

# Fostering News

August 2008

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter. This is often a time when things slow down for many people but I know this will not be the case for you.

As many of you will be aware we have recently undergone the Annual Inspection, which this year for the first time has been carried out by Ofsted. As always this is a very thorough process and took place over a week in July. At the time of writing we have not yet received the report, but I would like to thank all of you who met with the inspectors and those of you who took the time to speak with them on the telephone, and complete questionnaires. I hope to be able to report on the findings on the News page of the website as soon as I have the report.

You should all by now have received the training calendar for 2008/09, and I would encourage you to book early. I do however need to bring to your attention that from the autumn following discussion with the Advisory Board (county and areas) there will be charge for anyone who fails to attend a course, that they are booked on, if they do not ring to let their admin centre know. We have felt compelled to introduce this as, over the last few years, a number of courses have been filled, but on the day of the course foster carers have not arrived and no one has been informed. Obviously by the very nature of the work you do there will be crisis and events which on occasions at late notice will prevent carers from attending, we only ask that you let us know that you are unable to attend. A charge of £25 will only be made if those booked onto the course do not attend and fail to let us know. This charge will be deducted from your fee.

This issue	Page
Teresa Vickers Reports	1
KFCA	2
Treatment Programme	3
Fostering Fortnight	4 & 5
Mid Kent Reports	6
East Kent 1 Reports	7
West Kent Reports	8 & 9
East Kent 2 Reports	10
Therapeutic Re-parenting Scheme	11, 12, 13 & 14
Training & Development	15, 16, 17 & 18
Kent Success Apprentice	19
Notice Board	20

2008 is the Foster Carer Quality Service Awards & Dinner year, those of you who have taken part before will know that it is an enjoyable evening. We received a record number of nominations for foster carers work this year which was excellent to see, and only serves to show the amazing work that goes on in Kent behind closed doors! This year the dinner will be held on 4th October at the Ashford International Hotel. You will by now have received a letter of invite, please could I ask that you return these to Chris Clark as soon as possible as places are limited.

Along with the invite to the QSA dinner you will note that we are undertaking a survey on the use of the website by foster carers, (you will have noticed that we are sending fewer and fewer mail shots) a special plea to return this so that we can ensure that what is on the site is helpful to you. In order that we can keep our records upto date please can you ensure that your fostering social worker has your email address (and remember to let them know if you change it!!) or you can email Sharon Richards at Sharon.richards@kent.gov.uk just giving your name address and the area you foster for. Have a great Summer and don't forget to return those QSA invites!

**Teresa Vickers—County Manager- Fostering**



## Literacy Clubs

The Ashford Library Club has one more session to go, all the children that have attended the Ashford library once a month for two hours on a Saturday have improved on their literacy and hopefully in the future will use their library card to its full potential.

Well done to all the young people in the Literacy Group and a special thank you to their carer's for their continued support over the past six months. Unfortunately due to the poor attendance (none in some cases) at other venues this will sadly not be continuing.



## The Drama Club

The KFCA Variety Show took place on 28 June 2008 at Lenham Community Centre, it was a resounding success with over 70 LAC family, friends and carers in attendance.

Maria Dobner (EK1) and Danny Chantler (WK) were the organisers on this occasion with lighting and sound decks being donated by Danny's brother. Thanks also goes to Yvonne Watson (WK) for her time and effort over the past months and to all those that assisted backstage on the production night to help make the show such a success.

Bob Davidson from EK1 fostering donated 4 raffle prizes which manage to raise £91 of which included selling show programmes, £280 was raised from entrance tickets, the refreshments broke even at £47.



**Danny Chantler, Maria Dobner & Chris Basden**

The total raised was £346 however because the venue costs alone including one rehearsal came to £260 we feel that we must find a cheaper venue for next year. Maria and Yvonne have donated not only their time but financially also to help give KCC foster children this experience.

All those that took part in this years drama club were invited to an After Show Party at the, Minster Methodist Church Hall, High View Road, Sheppey, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. This is also the venue and time that the Sheppey drama club meet up each week. Anyone interested in taking part in the drama club can contact Maria through your fostering officer for more details. Offers of help is also very much appreciated.

Talking of next year, most of the children that attended this year in the EK1 and WK areas wish the drama club to continue; planning for next years show will be discussed over the coming weeks, the details will be published soon after.

***Congratulations and well done to the cast of KFCA Variety Show 2008***

## ***A big thank you to Mid-Kent***

The KFCA would like to thank Mid-Kent support group for their help and support by holding regular raffles of store cupboard items with the proceeds being donated to the KFCA.

**Gary Dobner KFCA Secretary**

## Email Contact

Chair: Cathy Godwin - CGood666@aol.com Secretary: Gary Dobner - secretary@kfca.org.uk

Time seems to have flown by since the last newsletter, perhaps because in that time we have moved out of our base at The Manor House in Ashford and into new temporary accommodation at Brockman Family Centre.

Our temporary address is as follows:

Treatment Foster Care Kent Brockman Family Centre  
Cheriton High Street Folkestone Kent CT18 8AN

Telephone no: 01303 273414

Fax: 01303 278443



We had a lovely "last supper" where your young people, foster carers and staff team joined together to say goodbye to our lovely home of 4 years.

Our young people were beautifully behaved and we were immensely proud of them and awarded them extra bonus points towards their rewards.

As with any move we had our fair share of horror stories and our telephone lines were not actually connected to the outside world for what seemed like an age. We had packing cases all over the place and as with all new homes there never seems to be as much storage as you first thought.

Our goldfish have had to go into fish foster care but we have had our first contact visit and they seem to be bearing up well. They seem to be enjoying having regular feeds, so we must remember not to neglect them when they return to our care.

Our young people have enjoyed some good trips out over the Easter break including Chessington and Go Ape at Leeds Castle.



## *What else have they been up to?*

Chris sang at his end of term school concert and had us all in tears...because he was so good. Connor was awarded an Outstanding Award for his performance in Challenger troop. Anthony met with his brothers for the first time in many years and enjoyed a great day with them.

Tammy continues to do well at school and is studying hard for her GCSE's ...Good luck. Ruth is continuing to do well at college and has a new flat to move into shortly. Jamie received a lovely certificate for winning a swimming gala. Jade is to attend a special ceremony for achieving her gold ASDAN award.

We have recruited 2 new sets of carers for our programme who are due to go to panel shortly, they attended our specialist Treatment Foster Care training delivered with assistance from our MTFK England National Team link consultant and it was a very successful two days for all concerned. We are always on the look out for more Treatment foster carers so if you or your family know anyone who might be interested feel free to contact us for a chat.

# FOSTERING FORTNIGHT

## 12th - 25th MAY 2008



**Sylvia McKean  
at Herne Bay**

Thank you to Sylvia McKean, who arranged for us to have a display at Herne Bay library and organised a supply of appropriate books about fostering and adoption, that were taken out on loan during Fostering Fortnight.

There were also displays at the libraries in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Maidstone, Sittingbourne, Sheerness & Tonbridge.

Thank you to Carol Cooper, Link Organiser for her help with setting up the displays and also Nicola Anthony and Tracy Boroughs for their help in dismantling some of the library displays.



**Display at Sittingbourne library**



Here's a photo of the display we had during Fostering Fortnight at Invicta House in Maidstone. Many thanks to Carol Cooper for her help in setting this up after a hard day at the Pavillion Shopping Centre in Tonbridge.

And thank you to Sharon Richards who managed to dismantled the stand, with help from a colleague at Invicta House.

I could not get there, to help, due to Operation Stack!!

The Fostering Team's held Information Sessions at four venues around the county, that attracted a varying number of people who wanted to find out about fostering with KCC.

The Information Sessions gave them the opportunity to speak with social workers and foster carers.

There are more Information Sessions planned, the next one will be on Tuesday 23rd September at Tunbridge Wells Family Support Centre, 39a Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1SD - 7pm - 8.30pm.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in attending the Information Session, please ask them to take a look at [www.kentfostering.com](http://www.kentfostering.com) or ring the Initial Enquiries Team on 0845 330 2968, who will be able to give them more details.

# FOSTERING FORTNIGHT

## 12th - 25th MAY 2008

Leading up to Fostering Fortnight, the Fostering Service had adverts in local newspapers to promote the need for more KCC foster carers.

With help from foster carers, during Fostering Fortnight, we had Information Stands at various venues around the county. Between us, we blew up nearly 400 balloons and spoke to 170 people who expressed an interest in fostering, adoption and the Link Scheme.

As usual I had the camera with me, here are some photos of the foster carers who helped out...



EK2 Foster Carers at Tesco Extra, Broadstairs - Tesco's are not the only service - Open 24hrs!!



MK Foster Carers at County Square, Ashford



WK Foster Carers at the Pavillion Shopping Centre Tonbridge



EK 1 Foster Carers at Sainsbury's in Sittingbourne



*Thank you to all the staff and foster carers who were able to help out at the information stands.*



We had an Information Stand at the Kent Messenger Social Care Expo on Wednesday 18th June. Thank you for the help of fostering and adoption staff and foster carers, Nicki Bailey and Tony Isteed.

Between us, throughout the day, we spoke with 36 people who were interested in fostering, 2 people who were interested in adoption, 5 people who were interested in the Link Scheme, and gave 15 people careers advice!

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

We had our first Information Evening last month which went well. Sharon Richards from the Gateway team was there along with Chris Clark our recruitment co-ordinator. Melanie Spencer was there from the team along with Mike and myself who undertook the presentation.

Our special thanks goes to Wendy Greenway who was also there to talk about her experiences as a foster carer. These evenings will be held each month in one of the fostering areas throughout the year and new applicants will be able to attend any of them.

This coming September we shall be having a stand at the Maidstone Mela at Mote Park which will be held on Sunday 14th September. If you have a spare hour or two, then we would love to see you to lend your support. Please contact Chris Clark, on 01233 898572, to let her know when you would be able to help out.

We also had a stand at the Detling Expo which also went very well. I want to thank our foster carers Nicki Bailey and Tony Isted for helping out on the day.

When I first heard of the CWDC standards and attended the dissemination at Lenham, I probably felt the same as many carers – **“Not another load of paperwork”**. However, after consideration, a couple of points that were raised remained in the back of my mind. Firstly, the fact that all carers, regardless as to their academic ability would be required to complete the workbooks and secondly that the standards were just that – basic standards that each and every one of us work towards.

I spent some time on the CWDC website and in discussion with my fostering officer over how carers could complete the standards and evidence criteria in a positive way but with minimum disruption. Although, those carers that have completed their NVQ can cross reference some ‘Standards’ against their NVQ units, and those who have attended the Induction training and other courses in line with their PDP would also be able to cross reference a lot of evidence of knowledge – there were bound to be gaps and foster carers who easily meet the standards but have not undertaken much in the way of academic training would need to find other ways of evidencing.

We decided then that the questions in the workbooks were certainly designed to cover and evidence the requirements of each standard. This is when I suggested that our local carers group might like to either use part of our monthly meetings or even hold additional workshops and work through the standards and questions together. With a fostering social worker in attendance, rapidly taking notes and minutes of the workshops we have been able to hold a workshop for each standard.

I typed out the questions in preparation of the workshops and spent a bit of time sourcing further evidence (most of which I copied from the Foster Carers Manual available online at: - [www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/carers\\_home.cfm](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/carers_home.cfm)). We are now all on our final workshop and have completed the questions together, supporting one another with our ideas and sharing of knowledge. I have to say that YES, my initial thought was right it was another paperwork, form filling exercise BUT it was also achieved with relative ease and dare I say a bit of FUN on the way. The workshops were great and I am sure we all benefited from them and certainly turned them into a positive experience.

**Mid Kent Fostering Team  
Welcomes New Carers**

**Lynne and Nicholas Brooks**

**Please look out for them  
at the support group  
and training courses**

Having just completed my Workbook I am now helping to facilitate workshops in other areas and hope that others will enjoy completing the standards and supporting one another as I know the Marsh Group have done. If any other carers feel that maybe a workshop is a good way round completing the standards, please feel free to discuss with your fostering officer or contact me and I would be happy to advise or assist with getting a workshop up and running in your area.

**Tracey Belcher  
Foster Carer – Romney Marsh**

**Congratulations**

to Emma Darling Social Work Assistant  
who married Toby  
on Saturday 21st June

**Welcome**

to Pat Harris who joined the administrative  
team on 7th July.

**Bereavement**

Viv Fox, sadly died on Monday 7th July following a brave battle against throat cancer.  
Our thoughts are with her husband Chris and family.

**Support Groups**

**Sheppey / Swale Support Group**

We all meet on the first Tuesday of every month except for August which is when most people are busy with holidays. All foster carers on the Isle of Sheppey, Sittingbourne and Swale are invited to attend and we meet from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The purpose of the group is to enable foster carers and fostering social workers and their assistants to have the opportunity to give you any of the latest changes or developments in practice. Also it gives you the opportunity to have a question and answer time on issues that are burning for you. It is also meant to enable all foster carers new and established to network which is part of your role in developing relationships which may be able you and others to offer support in a crises. It is much better to have a FACE TO A NAME!.

New carers especially find it helpful as they need to build their networks fairly rapidly and that is where the role of those who have been in the job for a long while comes in very useful.

We plan to get more speakers in to talk to you about relevant issues that you would find helpful and we need your help in identifying them. To start the ball rolling, on the 1st July we had speakers from UPFRONT who some of you may know is an organisation which provides support and advocacy to children in care. They gave us information m as to what in practice they are able to offer both the children and the foster carers.

**Canterbury Area Support Group**

is held at St Andrew's Church, Grimshill Road, Whitstable. Your fostering worker will be able to give you details of the dates and times.

Please ensure you attend our meetings which, you probably know already, is added to your Annual Review as it part of the expectation that you will attend along with training.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**East Kent 1 Fostering Team  
Welcomes New Carers**

**Hayley & David Martin**

**Please look out for them  
at the support group  
and training courses**

Goodbye and Thank you to

Chris and Richard Gower  
Gaye and Terry Rawson  
Daryl and David Purnell

who have retired from fostering  
with Kent County Council

Hi everyone,

I am pleased to inform you that we had a number of people attend the information evenings held on 20<sup>th</sup> May and have had subsequent applications. The next 2 information evening will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 08 at Tunbridge Wells Family Centre, and 17<sup>th</sup> February 09 at Kings Hill Community Centre to carers. I do hope that you inform anybody who has an interest of the dates. I would like to remind carers that Kent have a Bounty payment scheme which offers existing carers a payment of £250 once introduced applicants are approved at Panel.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all carers that if they require respite care over the holiday period that requests are made with plenty of notice so we can ensure children have appropriate introductions and plans. hope you are all enjoying the summer weather and we will have a good summer.



**West Kent Fostering & Adoption Staff  
at the Race for Life**

As can be seen a number of the West Kent Fostering and Adoption Teams took part in the Race for Life held at Whitbread Hop Farm on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008.

It was a lovely evening enjoyed by all, there were some who participated at the pace of the hare, and a number who took the more leisurely approach of the tortoise. A substantial amount of money was raised particular mention to Jackey Lorimer who raised £500.

**West Kent Fostering Team  
Welcomes New Carers**

**Chris & Alex Benocci  
Lisa & Andrew Pitcher**

**Please look out for them at the support  
group & training courses**

**Congratulations**  
to Jenny Finch

Education Social Work Assistant who  
has successfully completed her NVQ  
Level 3.

*Well Done!*

With summer holidays coming up soon, most councils are offering activities and playschemes and if you haven't managed to pick up leaflets you may find some of these sites useful:

[www.sencio.org.uk/holidayactivities.asp](http://www.sencio.org.uk/holidayactivities.asp) - for activities in the Sevenoaks and Swanley areas

[www.gravesham.gov.uk](http://www.gravesham.gov.uk) - for activities in the Gravesend area

[Daisy.Partridge@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:Daisy.Partridge@tmbc.gov.uk) for the Tonbridge area and

[www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/) for Tunbridge Wells

[www.dartford.gov.uk/summersizzlers](http://www.dartford.gov.uk/summersizzlers) for Dartford

**Jenny Finch**  
**Education Social Work Assistant**

**Farewell** to Ken & Val Chambers.

They have retired after 32 years of fostering for Kent. It was good to see so many people attend this event.



**Goodbye and Thank you to**

Judith & Andrew Brett  
Sheila & Keith Greenwood

who have fostered for  
Kent County Council for many years

**Bereavement**

Sigrid Blowers (Foster Carer)  
Who died on 19th April after  
a long illness.

Our thoughts are with  
Graham and his family.

**Sue Roberts Hughes**  
**Team Leader West Kent Fostering Team**

## A visit to Wingham Bird Park 18<sup>th</sup> May 08

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves when they visited Wingham Bird Park on Sunday the 18th May. We "went in convey", 10 of us all together. We went into the butterfly house first and James let a chicken in by accident - have you ever tried to catch a chicken? Well, after 10 minutes and all of us exhausted we left it in there.



We moved on to the wallabies, then the bit you go through with the double gates. I had the pram with the bird food on top - "big mistake". A lovely looking bambi came over and we all said "ahhhh, look" and with that it nicked all the food and legged it! The kids thought it was so funny, then they got upset so...we bought some more!



We had lunch and wondered if the chicken was still in the butterfly house? (We still laugh about that). We then went into the reptile house and listened to the talk on snakes, lizards and spiders, it was really interesting. I held the tarantula and a lizard, and I felt I was being very brave!

At the end we had a lovely time in the play park, with an ice cream of course. I met a lot of carers that I hadn't seen in a while and caught up on some news and gossip. We went through the gift shop to go home, but I wasn't quick enough, so now I'm the proud owner of more rubber snakes, spiders and a sheep for my lawn!

A very nice day was had by all, see you again soon 'sometime'.

**Sue Skinner XXX**

*p.s. Is it just me, or is anyone else still finding bird seed in there handbag and coat pocket ?*

### THANK YOU

The EK2 fostering team would like to express their thanks to Tony and Jackie Binskin who very kindly offered foster carers a special reduced entrance rate to Wingham Bird Park on 18th May, during Fostering Fortnight.

All those who attended really enjoyed the day and a great time was had by all, thanks again to Tony and Jackie.

**East Kent 2 Fostering Team  
Welcomes New Carers**

**Phillipa Butterwick & Claire Morgan  
Sue & Barry Blaney  
Sue & Peter Hollingworth  
Steve & Rebecca Mitchell  
John & Freda Slade**

**Please look out for them  
at the support group  
and training courses**

# The Therapeutic Reparenting Programme (TRP) - a different kind of fostering

News letters seem to come round very quickly when you have to write a page or two of news and information for them each time, so it was great that just at the time I needed to get typing once more I had the opportunity to attend one of the TRP Carers meetings in Mid and West Kent....It was a really pleasure to hear from everyone how their child in placement is progressing – thank you for sharing the joy, the progress and the hard work you are all putting in to caring for the children and in to being key members of the TRP team of Education, Health, Psychology and Social Work staff working around each child.

We will be welcoming a new child in to a TRP placement over the summer, Tracey Burroughs has worked hard to make sure the carers, and the Social workers, and people from education and health have had the opportunity to meet, share information and plan before the start of the summer holidays – well done everyone !!

**We continue to need more TRP carers, and carers who can offer respite**, so if you would like to discuss becoming a TRP carer now or in the future, do please talk to your fostering worker, they could also arrange for the TRP worker in your fostering team or a TRP carer to have a chat with you.

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

Mid-Kent	Melanie Spencer	01233 898634
West Kent	Deborah Cumber	01732 525324
East Kent One	Tracy Burroughs	01227 598573
East Kent Two	Elaine Thomas	01843 570003

Amanda Byatt 01732 525342  
Call if you have any questions

One of the children with in the TRP has recently moved on to a long term foster family. This family worked closely with the TRP carers, and the TRP team to prepare the child and themselves for the move. The TRP team remain available to them and network meetings will continue for a while to support the transition.

Again **we do need to identify more long term carers for children as they graduate from the TRP**. If you are interested in long term care, talk to your fostering worker, we would be happy to arrange for you to hear more. I am hoping that I can include a small article from one of the long term families on this page in the future to give you a flavour of the work they do and how they feel the TRP has supported them.

There are profiles of two children in this news letter who we are currently seeking long term families for.

# The Therapeutic Reparenting Programme (TRP) - a different kind of fostering

## Could you be the Long Term Foster Family?

**We are seeking for a 12 year old boy who needs to move from his TRP carers**

Jason is 12 years old white British, of traveller decent, medium build and a handsome young boy. Jason has dark brown hair, hazel-brown eyes and a healthy complexion. Slightly short-sighted he wears glasses for reading. He is physically fit and healthy. Jason's history is one of careless and neglectful care, parental alcohol abuse, conflict and violence. He also sustained some harm.

Currently placed with in the Therapeutic Re- Parenting Programme Jason has lived with his carers for four years. He is beginning to feel more able to express his emotions and is able to reflect about some of his experiences. At home his behaviour is very good; he is polite and very helpful. He can be quite clingy to his foster mother, but also has good relationships with his foster father and other children. He can show affection appropriately and generally engages well with all foster family members. Like many children who have attachment problems, he can sometimes try to control situations and this can cause difficulties in his maintaining peer relationships.

An academically bright child, he is achieving in his secondary school. He is able to work well in class situations, but does occasionally struggle to focus his attention on task. He is in the 'Gifted and Talented Group' for English and demonstrates an aptitude for art, construction and science-related subjects. He attends after- school clubs for science and technology. However he does not like school, mainly because of his difficulty in making friends.

Jason continues to remain more confident with 1:1 activities and small group situations although his social skills are improving. During the school holidays, he attends play schemes and is able to engage reasonable well. It is anticipated that his friendship will develop alongside his emotional development.

Model-making and drawing (particularly technical drawing) are two of his favourite pastimes. Jason is very interested in aeroplanes, cars, trains and mechanical engineering. Other interests include watching cartoons such as The Simpsons, Japanese Anime cartoons and factual documentaries. Jason particularly likes the National Geographic Channel and has said one of his favourite programmes is Air Crash Investigators. He enjoys playing on his personal computer and Nintendo DS. Jason likes swimming trampolining, and follows Chelsea FC.

Those involved in his care will need to be sensitive and responsive to his level of need. Foster carers should be aware of the needs of children with attachment issues. Therapeutic work is likely to involve forming and maintaining positive and trusting relationships to promote his trust and provide a forum to speak about his experience. Life Story Work has recently begun. It will be important to provide support to him and his carers as he begins to give accounts of his life and develop his emotional vocabulary. He will need more of the sensitive and containing care that he has already received, and time to reflect and be heard and understood.

Jason would benefit from a firm, yet nurturing female carer and also a strong male care with interests similar to his own. Jason gets on well with female foster siblings, but is occasionally intolerant of male peers, so thought would need to be given to the age and numbers of other children within the family. There is no parental contact, but he has contact with his brother and sister, who have been adopted.

**If you would like to know more about Jason,  
please contact the Initial Enquiries Team on 0845 330 2968**

# **The Therapeutic Reparenting Programme (TRP)**

## **- a different kind of fostering**

### **Susan Aged 8 years**

Susan is a chatty and bubbly little girl with a friendly disposition. She is of average height and build with lovely long wavy brown hair. Susan enjoys playing imaginative games particularly with her dolls, being read to, and baking cakes. Susan is very tactile and enjoys a high level of physical contact. Susan really enjoys one-to-one attention from adults, she likes to think she is in charge but this needs careful management.

Susan eats and sleeps well generally but is an early riser and likes everyone else to get up with her! Susan's self-care skills are appropriate for her age.

Susan has been awarded a statement of special educational needs and attends a special school for children with learning and behavioural difficulties. She appears to thrive in small group settings with a high staff ratio.

Susan has suffered emotional and physical harm whilst living with her birth family, initially with her mother and then with her maternal grandparents. This has left her with a mix of strong feelings which she is only just learning to manage. These include high levels of arousal due to her anxiety and feelings of unfairness. She remains reliant on her carers to offer reassurance and anticipate her needs in most situations

Susan is currently part of the Therapeutic Re parenting Programme and has been with her current carers for nearly two years. The Therapeutic Re parenting Programme will support her transition in to her new family by welcoming the carers in to the regular network meetings before placement to share information and help them get to know the child. These meeting will then continue for awhile once she is placed in her new family.

- Ethnic origin: White/British.
- Legal Status: Care Order
- Family needed: A two parent family who can meet Susan's emotional needs and where she will be the youngest or only child. Or a single parent with a strong support network. Her carer (s) will need resilience, a great deal of patience, psychological strength, knowledge and understanding of Susan's needs to be able to support her to manage her feelings.
- Susan needs long-term stability. An adoptive family or Long-term foster carers are required.
- Contact: Indirect contact by letterbox for Susan with her birth parents and maternal grandparents.

Once yearly direct contact with her younger brother. Susan does not have contact with her half sister who has been adopted. Susan has a half-sister who lives with her father. They do not have contact.

**If you would like to know more about Susan,  
please contact the Initial Enquiries Team on 0845 330 2968**

# The Therapeutic Reparenting Programme (TRP) - a different kind of fostering

It was great to receive a contribution to this newsletter from a Head Teacher who is very much involved in working with the TRP and to hear how she and her school staff feel. Thank you Mel in Mid Kent Fostering for organising this.

*In support of TRP*

*As a Headteacher of a large Primary School, it was with some trepidation that I took a call from Social Services late in July 2006 ~ in fact it was the last day of the summer term. I was right to be wary as it transpired from the call that they were trying to find a school for a child going into Year 3 who was in the Therapeutic Re-parenting (TRP) scheme. At this time I had never heard of the TRP, but after a short conversation I became aware that this was a child in need and as I believe that every child really does matter, I agreed to meet with the social worker and discuss the possibility of us being able to take this particular child on.*

*In the holidays I met with the social workers, foster carers and the child, I spoke to the potential teacher and agreed in principle to take the child into our school. I then had 4 weeks to find a TA who could work on a one to one basis with the child and find out as much as I could about the support we would need to give and that we would be given.*

*The child began being phased in gradually in September 2006, the TA learned quickly and on the job. The teacher keeps a close eye on the way things are progressing and I go along to the TRP meetings with the TA, Social Services, a counsellor, the foster family and various agencies as and when required. Every child in TRP has different needs, but as a school we feel well supported and well listened to. The LAC reviews take place in school as do the PEP reviews and the statement reviews. The TA keeps close contact with the family via email, and the class teachers, TA and I all share experiences and help one another along.*

*We still have the child in school nearly two years on and all in all I would say that having a child on the TRP scheme has enhanced the provision we make for every child, it has been an increase in work load for us, but when you see the child blossom, develop and progress it is a rewarding experience and I would recommend it to any school that has a caring and supportive ethos and that does believe that every child really does matter.*

**Jennie King,  
Headteacher  
East Borough Primary school,  
Maidstone**

## Personal Development Plans

*Have you completed your Personal Development Plan recently?*

Your Personal Development Plan should be completed annually by all carers and highlight your individual learning and development needs over the next 12 months. It is also a requirement of the Children's Workforce Development Council Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care.

**Togogo**

## Positive Activities for Young People in Kent

**www.togogo.info** is a new website designed to encourage Kent's 13-19 year olds to take part in a wide range of activities across the county. It has been released now to give young people the opportunity to feedback on it and tell the Kent Youth Service what they like and don't like about it. The information will be used to identify and prioritise changes and additions young people would like to see made as part of subsequent development phases.

**Togogo** offers young people a quick and easy way to find out about positive activities and opportunities that are available to them in their local area.

Kent Youth Service hopes that this directory will encourage young people to participate in new and rewarding activities, making more friends and discovering new skills along the way.

Users will find information on anything from festivals and gigs to business and enterprise, and arts and drama to sports and games. There's a simple feedback form on the website as well, which we're really encouraging young people to use to let us know what they think.

**<http://www.togogo.info/>**

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

# Training & Development

## Training Administrator Contact Details

Training is co-ordinated on a centralised basis, and each Fostering Team has a local Training Administrator (details listed below).

Central Training Co-ordination	<i>Sue Douglas</i> Training & Development Senior Admin Officer	01732 525344	17 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4UL
West Kent	<i>Stella Brown</i> Training Administrator	01732 525322	17 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4UL
East Kent 2	<i>Barbara Bailey</i> Training Administrator	01843 570003	Aberdeen House 68 Ellington Road Ramsgate CT11 9ST
East Kent 1	<i>Melanie D'Ardenne</i> Training Administrator <i>Lynn Sharp</i> Training Administrator	01227 598574  01227 598591	Brook House Reeves Way, John Wilson Bus Park, Chesterfield Whitstable, CT5 3SS
Mid Kent	<i>Gladys Lopato</i> Training Administrator	01233 898635	Kroner House Eurogate Business Park Ashford TN24 8XU

If they are not available, please contact your Fostering Worker or another member of the fostering administration team in your local office

## New to Your Library for 2008

*You can borrow and return books easily by using the form in your training manual.*

Also new to the library this year why not try our new board game Jargon  
- a board game designed to spell out the facts!

Our new books include:



- Working with black young people
- Kids need...parenting cards for families and the people who work with them
- Self-Esteem Games for Children
- What works for parents with learning disabilities
- Understanding Attachments and Attachment Disorder
- Living Alongside a Child's Recovery
- A Child's Journey to recovery
- Reaching the Vulnerable Child
- See You in Court
- The Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome
- Drug Addiction and Families
- What works in Building Resilience
- Caring for myself
- Malpas the Dragon
- The Child's Own Story
- Direct Work - social work with children and young people in care
- Taking about adoption to your adopted child
- Disability and Impairment
- Nurturing Attachments
- Understanding Looked After Children
- Parents' Anger Management
- Health of LAC and Young People
- Secret Lives: growing with substance (working with children and young people affected by familial substance misuse)
- Managing Contact
- Helping children to Build Self-Esteem
- Helping Adolescents and Adults to Build Self-Esteem
- Safer Caring - A training programme

There are many ways to increase your knowledge, one of which is reading books and watching some of the DVD's from the Fostering Resources Library. K & T Taylor, EK1 Foster Carers have written some reviews of books they have recently read.

*All of the books, although read before in my previous work, have been revisited in becoming a foster carer as it became apparent very early on that many of the children we have come to know through our role, had missed out on vital stages of development, and we suspect had been unable to access stimulation through play, particularly during their early years.*

### **'Play Helps – Toys and activities for children with special needs' – Roma Lear**

This book is source- style and although aimed at those children with special needs, could easily benefit all children. The book organises ideas to fit the five senses, and offers affordable solutions to holding or capturing the children's interest.

### **'How Children Learn' – John Holt**

This book encourages readers to see learning as important as breathing and eating. It offers practical ideas such as games or experiments, and discusses how resistance to learning can be overcome with patience and imagination. Above all, John Holt's writing is very much 'child-centred' and allows for discussion on 'do children need to be made to learn, told what to learn etc?'

### **'The Drama of being a child' – Alice Miller**

This book looks at the causes and effects of trauma and abuse in the early years. It discusses the physical and psychological damage that can occur in children. She looks at such matters as depression in the mother and how this can impact on the well-being of the child or infant.

### **'Attachment, Trauma and Resilience' – Kate Cairns**

A wonderfully written book that was easy to read and yet informative at the same time. She introduces the reader to scenarios of family life that involve both birth children, carers and those being 'looked after'. She gives useful ideas on what can be done to help aid the recovery and development of those children we take care of.

### **'A Child's Journey through Placement' – Vera L. Fahlberg MD**

This book is more like a manual giving comprehensive information on such matters as grief, loss, separation, child development, behaviour challenges etc. It introduced me to Attachment theory and the work of Bowlby. It gave me a better understanding of the work social workers and carers alike need to be committed to, in order to support the young people that we come into contact with.

**K. AND T. TAYLOR**

## **Do you know a young person who would like the opportunity to work in KCC whilst gaining qualifications and earning money?**

KEY Training Services, part of Kent County Council, are looking for motivated, enthusiastic young people to join KCC's innovative Kent Success Apprentice Programme.

Apprentices can start at any time of the year, and the programme will take between 9 and 15 months to complete, dependant on individual needs.

Vacancies are available county wide, in a range of departments.

All apprentices can expect a salary of £80 per week, working 37 hours per week.

A place on Kent Success is dependent on vacancies being available in your area, assessment and interview.

For more information about the Kent Success Apprentice Programme or to apply for the scheme visit

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/jobs/work-placements/kent-success-apprenticeships.htm>

or contact KEY Training Services on 0800 7314297  
or email [keytrainingservices@kent.gov.uk](mailto:keytrainingservices@kent.gov.uk)

Alternatively contact Sarah Moore, Marketing Development Advisor  
at KEY Training Services on 07740 183820.

## PLANNED PUBLICATION DATES FOR THE FOSTERING NEWSLETTER

25th OCTOBER

**Deadline for articles 30th September**

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)

The Fostering Newsletter will be available *to access on the  
Adoptive Parents and Foster Carer Clusterweb* pages  
and can be found on the News and Events page :

[http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/carers\\_home.cfm](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/carers_home.cfm)

If you need to locate our pages from the ClusterWeb homepage:

- click on the heading "Children's Services and Trust Arrangements" on the top menu bar
- when the Children's Services homepage appears
- click on "Adoptive Parents and Foster Carers" from the menu on the left hand side

Otherwise, simply type in [www.clusterweb.org.uk?parents&carers](http://www.clusterweb.org.uk?parents&carers) into the address bar of your browser.

If you have any problems or need help or advice please e-mail me at

[fostering@kent.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@kent.gov.uk) or contact Sharon Richards on 01732 525345

and we will try to assist.