

# YFJB

Improving the procedures and performance of  
the family justice system



9.30am—4.30pm (Refreshments Included)

## 2018 York Family Justice Board Conference

*Friday 6th July 2018*

*Principal Hotel*



*Sponsored by*

**DERE  
STREET  
BARRISTERS**

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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**HHJ Heaton QC**  
*Designated Family Judge*

## **A National Perspective**

HHJ Clive Heaton QC is Designated Family Judge for the Humber and a Course Director of the Judicial College with particular responsibility for childrens' public law training.

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**HHJ Smyth**  
*Family Judge, Northern Ireland*

## **Open Adoption**

HHJ Patricia Smyth was called to the Bar in September 1986 and in 1997 she was appointed as chair of the Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal and vice president in 2007. She became a County Court Judge in February 2010. She sits regularly in the Family jurisdiction and has a particular interest in 'open adoption'.

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**Angela Frazer-Wicks**  
*Family Rights Campaigner*

## **A Parent's Perspective**

Angela regularly speaks about the circumstances that led to her losing her two children to adoption. She is a trustee of Family Rights Group and co-chair of Your Family, Your Voice Alliance. She has been campaigning for a greater understanding of the parents' position in adoption procedures for many years.

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**Mary McKelvey**  
*Adoption Manager*

## **The regionalisation of adoption services**

Mary has a three decade long career in social work. She is currently the Head of North and Humber Regional Adoption Agency.



**HHJ Finnerty**  
*Designated Family Judge*

## **A Local Perspective**

HHJ Angela Finnerty was appointed as a Circuit Judge in Leeds/Bradford in 2000. In 2011, she was appointed Designated Family Judge for North Yorkshire. For the decade leading to 2014 she was the Circuit Judge Representative on the Family Procedure Rule Committee and is a signatory to the Family Procedure Rules 2010.

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**Mark Owers**  
*Children's Services Advisor*

## **Its Time to Modernise Adoption**

Mark is a professional advisor to DfE and the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board. He has very recently worked alongside Sir Martin Narey carrying out a review into the fostering system in England. Mark spent three years in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit leading on safeguarding and children's health and wellbeing. He is a father of five including two adopted children.

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**Louise Tickle**  
*Freelance Journalist*

## **Social Media and 'closed adoptions'**

An award-winning freelance journalist, Louise specialises in education and social affairs investigations. She has written extensively on domestic abuse, poverty and child abuse in children's education. She has a particular interest in family law and care proceedings, and is a member of The Transparency Project which aims to promote openness and understanding of the family court system in England and Wales.

# ITINERARY

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## ***9.00—Coffee and registration***

## ***9.30—Morning Session***

Including introductory talks from HHJ Heaton QC and HHJ Finnerty, followed by Louise Tickle, HHJ Smyth, Mark Owers and Mary McKelvey who will all deliver short presentations on the topic of adoption.

## ***12.30—Lunch Break (buffet provided)***

## ***1.30—Discussion Panel***

Featuring all our key-note speakers debating on the topic of “*Adoption, is it still relevant?*”.

Conference delegates will be invited to contribute via a question and answer session at the end of the discussion.

## ***2.30—Coffee and refreshments***

## ***2.45—Afternoon Session***

Including a challenging talk from Angela Frazer-Wicks on her experiences of the family justice system and losing her children to adoption.

Proceedings will be brought to a close with a singular update on family law via the unlikely means of a game of Family Law Bingo.

## DERE STREET BARRISTERS





## BOOKING AND CONTACT DETAILS

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Ticket Price is £35 per delegate

Payment can be made via BACS transfer to:

**Dere Street Barristers**

**RBS Newcastle**

**Sort-Code 16-26-21, Account Number 10960756**

*Please quote your name on the payment*

Cheques may be payable to:

**Dere Street Chambers**

and sent to:

**Dere Street Chambers**

**14 Toft Green**

**York, YO1 6JT**

Please direct any queries to

**Karen Lennon**

Email: [k.lennon@derestreet.co.uk](mailto:k.lennon@derestreet.co.uk)

Tel: **01904 620048**

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