



Children, Families & Education Directorate



## Fostering News

I hope by now you will all be aware of the new agreed payments for travel and day care, if for any reason you have not received a letter please make sure you check your email!

There has recently been some discussion about inflatable pools in carers gardens and I draw your attention to the article in this newsletter about the dangers and how to keep children safe.

I would like to congratulate all of the carers who have completed their CWDC standards and are now certificated, I have seen some exceptional portfolios which is a testimony to you for all your hard work.

To those of you who have not started can I try to encourage you to join one of the CWDC work groups which are being set up in your area, this will help you complete the work required and give you an opportunity to work through the workbook with colleagues. just a reminder that all newly approved carers (since APRIL 2008) **MUST COMPLETE** the standards in their first year of approval. All other carers **MUST** have completed by April 2011 or their approval is in jeopardy.

The DCSF has in the last week issued a consultation document on the National Minimum Standards for foster care. I would urge you to read this document and send your views, as it will directly affect YOU and makes some very significant changes in measuring standards on **outcomes** in line with Every Child Matters you can access this document at...

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/24.09.09%20Fostering.doc>

## October 2009

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**Teresa Vickers**  
County Manager Fostering

## Policy & Performance

### Advice on Garden Pools

Although the summer season is now over the following information on pool safety may help with planning for next year.

Swimming and playing in water can be very beneficial and enjoyable for children, but it is important that foster carers consider the following:

It is impossible for any carer to supervise a toddler one hundred percent of the time, so it is essential that steps are taken to reduce the risk of drowning within the garden where the child plays. RoSPA figures show that the risk of drowning in the home or garden is much higher for the under 3s, and particularly for children between the age of one and two. Almost all child drowning incidents occur after a lapse in supervision (distraction through phone ringing etc).

Large, inflatable swimming pools are becoming less expensive and more popular. Unfortunately, evidence from the U.S. and Britain shows the risk of drowning has increased with their use.

#### What are the possible dangers?

- Covers are only provided to avoid debris entering the pool, rather than being safety covers to prevent a child falling in
- May hold between 500 and 5000 gallons of water, so unlikely to be emptied between use
- Being temporary they are unlikely to be fenced off from the rest of the garden
- Some come with electric pumps which can cause an additional hazard, if long hair becomes caught in them. A circuit breaker is essential where an electrical appliance is being used with water.
- Although the sides of the pool may seem too high for a toddler or older child to fall in, remember that an active child can use ladders, chairs, or even large toys to gain access.

It isn't easy to see over the side of the pool, so children may not be constantly monitored by adults nearby

Before having any type of pool in the garden, Foster carers need to consider the age and ability of the children, whether the pool can be accessed without their knowledge, and whether they can be the "lifeguard" for the child at all times.

For further information on safety in the home see <http://www.rospa.com>

Policy & Performance, Sessions House, Maidstone. E mail [mandy.lowe@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.lowe@kent.gov.uk)

#### New PEP

Kent's Personal Education Plan (PEP) for Looked After Children (LAC) has recently been reviewed after considerable consultation with professionals and young people and the new version is to be used from September 2009. Revised guidance and support materials, such as the Kent PEP Leaflet and 'PEP-O-Meter' have also been developed.

The new PEP and guidance documents can be downloaded at [www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/looked-after-children/personal-ed-plans.htm](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/looked-after-children/personal-ed-plans.htm)

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/children/lac\\_home.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/children/lac_home.cfm)

## Policy & Performance

### The Vetting and Barring Scheme – and fostering

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 is being implemented in stages from October 2009. The Act brings in the Vetting and Barring Scheme, which will mean that foster carers will, in the future, have to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

#### What are the timescales?

From **October 2009**, the current lists of individuals who are barred from working with children go i.e. the POCA, the POVA, List 99 and the Disqualification Order Regime. These lists will be replaced by a single list of people who are barred from working with children, and a separate (but aligned) list of those barred from working with adults.

From **July 2010** new entrants to the children's or vulnerable adults workforce will be able to apply to register with the scheme. This will be done on a new CRB application form which allows applications for ISA registration and CRB checks to be done together.

From **November 2010** it will be compulsory for new entrants or those changing jobs to register

From **2011 – in phases** - existing carers who have a CRB check over 3 years; then those with more recent CRB checks to register

#### What are the differences between CRBs and Vetting and Barring?

Vetting and Barring will give additional safeguards to the CRB checking system. A CRB check alone provides only a snapshot of a person's criminal record up to the day it is done. Vetting and Barring brings in a legal duty on employers, social services and professional regulators to refer any information that comes to light which could indicate that a person may pose a risk to the ISA. Once ISA registered the status of that person is updated when new information is received, and the employer informed if an individual is assessed to be unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults. An employer can carry out an online check of someone's registration status, which will remove the need for repeated CRB checks, which happens now when someone is working or volunteering with different organisations.

**Is there a right of appeal?** Depending on the severity of the case, barring will be automatic, with representation, or on a case by case basis.

**What is the status of fostering under the scheme?** Fostering is considered to be a "Regulated Activity", which means that anyone who is barred cannot become a foster carer, that fostering agencies must check the status of anyone who applies to foster, and cannot permit a barred person to work, no matter how infrequently, as a foster carer.

Further information is available on the KSCB website: [www.kscb.org.uk](http://www.kscb.org.uk) or via <http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/UserFiles/KSCB/File/Newsletter/ISA.pdf>

Policy & Performance, Sessions House, Maidstone.

E mail [mandy.lowe@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.lowe@kent.gov.uk)

# The Fostering Service Welcomes New Carers

**Catherine & Michael Alldritt - Mid Kent**

**Eve & Michael Brockhouse - EK2**

**Mandy & John Eakins - WK**

**Sharon & Costas Kailou - EK2**

**Rita Gough & Alan Rumble - EK2**

**Mary & John Hoayun - EK1**

**Serena Treharne & Jeremy Martin - WK**

**Alison & Glenn Williamson - Mid Kent**

**Ian & Tina Wilson - WK**

**Samantha Wratten - EK1**

**Please look out for them at support groups and be available to answer all those initial questions when they take their first children into placement.**

**If you would like to become a mentor for new foster carers,  
please discuss this with your supervising worker.**

# East Kent 2 - Thanet with Dover Area 01843 57003

## Foster Carer Payments 01233 652259

At East Kent 2 we are very happy to have welcomed June Harrison, Kate Ball and Liz Rowley to the team. They have all joined as Fostering Social Workers. In October we look forward to welcoming two further team members. There is one further Social Work post.

Julia Griggs continues to build excellent practice with Foster Carers and the team regarding children's educational development, welfare and rights.

After several months the office refurbishment is complete. Most of the offices are redecorated and we have a designated Duty Room. Following numerous moves within the office staff are looking forward to a period of being more settled. Anne Lawrence, Lisa Barnsley, Barbara Bailey and Jo Jackson, our Admin team, continue to manage all the changes and help us all keep on track.

Michelle is looking forward to beginning maternity leave early in November

We would like to thank every one for their patience and support during all the changes and the staff shortages.

### Developments

Kate Ball and Karen Cronin will be undertaking child and parent work in the near future. Anyone interested in undertaking such fostering please contact Karen, Kate or Michelle Dennis.

There are currently nine children and four parents in child and parent placements in the East Kent 2 area.

### Sons and Daughters Project

Karen Cronin, Rob Cushway and Marge Wiltcher are in the process of planning a Seminar for foster carers which will be held at Pfizer on 23rd October. This day will focus on the impact of Fostering on carers own children - further details will be sent out soon.

The Seminar will be followed with a 'Fun-Day' event, which will be a celebration of the involvement of birth children in fostering families in February for carers children.

### Congratulations & Well Done Charlotte

placed with the Simpson's EK2 carers at the end of last term has won two major prizes at school;

Top girl of her year and top girl of the school: for which she received awards and gift vouchers.

These were achieved for overall improvement, continued good work, her attitude, helpfulness and personality.

### Congratulations & Well Done Emily

who achieved 10 GCSE's,  
Grades 6 As, 3 Bs and 1 C

### Thank you

Sue and Pete Hollingsworth  
Short Break foster carers  
in Deal, who hosted a BBQ  
on 12th August.

The BBQ was a huge  
success, twenty sets of  
carers and over forty children  
attended the event.

### Congratulations & Well Done to Jael

who did fantastically well with her GCSE results. She received an A\* for French, 2 x B's for Business studies and a C in Religious Studies. She got a D for Maths and English and is going to re-take them at Christmas. She did not do so well in her Sciences but she did receive a certificate for "Superb Effort in Science". For a young girl who did not speak English three years ago I think her results are remarkable.

Her school think very highly of her and the effort she puts in to all that she does. They have asked her to be a mentor for other younger children at the school who have English as a second language. She is currently mentoring two French speaking children. She translates/explains their homework for them and sometimes sits in with them in their classes if they are struggling and she has some free time.

Her ambition in life presently is to have a great career. She wants to become an Accountant. I wish her luck!

**Maria**

## East Kent 2 - Thanet with Dover Area 01843 57003 Foster Carer Payments 01233 652259

### Anthea and Roy Pickard Morrish retire

Anthea and Roy have been foster carers for 28 years. During this time they have taken 10 children through to adoption. They adopted three children who are now successful and happy adults.

Their career has included Emergency fostering, child and parent placements and latterly working with disabled children. Well over 60 children have benefited from the care they received with Anthea and Roy.

They have now decided that the time has come for them to retire enabling them to spend more time with their grand children. Anthea and Roy have not found this an easy decision as 'fostering has been a huge part of our life for so long'.

**Thank you Anthea and Roy**

### Emergency Bed Carer required in EK2.

Please contact Anthony McManus or Maggie Nash if you are interested in joining this scheme.



### Bicycle Marking Scheme



East Kent Police Cycle marking scheme has been running since February 2009, as of July 2009 over 400 cycles have been marked, 4 marked cycles have been reunited with their owners, one cycle's tag had been removed but the recording of other details enabled it to be returned to its rightful owner.

Marking consists of a bar coded tamper proof tag being attached to the cycle and details such as frame number, make and model being recorded. Information supplied, along with the unique reference number from the tag are entered onto a database run by Immobilise, who record the details on the National mobile phone and property register which is searchable by Police Forces nationally.

An Immobilise account is created for owners who supply an email address, they are then able to record details of other property. If no email address is supplied an account is opened but can only be accessed by Police.

If you would like your cycle marked, please complete a registration form and return it to PC Jacky WHITEHEAD, 41, Hawley Sq, Margate CT9 4 NY, or hand to any Thanet Police station in an envelope marked for attention of PC Whitehead CSU Margate. A marking tag will then be sent out.

# East Kent 2 - Thanet with Dover Area 01843 57003

## Foster Carer Payments 01233 652259

### East Kent 2 achieves a fostering first again

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June Val Palmer, fostering social worker, along with the two local police safer schools initiative coordinators Jackie Whitehead and Fran Fryer-Kelsey ran the first foster carer training day on guns and knives awareness. For the police, it was the first time they had thought about and adapted their materials for adults, so we all learnt a lot from each other in the planning, and on the day.

Having had several examples of young people being involved with these weapons in the previous 6 months, Val put in a bid to Pritpal Sodhi, our Training & Development Manager for some specific training on the issues. The aim of the day was to offer some support to carers who had experienced these issues with our young people and to increase the awareness for other carers as the issues had implications for everybody. Another aim was to share with carers what work is being done in the schools in years 6, 8 and 10 and to make carers who had young people who are excluded from school aware of the materials that could be loaned, as well as sharing information about other resources.

Changing times means changing practices and we all need to think through the issues of protecting and safeguarding children. Carers need to think about their own safe car plans and review them with each new piece of information, incident and placement.

There were 35 carers and Maggie Nash our fostering team leader who participated. By the end of the day all had first hand experience of using the available materials and hearing the issues raised by school children, in the classroom setting.

Carers discussed how to manage incidents and minimize risks to all parties. The carers understood the legal context that the police and social workers work within and the police heard first hand what carers have to manage. We looked at the foster carers responsibilities in, and how to, educate young people and to be able to look for signs, indicators and patterns of behaviour that flag up the need for additional help and resources. We spent some time looking at national and local resources alongside interagency communications. We all learnt a lot from the case examples discussed and the various activities in which we engaged for example the board game and interactive video.

Whilst statistically the numbers of these crimes recorded are not high we are able in our work to identify young peoples behaviour that causes concerns and poses risks for them, their families and their communities. Prevention re-education and being proactive is something that we all can do. At the end it was poignant that a carer handed a gun to one of the police officers recently removed from one of our 15 year olds. The feed back from everyone was excellent and like the drug training that was pushed for in the 80s that is now part of our essential foster carer training the general consensus was that this needed to be offered from now on for all carers of school age children. It promoted collaborative working and all parties involved felt significant benefits from this event.

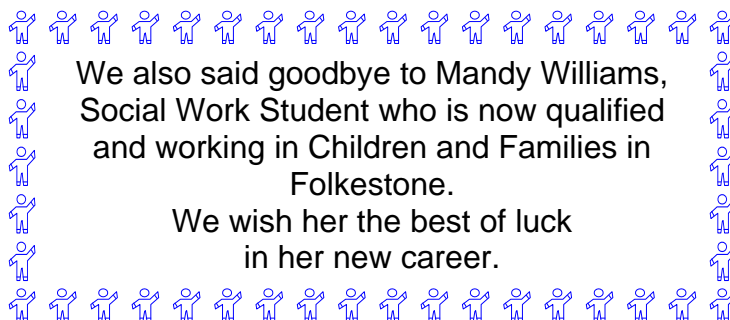
Our thanks must go to our police colleagues for all their hard work, time and effort. A special note of thanks must also go to Geoff Pain the Kent forces safer schools initiative coordinator, from police headquarters in Maidstone, who kindly introduced the day by giving the background to the initiative being launched in schools. All participants were subsequently given a copy of the DVD which had on it the classroom activities, teachers notes and the interactive board game which they can use at home with their young people or loan to other carers. We also were given 6 copies for the office library to loan out.

The team received some sets of the training materials and boards games donated to us by the Kent police force, which carers can borrow to use with their families and LAC young people. Please contact Val Palmer direct on 01843-570003.



## Mid Kent Area - 01233 898635 Foster Carer Payments 01233 652266

Caroline Smith has taken over from Mike Wynne, as Practice Supervisor on the team, starting this role from the end of July. The team have been very supportive of this change.



We also said goodbye to Mandy Williams, Social Work Student who is now qualified and working in Children and Families in Folkestone.

We wish her the best of luck in her new career.

In June Kristen Corsie started her maternity leave, with baby Joshua Thomas being born on 16<sup>th</sup> June, weighing in at 8lb. 3oz.

Mother and baby are doing well and the team wish Kristen, Si and Joshua much happiness at this very special time.

As we begin a new school year, we should all be full of positivity for the coming academic year. Some of you will be full of apprehension, as it is true to say that the coming year will bring challenges for all carers and mountains to be climbed by many children. Education can be that scary two headed beast that is out to get many children! In Mid Kent though, we have had many excellent success stories. You can read the accounts of two children here. But there are many untold success, that will never make the news, but that are life changing. Many children have flown this year, increasing their National Curriculum level beyond expectations, increasing educational confidence, attending school regularly, as well as those who have transferred to Grammar schools or been accepted on University course. The list of successes is long, but often gets forgotten and hidden by the educational disaster stories!

As this year begins, please keep positive, and if you think there may be an issue or problem ahead, please make me aware of it. There may be something that can be done to avert a disaster. And it is always better to tackle the mole hill than to wait for a mountain to appear!

**Chris Crabb**  
Social Worker Assistant for Education

[Chris.crabb@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.crabb@kent.gov.uk) - 01233 898634

### My Past Year At School

Shortly after the start of year 10 I attended my school's Award Evening where I was presented two awards, one for Maths and one for IT. My Foster Parents, Mum and Grandparents attended.

In February 2009 I went on a school trip to New York City, I saw many sights and enjoyed the experience.

In the last year I have taken 12 GCSE's and I am predicted high grades in most subjects and an "A" in Maths. My options in year 11 include an extra 6 GCSE's and 2 A-levels.

Before the end of year 10 we had a weeks course called "Ready for Work", I also spent a week at Waterstone's, the bookshop in Maidstone as Work Experience.

Towards the end of the summer term I applied to be a Prefect in year 11 and was accepted. I was then invited to be Head Boy and asked to write a few lines giving my reasons why I thought I would be good at it. After a couple days my position as Head Boy was confirmed, I am very proud to have been given this privilege and I look forward to year 11.

**Dominic**  
Head Boy

**Mid Kent Area - 01233 898635**  
**Foster Carer Payments 01233 652266**

**Mid Kent Fostering Fun Day – 12<sup>th</sup> September**

This was a family event, for foster carers, their birth children and looked after children. This year it was held at Linden Grove Primary school, Ashford with a packed day of “Medieval Mayhem”. The day was free for Mid Kent Foster carers and was well supported and enjoyed by all.

We would like to thank Rachael Isted for her help in supporting with the venue for this event.



Hello My name is Becky  
This is a picture of the Literacy Award I got from My school.  
Highview in Folkestone it was exciting to get it I worked hard at school and I went with my nanny to a club in the library we did lots of reading together nanny and me at home. This is what my Award looks like.



and this one is →  
my me to keep

# Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care- Kent

The Treatment Team welcomed back Helena Targett who returned after a year of maternity leave. We also said goodbye to Melissa Gould who covered so well in Helena's absence. We must have done something right because Melissa has applied to be a TFC respite carer and is now being assessed!

## Team TFC

Annie Bousfield - Programme supervisor (CAMHS)  
Debbie Simmons - Programme Manager (CSS)  
Angie Lemmer - Birth family therapist (CAMHS)  
Carol Cracknell - Fostering social worker (CSS)  
Jill Taylor - Individual therapist (CAMHS)  
Angela Renders - Fostering SWA (CSS)  
Helena Targett - Skills coach (Education)  
Dionne Clifton - Skills coach (Education)

And last .....yes she really is ...Sue Last - Admin support and general lifesaver (CSS)

For those of you who do not know about TFC we are a specialist service within Kent County Council's Fostering service. We take referrals from across the entire county and offer an 18 months treatment programme to young people aged between 10-18 years. It is not something which works for all young people and we do a careful assessment of them and their family prior to placement.

Treatment foster carers receive specialist training in implementing a "points and levels" programme within their family homes. They attend weekly foster carer meetings with the clinical lead within the team and have supervision every 3 weeks. TFC carers only have one young person in placement at any time and do not have their own birth children at home unless they are of adult age.

TFC carers receive an enhanced payment in recognition of this and we do try to offer the highest level of practical and emotional support possible from the multi agency team.

## Summer TFC

Our young people have been kept busy all through the summer holidays with a range of activities including Canoeing, GO APE, Chessington. A 4 day conservation project building toys and play equipment for monkeys at Port Lympne, swimming cycling, West End musical theatre trips, Chatham Dockyard...all aimed at improving their confidence, social skills and peer interactions. It also helps to prevent the dreaded holiday boredom setting in and gives carers a breather during the week.

## Think TFC

By September we had 7 full time TFC placements and 3 respite placements in support. If you are interested in becoming one of our specialist carers please contact me, Debbie Simmons. It may not be right for you now but even if it is something you would like to plan to do in the future it helps to know what might be involved for you and your family.

**Best Wishes**  
**Debbie Simmons Programme Manager**  
**Treatment foster Care**

**West Kent Area - 01732 525324**  
**Foster Carer Payments - 01233 652278**

**West Kent Fun Day**

Well! What a great day we ALL had. The sun did shine but it was raining at the beginning of the day so most of the FUN was Indoors. It was great to see so many children and young people taking the opportunity to try out the music, circus and football skills workshops. The Barbeque provided by Carole and Andy Freed was excellent and a BIG Thank You to both of them.

Fund raising that took place on the day is to go towards future activities including a Christmas Party. I am now looking for any carers who would be interested in setting up a group to look at social and fund raising activities to keep the momentum from this day ongoing.

If you are interested please let me know or your representatives at the West Kent Forum

**Sue Roberts-Hughes - Team Leader**

**Free access to leisure activities**

As part of the [Kent Pledge](#) to children and young people looked after by KCC and those children and young people in care placed in Kent by another local authority, arrangements have been established for free access to certain leisure facilities across the County. Free facilities may vary within different districts.

Currently in West and Mid Kent the 'free' leisure access scheme is operating in Tonbridge and Malling at Larkfield Leisure Centre, Angel Centre and Tonbridge Pool and Maidstone Leisure Centre.

You will need to contact the leisure centres directly and ensure you liaise with the child's social worker.

More information is on the website [lac.education@kent.gov.uk](mailto:lac.education@kent.gov.uk)

**Playing for Success**

During the summer holidays children aged between 9 and 12 were able to attend Ebbsfleet Football Club for two days of sport and computer related activities. This proved very popular and will be repeated in the future.

**Birth Announcement**

Maria Mannio Social worker gave birth to  
Zara on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

I am sure you will all join me in sending our Best Wishes to Maria and her family.

# West Kent Fun Day



Thank you to Jackey who organised the Fun Day, making sure everyone carried out their tasks

## Summer Fun Picture Competition Results

Aged 6 - 10 years  
**Brandon**

Aged 11 - 14  
**Sammie W**

Aged 15+  
**Enita**



The Barbeque provided by Carol and Andy Freed

### Find the Cow Pat on the Field

**Lynn Luchford**  
guessed the correct square number 88

### Sweets in the Jar

**Coral Crony**  
guessed the nearest number to the 197 number of sweets in the jar.

### Fostering has got Talent

We were entertained by those who took part in the Talent Show with their singing, dancing and joke telling etc..

Well done to

- Mariah**
- Raymond & Skye**
- Ashli & Danny**
- Jasmine & Connor**
- Molly & Phoebe**
- Skye and Matthew**
- Luke**
- Mia**
- Connor**
- Kim**
- Raymond**
- Sean**
- Eleanor**



**Guess the Weight of Elaine's Dogs**  
MAC, guessed nearest the dogs weight won the Guess the Weight of the Dogs Competition  
Bonny weighed 12st 10lb  
Bumber weighed 14st 6lb

**West Kent Area - 01732 525324**  
**Foster Carer Payments - 01233 652278**

**Library Homework Clubs**

The following libraries hold homework clubs offering help and advice free  
– with free use of computers. They are informal – just drop in.

**Gravesend** - Windmill Street - Saturdays 2 – 4pm

**Higham** - Villa Road - Thursdays 3.15 – 4.45pm

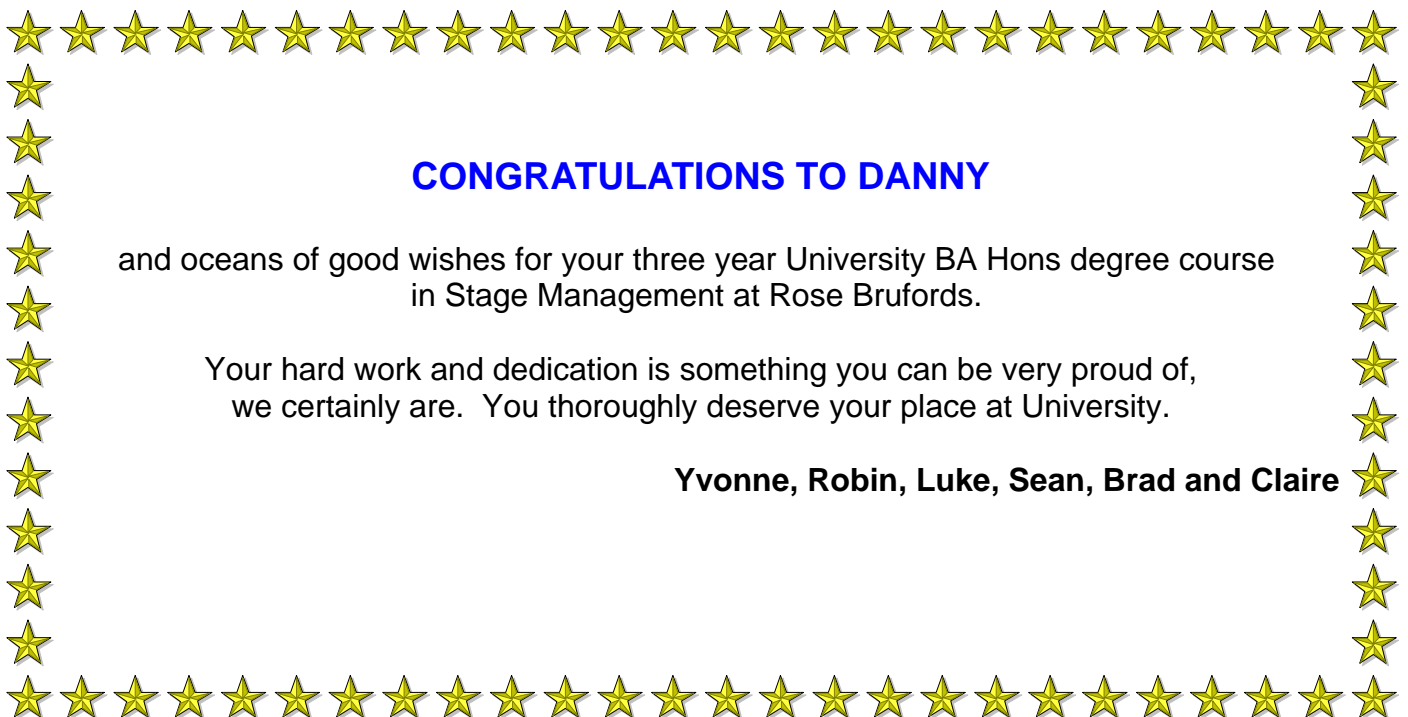
**Marling Cross** - 266 Mackenzie Way - Thursday 3.30 – 4.45pm

**Riverview Park** - The Alma, Leander Drive, Riverview Park - Tuesday 4 – 5.30pm

**Pembury** - The Hop House, Henwood Green Road - Tuesday 3.30 – 5pm

**Tonbridge** - Avebury Avenue - Monday 3.30 – 5pm

**Swanley** - London Road - Monday – Friday 3.30 – 5pm



**CONGRATULATIONS TO DANNY**

and oceans of good wishes for your three year University BA Hons degree course  
in Stage Management at Rose Brufords.

Your hard work and dedication is something you can be very proud of,  
we certainly are. You thoroughly deserve your place at University.

**Yvonne, Robin, Luke, Sean, Brad and Claire**

**East Kent 1 - Canterbury with Swale 01227 59888**  
**Foster Carer Payments 01233 652259**

**CONFERENCE FOR FOSTER CARERS**

**"C-THR-U BEHAVIOUR"**

Wednesday 25 November 2009

Seasalter Christian Centre  
49 Faversham Road  
Whitstable, CT5 4AX

9:30 – 14:30

Buffet lunch provided

**SPEAKER – BERNARD ALLEN**

100 places available for EK1 foster carers  
To book your place please ring Mel D'Ardenne - 01227 598574

**SEE THROUGH BEHAVIOUR**



Decades of personal experience, lessons learned from the behaviour gurus and all the latest research on psychology and behaviour are brought together in this entertaining training day.

The training helps people see through the behaviour to understand the processes that drive it. It provides a clear framework for uncommon sense positive behaviour management.

- A summary of the latest research on why people behave the way they do
- Why some responses seem to work and others make things worse
- What successful people do and why it works
- Lots of strategies and ideas

Behaviour does make sense once you understand the rules.

The only way to manage the behaviour of others is to take control of your own.

**Feedback about this course:**

"Good practical ways of working but backed up by very interesting information about how the brain works - wish I'd had this training years ago!" Teacher

"Stimulating, thought provoking, challenging to stereotypical views" Teacher

"Enjoyed how it promoted self reflective practice" Educational Psychologist

"Excellent knowledge and presentation skills" College Lecturer

"The fact that I did not want it to end" Classroom assistant

"Engaging, thought provoking, excellent all round" Head teacher

"Humour throughout the entire day made the day brilliant" Teaching Assistant

## **LONG TERM PLACEMENT NEEDED FOR JAMES**

We are looking for a long term foster family for James, aged 7 years. James has been in foster care since he was 2. He is subject to a full care order and his plan has recently changed from that of Adoption to Long Term fostering.

James has had 3 placements since coming into the care system, and has been with his current carers for over 4 years. James is a child of dual heritage, his mother is White British, and his Father is Black African Caribbean.

James is a very engaging and loving boy and has made significant progress over the last few years. James has Global Developmental Delay particularly in the area of speech and language, and requires a high level of supervision. He responds well to consistent and firm boundaries.

James is due to start a full time school placement in September 2009 at a specialist educational provision in Maidstone and is entitled to school transport.

James new family will need to be able to support James through the reintroduction of sibling contact.

James loves making things, figuring out how things work, he loves animals and outdoor activities and games like football and swimming.

James needs a family who will commit to him. He will benefit from a two parent family, where both parents are actively involved in the child care and needs to be the youngest child in the household.

**For more information please contact**

**Karen Bassett on 01227 598743**

**or**

**Vicki Dineen on 01795 473333**

# Therapeutic Reparenting Fostering

There have been a number of changes within the TRP fostering staff over the past six months.

Melanie Spencer the Mid Kent TRP Lead has moved from her post in fostering to join the Shepway Children and Families team. The TRP role has been taken up by Sonja Van-Rooyen.

Elaine Thomas, from the EK2 team, has reduced her working week, so the TRP lead is now Marge Wiltcher.

Tracey Burroughs is also moving on from her time as the TRP lead in EK1 fostering, and is handing the role over to Bobbie Thomas.

Welcome to all the new leads,  
And thank you to Elaine, Melanie and Tracey for all your care, attention and energy.

Recent months have seen changes for children and foster carers too:

We are really pleased for two children who now have plans to remain with their TRP carers permanently under the security of legal orders. This is great news for the children and the families!

These changes do mean that we will say good bye to the carers as TRP families, so we wish them all well for the future and hope that we hear from them with an update every now and then.

One child has also moved on over the summer to their long term placement. The carers will now be working with us to offer a new child a place with in the TRP.

Alongside seeking new TRP carers we are also looking for families who could offer appropriate **day care and respite for individual children** when the need arises.

Respite is not something we rely on but at times the need does arise.

We are also always very happy to talk to carers who are interested in offering a **long term family to children who are ready to move on from their TRP placements.**

We currently are family finding for David aged 9 and have included a brief pen picture about him on the next page. If you would like to know any more about David do call the numbers at the bottom of his information!

## **We are seeking a long term family for DAVID - Aged 9**

David is a 9 year old White British boy who came into the care of the Local Authority in 2006 due to poor, neglectful parenting. David's behaviour was challenging when he first came into foster care, but since being with his current therapeutic carers, this has gradually diminished.

David is an artistic child who enjoys drawing and other forms of arts and crafts. He also enjoys outdoor activities which includes riding his bicycle etc. More recently David has been involved in Drama groups and performing arts. David loves reading and his comprehension skills have significantly improved.

David has built a good attachment to his current carers, is always friendly and talkative and enjoys asking questions and telling you about his views. In fact he is quite a chatterbox. David has settled into a daily routine and at bedtime this includes bath, story and sleep.

David enjoys going to school. He has made friends in his school setting but this is an area in which that he will continue to need help. School teachers continue to maintain firm consistent boundaries which are similar to those in the home.

David needs consistent firm boundaries in order to continue to address some of the challenging behaviour he can still present. He sometimes behaves like a younger child, and has a tendency to like to be in control. He has been responding well to the boundaries set in the foster home, and will flourish in a home which will replicate his current care, at least for a while. Currently his household consists of two carers who maintain consistency and allow respite for each other. He eats well, has a good appetite, enjoys food and is usually willing to try new foods and drinks.

The current foster carers find caring for David rewarding, as he is fun, loving, affectionate and frequently comical. David enjoys retelling jokes and loves to make adults laugh.

David has four brothers, and keeps in contact with two of them through face to face contact twice a year. He also has face to face contact with his mother twice a year.

David is now ready to move on to a permanent family. The TRP team around him are keen to identify a family who can offer him boundaries and care similar to that offered over the past two years within the TRP, which can then gradually change as he develops. Information, and on going help and support will be offered to any new family identified. The Children and Families Team are willing to consider adoption, special guardianship or long term fostering for David.

If you feel you could offer a long term family for David and would like to discuss this, do telephone his Social Worker or the TRP worker:

Deepinder Gill, Children and Families Social Worker **01322 289343**

Deborah Cumber, Fostering Senior Practitioner and TRP lead **01732 525337**

# Therapeutic Reparenting Fostering

The summer has seen our TRP Foster Carer support workers spending time with the children doing a number of activities in the home and outside. There has been swimming, fishing, feeding the deer and visiting castles.

One activity that we think a number of our children would benefit from is gardening and we are currently looking for a garden that we might be able to get involved in working on.

**Do you have some garden/land that you would be prepared to let us use as a vegetable and flower plot?**

**Do give Amanda a call if you think you can help.**

The TRP continues to be a valued resource and we regularly receive enquiries and referrals from children's' Social Workers.

**This means we continue to need more foster carers.**

Our criteria for carers remain that each TRP family needs to be able to offer the child approximately two years care (it can be longer and is needs led), with consistent care and boundaries.

The TRP child needs to be the youngest child in the foster family by a number of years, and any other children within the foster family need to be settled and mature. This allows the TRP child to be the focus of the adults and to be treated as a much younger child.

Carers, Social Workers and other adults /agencies involved in the child's care attend monthly Network Meetings, alongside a clinical psychologist or psychiatrist. These meetings create time to think about, and plan for, the child; to begin understand them and the coping strategies they have developed.....and to then work together and begin to change these and to give a more positive experience.

It is essential that if there are two carers, that if one works outside of fostering, the are able to attend at least 50% of the monthly network meetings and monthly carers meetings.

We realise that not all fostering families can meet our criteria but hope that as families change and grow, it might be something that some of you foster carers out there feel you can now do or that you will be interested in joining in the future.

**If there is anything you would like to know about the TRP then do call us to ask.**

**If you want to know more about the TRP do please contact your Fostering worker or the TRP lead in you fostering team:**

Mid-Kent	Sonja Van-Rooyen	01233 898634
West Kent	Deborah Cumber	01732 525337
East Kent One	Bobbie Thomas	01227 598573
East Kent Two	Marge Wiltcher	01843 570003
TRP Supervisor	Amanda Byatt	01732 525342

## Training & Development

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) have now launched an on-line version of the workbook for foster carers to complete(<http://fcworkbook.cwdcouncil.org.uk/> . You will need to put in a user name and password and will then be able to complete your workbook on-line and notify your fostering worker of your progress. To help carers complete the workbooks there will also be the further development of local groups across the fostering teams so please contact your worker for more details.

### Training Courses

We have now agreed to run some further **Benefits** Workshops for foster carers and the times have been extended to 10-1pm following feedback from participants. There are also a series of **Self Harm** workshops running over the next few months and we are planning some training on **Fostering Adolescents** which should be confirmed shortly. Workshops on foster carers **Supervising Contact** are also planned for the New Year and will include issues such as risk assessment, sharing information and recording. Alongside the Fostering Social Work Assistants for Education and the LAC advisors for education, we will also be running workshops for carers looking after older children and young people to help promote their learning and highlighting some of the recent education reforms.

The 2009/10 cohort of carers have just began their NVQs as West Kent and South Kent College and we look forward to seeing their progress over the coming year.

### Black History Month

Black History Month is being celebrated throughout October with a series of events and activities being held across the county (and nationally).

**There is a pdf of the programme of events booklet on the events page of our Kent Trust Web**

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/children/carers\\_events.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/children/carers_events.cfm)

**Pritpal Sodhi**  
**Training and Development Manager**  
**Fostering and Adoption**  
**Kent County Council**  
**01732 525466**

# Recruitment

## Fostering & Adoption Information Stand at Tunbridge Wells Mela, Calverley Grounds on Sunday 19th July 09.



Our  
Information  
Stand

Thank you to the members of the West Kent Fostering Team, Fiona Reynolds, Janet Mitchell, Jackey Lorimer, Marina Lewis, Deborah Cumber & Val Hodgson who were on hand to give out information about fostering, along with foster carer Pam Mackie, on what was a very blustery day.

## Fostering & Adoption Information Stand at Gravesham Big Day Out Riverside Leisure Area, Saturday 4th July.

Thank you to the members of the West Kent Fostering Team, who hosted the information stand,

Sue Roberts-Hughes,  
Ranjit Kang,  
Lyn Lutchford,  
Teresa Lane,  
Leonie Chapman,  
along with foster carers  
Sharon Watson,  
Christine Benocci,  
Sue Worsfold  
and Carol Freed.



Also thanks to  
Debbie Simmons  
Programme Manager for  
Multi-Dimensional  
Treatment Foster Care.

# Recruitment

## Summer Diversity Day

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August, Caroline, Veronica, Dawn and Jill attended the Diversity Day at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford. There were 15 enquiries within the first hour and a very positive response to the fostering stand. It was quieter in the afternoon but with a request to speak to the local Chinese Community Charity event, the event was positive and hopefully will lead to some new applications.

## MAIDSTONE MELA SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2009

The Fostering Service had an information stand at the Maidstone Mela in Mote Park, Maidstone. There were 26 fostering enquiries and 4 adoption enquiries.

Thank you to foster carers Sarah Twynham, Tom & Janetta Sams, Saffron Thompson who volunteered to help at this event.

The Fostering Service will be having an information stand at the Swale—A Celebration of Cultures event on Saturday 31st October 10am—4pm in the Wyvern Hall.

If you are able to help out on the information stand, even if its for a short period of time, please contact Chris Clark, Fostering & Adoption Recruitment Co-ordinator on 01233 898572 or via email [chris.clark@kent.gov.uk](mailto:chris.clark@kent.gov.uk).

**Saturday October 31st**  
You are invited to enjoy  
**Swale - A CELEBRATION of Cultures**  
at the **WYVERN HALL**  
Sittingbourne High Street and Library  
**10am-4pm**  
Loads of **FREE** fun for everyone showcasing our diverse cultures  
A full programme of events is at [www.diversityhouse.org.uk](http://www.diversityhouse.org.uk)

Designed by LB Graphics 01793 428119 Printed by Annandale 01793 663661

diversityHOUSE  
SUPPORT. DIGNITY. RESPECT.

Music & Dance from around the world  
Art workshops  
Fashion, Films, & Storytellers

Kent County Council  
Swale Borough Council  
grassroots grants  
SoundArt  
rural youth project  
East Kent African Health Project (EKHP)  
Swale Arts  
V creating a new generation of young volunteers  
Kent Police  
Kent Fire & Rescue Service

## **LONG TERM FOSTER PLACEMENT REQUIRED FOR CHLOE, SOPHIE and EMILY**

Would you be able to offer a long term foster placement to three young girls  
Chloe age 8, Sophie age 6 and Emily age 3, they are all White British.

Are you able to support the girls in having contact 6 times a year  
with their parents and older sister?

The girls initially came in to foster care in September 2007 and the girls returned to Foster Care in February 2009 following a failed rehabilitation care plan and are very settled in their present placement. They get on well and interact well with other children.

Chloe is the most emotionally needy of the siblings, but has responded very well over the last six months to praise and affection. Despite missing a lot of her very early schooling, she is now reading at the expected level for her age and is very enthusiastic and conscientious when it comes to homework.

Sophie is a lively, popular girl and works really hard at school, although she is finding reading quite difficult at the moment.

Emily attends playgroup on five mornings weekly and is doing well socially and developmentally.

All three girls are very active, enjoying cycling, dog walking and playing outside. The two eldest girls enjoy dancing, aerobics, school clubs, and love swimming lessons. Chloe is also keen to join Brownies. All three girls like art and craft activities.

The girls need a warm nurturing environment, where they are the only children. They need to feel that they are able to bring friends home from school, and have someone available to take them to after school clubs. We believe the girls would benefit from a two parent family to ensure that they have positive male/female role models in their lives. They also have the potential to do well academically if given enough support at home as well as at school and therefore need carers who are willing and able to provide this. School for Chloe and Sophie at present is in the Paddock Wood area, this would continue until July 2010. However if the right placement was found, a school move prior to this would be considered. The Court process is now over and the girls need to move onto a permanent placement with carers who may consider special guardianship in the future. The girls will continue to have contact with their birth family six times annually.

If you feel able to meet Chloe, Sophie and Emily's needs  
and are interested in offering them a home,  
please contact:-

**HELEN BURTON on 01892-515045**

connect

with Libraries & Archives

## Free Fun Family Events

Looking for something to do with your children in October? Come along to a free Family Learning event at a library near you. Who knows, you may discover a new talent, or learn a new skill, and you'll get chance to spend time together.



The Family Learning Festival, organised by the Campaign for Learning, is the biggest annual celebration of family learning, and takes place this year between 17-31 October. Kent Libraries will be running a programme of fun events to celebrate the Family Learning Festival. Last year, our programme included a theatre group, yoga bugs, a dinosaur family draw, a dino dig, making books and African drumming

To find out what free family learning events we are running in October this year ask at your local library or check our events diary on [www.kent.gov.uk/lib](http://www.kent.gov.uk/lib)s



Libraries & Archives



## NOTICE BOARD

### Free activities in October school holidays !!!!!

Looking for things to do during the October school holidays?? Look no further, you, your looked after child and your own children can participate in one or more of a variety of activities aimed at encouraging looked after children to engage in creative activities that have been organised across Kent. Activities include street dance, drama, MC'ing, arts & crafts, African dance, drumming, animation workshop, digital media with professional football coaches, and more, so hopefully something for everyone! Some activities will appeal to young people and some are for carers to enjoy too, so take a look and sign up quickly as places are limited! A brochure and an application form will be e-mailed to you shortly outlining all the event details.

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/children/carers\\_events.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/children/carers_events.cfm)

### Christmas Card Competition

We are holding a Children's Christmas Card Competition this year.

Closing date this year is  
**Friday 30th October.**

There will be three age categories for entries 5-7 years 8-11 years 12-16 years  
Here are some design hints and suggestions  
which you will need to bear in mind

Your card needs to be a drawing or a painting. Please keep it simple, whilst glittery and 3D versions look very good individually, these are difficult for the printers to reproduce on mass.

**Make sure your entry is clearly marked with your name, age,  
address and telephone number**

The overall winner will receive a prize and their card design will be used  
for the Fostering Service 2009 Christmas Card and will be distributed all over Kent.  
Entries should be sent by **Friday 30th October 2009**

to Chris Clark, Fostering Recruitment Co-ordinator at  
Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford TN24 8XU

### PLANNED PUBLICATION DATES FOR THE FOSTERING NEWSLETTER

**11th December - Deadline for articles 27th November 2009**

Please send articles to Chris Clark, Fostering Recruitment Co-ordinator  
based at Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford TN24 8XU

01233 898572 - Email: [chris.clark@kent.gov.uk](mailto:chris.clark@kent.gov.uk)