technologies to deliver physical products that can benefit people's wellbeing.

Anne Bartlett B.Sc. Hons MRCSLT

Anne is a Specialist Consultant Speech and Language Therapist and Trainer and works independently, providing high quality, effective Training and Consultancy to Services for children or adults with Learning Disability, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Complex or Challenging Needs. Clients include Local Authority Services, Health Trusts, Charities and Schools across the South of England, and Wales. Anne has designed a practical model for helping in the understanding of sensory overload for people with Autism, which is popular with families and support staff. Recently she wrote and delivered a highly successful pilot series of evening workshops in Sussex, for parents of children with Autism. All her work is based on a positive and practical approach.