



## Caroline Thomas, Principal Associate



### Profile

Caroline is a highly-experienced social researcher committed to the use of evidence to effect change in services for children and families. She is author of the overview of the government's *Adoption Research Initiative's* findings, to be published in the *Messages from Research* series by British Association of Fostering and Adoption (BAAF) in January 2013, and is currently working on other aspects of the dissemination of the initiative. Between 1998 and 2012 Caroline was appointed as an Academic Adviser to government and simultaneously held a Senior Research Fellowship at the University of Stirling. She commissioned and managed five large, complex, policy- and practice-related child-welfare research programmes for government. She shaped and led all stages of the *Quality Protects* and *Adoption Research Initiatives*. As an Adviser she also worked closely with national policy makers with responsibility for children in care to support their use of research evidence. Since 2006, Caroline has been a Trustee of a grant-giving foundation, the Sir Halley Stewart Trust which funds research and development, and service-delivery projects aiming to address social disadvantage. She is also a member of the European Council for Research's Expert Panel for the ethical review of research proposals.

### Education

BA (Hons) in Social Policy, University of Exeter

### Employment and Honorary Appointments

<b>2012-</b>	Member of the European Council for Research's Expert Panel
<b>2011</b>	Honorary Senior Research Fellow, University of Stirling
<b>2000-2011</b>	Academic Adviser and Senior Research Fellow, University of Stirling
<b>2006-</b>	Trustee of the Sir Halley Stewart Trust
<b>1998-2000</b>	Senior Research Officer, Scottish Executive on secondment from Cardiff University Law School, Cardiff University
<b>1990-1998</b>	Research Fellow, Associate and Assistant posts at the Universities of Bristol and Cardiff
<b>1982-1990</b>	Personnel and training post in voluntary and public-sector health organisations