



Fostering News July 2009

I hope that by sending a link to the newsletter to you all that you have found it easier to access the newsletter and all the very pertinent and valuable information that is held "on line" Some of you have said that you have found it difficult to find the foster carer manual on line so I have also added a link to manual as well as policies and guidance. you will also find a link /web address in this newsletter. A reminder to you all that you should look on line every week for any new information or changes to ensure you stay up to date with the world of foster care.

Kent has got talent!!..... Did you attend the KFCA Drama groups production on 20th June? If you didn't then you certainly missed a treat. The Lemonade Kidd Production was exceptional, and all of the young people who took part put on a really superb production. This was followed by a show case that was of an exceptional standard, singing, dancing and poetry. It was really an evening to be proud of.

I would particularly like to thank Maria & Gary Dobner, Cathy Goodwin and Yvonne Watson. They have worked with children in foster care and foster carers children for the last 10 months to bring this show together at Lenham Community Centre - terrific evening. Without a doubt all of the young people involved enjoyed their time on stage and were well applauded for their hard work confidence and talent.

I would also like to recognise and thank all the young people who worked backstage and "front of house" particularly Danny, James and Charlie. It was a really professional production.

It would be fantastic if a few more foster carers could encourage the young people they look after to be part of this Drama / talent group. There is no doubt that this is a great opportunity for young people to showcase their talents, grow in confidence and have enormous fun... Why not contact Maria Dobner or Yvonne Watson to find out more about when and where this group meets.....AND GET INVOLVED.

Table with 2 columns: Contents, Page. Rows include Teresa Vickers Reports (1 & 2), Policy & Performance Health Passport for Kent Looked After Children (3), Welcome to New Carers (4), West Kent Reports (5, 6 & 7), Long Term Placements Required (8), East Kent 2 Reports (9), Mid Kent Reports (10 & 11), Children's Centres in Shepway (12), East Kent 1 Reports (13), Recruitment (14 & 15), Training & Development (16), e-safety for Foster Carers (17 & 18), Quest Seekers (19), Notice Board (20).

Decorative star border containing text: Winners of Winners Quality Service Awards. I am delighted to tell you that the Winner of Winners Quality service awards took place at Oakwood House Maidstone on 1st July. The Gold Winners from the Foster Care QSA were nominated, these included Rini & Ron Upton (EK1), Dave & Pat Courtney (EK2), Jill & Alan Walker (WK) and Teresa & Stuart Griffiths (MK). The Winner of Winners were Rini & Ron Upton. Many Congratulations to them and to all of the carers who were nominated for this award. The Summer holidays are fast approaching so I do hope you all have a good holiday and that the sun continues to shine for you. Teresa Vickers County Manager Fostering

Teresa Vickers Reports

Dental Checks and Health Assessments

In order that accurate records can be kept by LAC nurses/paediatricians, please make sure you take dates for the foster children's dental checks to LAC reviews.

The issue of monitoring and tracking dental checks and health assessments came up at a CSSMT (Children's Social Services Management Team) meeting recently.

We are trying to ensure that foster carers take dates for these to LAC reviews so they can be recorded. Also, that carers take the date of the last dental check with them to health assessments so LAC nurses/paediatricians can record that date on the health assessment.

I understand there is a pro forma that carers use for taking information to LAC reviews. A lot of you do complete it, but not all.

Please can I remind carers that this is very important information and that you should ensure you have this information available in reviews and health assessments.

If you need any further guidance please speak to your Fostering Social Worker.

Moving house is linked to suicidal behaviour in children

2nd June 2009 Daily Telegraph

Moving house is bad for children as a study finds it can be so traumatic and distressing some may consider suicide. A study found that children who had moved house more than three times were more likely to have been suicidal. Losing contact with friends and uprooting them from familiar surroundings, plus the fact that children may feel ignored during the decisions to move, means they are more likely to make a cry for help suicide attempt, the researchers said.

Full News Release

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/5422480/Moving-house-is-linked-to-suicidal-behaviour-in-children.html>

Frequent Change of Residence and Risk of Attempted and Completed Suicide Among Children and Adolescents

<http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/66/6/628>

Teresa Vickers County Manager Fostering

Policy & Performance

Health Passport for Kent Looked After Children

Kent County Council is developing a Health Passport for Kent Looked After Children. This is a way of ensuring that children in care have information about their childhood illnesses such as chicken pox, history of inoculations, hearing and eye tests, allergies and other medical issues recorded in one document. The passport will follow the child as and when they move and we believe this will be a useful reference for children and young people, their parents and carers and for those who are leaving care as independent young adults, in terms of past, current and future health issues.

Maintaining and updating the medical and personal information will be the responsibility of the carer so we would welcome feedback from you regarding the draft document we have developed so far.

The development of this document is also a requirement under the National Minimum Fostering Standard (DOH 2002).

12.4 The carer is provided with a written health record for each child placed in their care; this is updated during the placement and moves with the child. Depending upon age and understanding the child has access to and understands the health record kept by the fostering service.



These are the standards that OFSTED use to inspect fostering services.

The draft Health Passport can be reached via the link below:

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/childrens_carers/Health_Passport - June 09.pdf](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/childrens_carers/Health_Passport_-_June_09.pdf)

Your views are vital so do please take a look and share your views with your Foster Carers Advisory Board Representative (if possible by 15th July 2009) as it will be discussed at a meeting of the board in the near future. You are welcome to also feedback your comments directly to me Afifa.ali@kent.gov.uk by the end of July.

Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Afifa Ali
Performance & Standards Officer - LAC

The Fostering Service Welcomes New Carers

Caroline & Murray Atkinson - WK
Georgina and Paul Bailey - EK2
Mike Barnes - EK1
Michelle Branson - EK1
Katrina and Julian Drake Brockman - MK
Julie & Gary Carter - EK1
Sharon & Soren Clinch - EK1
Melanie and Richard Court - EK2
Tracey Gibbs and Matthew Burford - MK
Lisa & John Creasey - EK1
Sheila and Fred Doody - MK
Angela & Paul Eagles - WK
Gail Hendricks - MK
Wendy & Chris Hogg—WK
Lesley Lingham & Aaron Geiss - WK
Louise Marsh - EK1
Nicola and Lee Marshall - MK
Deborah and Nigel Morley - MK
Liz and Jim Procopi - EK2
Holly Randall - MK
Elisabeth & Roland Sadler - WK
Yvonne & Lee Streatfield - EK1
Franky Taylor - EK1
Denise & David Telford - EK1
Mhairi and Richard Tumber - MK
Jane and Gary Watkinson - MK
Judith Webb - EK2
Nicky and Peter Wilson - EK2
Susan Worsfold - WK

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

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

Hello to All, as you can see we are all set for our Fun Day on 26th August 2009. It is at a new venue and there are lots of new ideas for the day. I do hope you will be able to come. Let's hope for good weather!

Jackey Lorimer has offered to lead the organisation of the day but we are wanting as many carers to support her with ideas via your Support Groups and assist on the day. I understand Jackey is collating all the replies so please send back your reply slips now.

Welcome

Teresa Lane, Senior Practitioner, joined the team in May. Some of you may know her from her work in the disabled Children's Team.

Farewell

Maria Mannio has left on maternity leave. We send her best wishes for the forthcoming event.

Other Events

We are always looking to recruit new foster carers hence we will be having Fostering Information Stands at 2 events in West Kent.

Saturday 4th July 2009 at the Gravesham Community Cohesion Festival

Sunday 19th July 2009 at the Tunbridge Wells Mela

If any carers are willing to assist on the stand please contact Ranjit Kang, otherwise please come along and say 'Hello' to workers/carers on the day.

Sue Roberts-Hughes - West Kent Team Leader



D.D.A.P.S. - Angling Youth Fun Day

30th August 2009 Horton Kirby lakes **09:00 – 15:00**

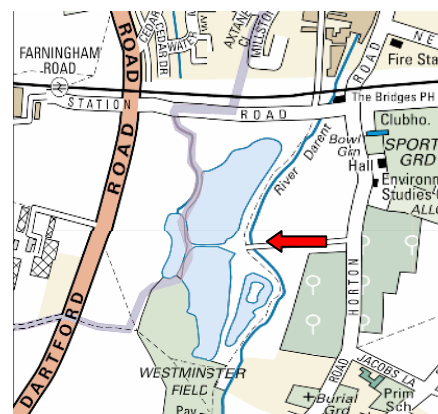
Join in and Fish for free
Professional coaching and
All equipment and bait supplied Free
Free to enter fishing match
All equipment and bait supplied with great Prizes

ALSO

Live angling displays, Kent police, St Johns Ambulance,
Hot refreshments, great games and prizes, tackle displays

+ MUCH MORE

For further details contact Andy on 07505 149 707
9am – 7pm 7 days a week



THE WEST KENT FOSTERING FUN DAY

WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2009

11.00am – 4.00pm

GREATNESS RECREATION GROUNDS
SEVENOAKS, KENT

Inflatable Assault Course

PLUS
FOSTERING HAS
GOT TALENT

and Many More Activities

WILL YOU BE THERE!! NOT TO BE MISSED!

FOSTER CARERS:

Please contact Jackey Lorimer on 01732 525340 or our Admin Team ASAP to say if you are attending, who with, your names and the Children & Young People's names & ages.

Also, your entries for the 'Fostering Has Got Talent' show.



Creativity4Health

KCC is participating in the Creativity 4 health project which is designed to encourage and enable looked after children and young people and their carers to take part in arts and creative activities to encourage physical activity and to improve emotional health and wellbeing.

The intention is to hold at least three events in Kent during the remainder of this year, and the aim is to link in with existing arts projects and facilities within each of the areas. It may be possible to put on more than one in each area, depending on the activities available and the interest expressed by young people and their carers, social workers etc.

The initial planning meeting took place on 17th June at 10am at: Hextable Dance, Egerton Avenue, Hextable, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7LG

If you or the children in your care are interested in taking part in this project, please contact Jenny Finch, Social Work Asst (Education) West Kent Fostering Team on 01732 525017 or e mail at Jennifer.Finch@kent.gov.uk.

Partnership with Parents

The Workshops on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Processes were well attended and appreciated by the carers who felt the clear explanations of SEN processes and Additional Educational Needs helped their understanding of them. The workshops gave information on understanding how schools get extra support, School Action, School Action + and Statutory Action.

Two Playing4Success workshops are planned to take place at The Learning Zone, Ebbsfleet Football Club, Gravesend for children in Yrs 5 and 6 . These will be on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th August.

Sports activities are planned for the morning sessions with Fleet Leisure then children will be transported back to Ebbsfleet for the afternoon computer based fun activities and a tour of the grounds. Final details will be sent out via e mail or mail shot.

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 on the website lac.education@kent.gov.uk

Very Well Done

to **Chay**

who has received complementary tickets from school, to go to Ebsfleet Football Ground.
This was for 100% attendance at school for the past 2 years.

And also to his brother **Gibson** who received a certificate for 100% attendance for 1 year.

LONG TERM FOSTER PLACEMENT REQUIRED FOR SARAH & LISA

Would you be able to offer a long term foster placement to two teenage girls Sarah age 14 and Lisa 11, who are White British and first language is English? Are you able to support the girls in having contact with their mother and younger siblings? The girls are currently subject to interim care orders, to be reviewed in court on 21.09.09.

The girls have been in foster care since 15th April 2008. The girls have got very individual needs. They get on well, but will at times bicker. However, Lisa will tend to be dominant character in the relationship and at times it may be perceived that she is bullying Sarah. Sarah is a very sensitive young lady and because of her own learning needs is not always aware when something is being said to her in jest and can take things very literally.

Both girls enjoy listening to music and dancing. Sarah is keen to play football and enjoys cooking and art and craft activities. Lisa does enjoy in doing art and craft work, but does need to be encouraged, she is a keen scholar and takes pride in her school projects. Sarah and Lisa are both in full time education. However, Sarah is attending a school that meets her educational needs as she has an educational statement. Lisa attends mainstream school.

The girls need a warm nurturing environment, where they feel they are able to bring friends home from school and encourage joining after school clubs. I believe the girls would benefit from a two parent family to ensure that they have a positive male role model.

They have contact once a week with their mother in Dartford. The contact is currently supervised by the Local Authority. The contact takes place on Tuesday after school at 3.30 – 4.45. They have contact on Saturday with their younger two siblings, who are currently in foster care. This is supervised by the foster carers.

Please contact Julie Tobin or Janet Hemsley on 01322 277744

LONG TERM PLACEMENT NEEDED FOR CHARLOTTE

Are you considering a long term placement? We are looking for a long term foster family for Charlotte. The Court process is now over and Charlotte needs to move from her bridging foster placement.

Charlotte is a bright, animated, enquiring white British 9 year old girl. She can be affectionate, polite and helpful and likes to have a laugh and a joke.

At school Charlotte can be loud and argumentative. She can display attention seeking behaviours in class and has problems with her peer relationships. School have been able to manage her behaviour without exclusions. Although rarely in school before coming into care, she has made good academic progress. She is especially good at science. Her attention seeking behaviours can also manifest themselves at home when she seeks adult attention, however she has responded very well to the firm boundaries in her present foster home. She hasn't always got on well with the present carers 10 year old son.

School for Charlotte at present is in the Deal area. Ideally this would continue until July 2010 when she moves to senior school, however if the right placement were found a school move in September 2009 would be considered.

Life story work will take place when Charlotte is settled and 1 to 1 social work will be made available for the transition to a new foster home. Ideally she will move at the beginning of the summer holiday.

**For more information please contact Marge Wiltcher
EK2 Fostering 01843 570003**

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

This is an article written by JeanLuc aged 14 years, regarding the Spitfire event at Canterbury cricket ground.

"During the Easter holidays for 2 days I attended a club which was held at Canterbury Cricket Club. I went with a friend called Terry Slade. Julia Griggs kindly took us there.

The first day we made a movie which was then burnt on to a disc. On the second day we made some rock music which we downloaded from the computer. We also downloaded the front cover for the DVD and the CD. In the morning we played football and cricket. I made some new friends named Curtis and Lewis. I had a brilliant time."

Jean Luc

Hello

Well here we are once again, Wingham Bird Park, Sorry.....
Wingham Wildlife Park!

"What a difference from last year. You can walk through the lemurs, did you see the really small baby? Ah wasn't he lovely? This year we all had a snake around our neck in the reptile house, we all liked the rats in their kitchen. We thought that was good and very well done.



The otters were very talkative and gave us a "show" with a stone. I didn't know otters could juggle?? And the baby rabbits, I check everyone's pockets when we left! I fed the geese, telling everyone "Look they won't go for you" I bent down with some food in my hand and I ran for it. The geese all went for me, all the kids screamed. No they wasn't scared, they just thought it was hilarious!! George "the very big alligator" is he real? Did you see him move? And of course, we all had an ice cream to finish off the day. Hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL SOON, SOME WHERE !
SUE SKINNER X X X

What a great day out we had at Wingham Wildlife Park on Saturday 16th May. A big thank you to all the staff who were very friendly and helpful.



"I loved the animal encounter session. I saw and held a snake, tarantula and lizard, we were also allowed to stroke tiny twin baby lemurs and my favourite, a little Joey who was being hand reared and lived in a bag/pouch. But my best bit was seeing Fran with a tarantula on her hand ! Terrified !!"

By Chelsee age 11.

We also had a lovely cooked lunch in the cafe, and the weather was very kind to us all.

By Julie Mead and Chelsee EK2

Mid Kent Area - 01233 898635
Foster Carer Payments 01233 652266

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Chipo Mukoki who started with us on the 18th May. She comes to us from the Long Term Team in Canterbury and is settling in well. She will mainly be working with carers from the Maidstone area.

However we are also sad to lose two workers from our team, they are Melanie Spencer and Mike Wynne. Mel was with us for the last four years and worked with our carers on the TRP scheme. She returns to the Folkestone Children and Families Team and we wish her all the very best.

Mike has been in the Mid Kent Team for the last 11 years. He leaves to work in the Private sector. At his leaving do, carers and people with whom he has worked joined the team to wish him every success in his new post. His experience and knowledge will be greatly missed within the team.

We are looking to hold a fun day again this year and looking at different venues where this could be held. We shall keep everyone posted with developments.

County Short Breaks Team for Disabled Children

Kent was chosen as one of twenty one local authorities to lead the way in transforming short break services for disabled children as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme.

There comes with this status a significant amount of funding over the next three years. In order to recruit, assess and support the new foster carers required, a number of social workers have been recruited across the county. They are:

Katherine Rose - Short Breaks Practice Supervisor (seconded)

Fiona Reynolds - West Kent

Gwen Kidd - East Kent

Veronica Smith - Mid Kent

Katherine Rose from the Disabled Children's Team in West Kent (South) has been seconded to supervise the team and develop the services provided to disabled children and their families through the Government led initiative. Our aim is that wherever possible, disabled children should be in family based placements and that by offering regular short breaks, families will continue to be able to care for their children at home long term. We have also been allocated money to adapt foster carers homes in order to meet the needs of children with physical disabilities.

Since they have come into post we have seen an exciting amount of interest from prospective carers and we are currently assessing a number of new carers across the county.

Mark Vening – Team Leader

Thank you

to Teresa Griffiths MK Foster Carer
who gave a presentation about fostering
to the members of the South Kent Community Church on Sunday 26th April.

Mid Kent Area - 01233 898635 Foster Carer Payments 01233 652266

Last month we attended a presentation run by Maidstone Parents voice. The speaker was Margot Sunderland, a child psychotherapist and director of Education and Training at the Centre for Child Mental Health. She is author of over 20 books on Child Mental Health, including "What every Parent Needs to Know"

She spoke about Emotional Well being of children to a packed hall of parents at the Hilton Hotel Maidstone. She talked to us about the latest research on the long term effects of adult child interaction on the developing brain. The presentation addressed which forms of human interaction can develop the anti-anxiety and anti-aggression brain systems

Her presentation explored how negative relationship experiences can activate and strengthen the fight/flight/freeze/ systems in the 280 million year old reptilian part of the child's brain and the devastating consequences of this on the growing child and society. It was fascinating to see, on screen, new connections being made in the brain from positive interactions

Many of the parents asked individual questions which Margot answered in a clear and concise way. We gained valuable knowledge on managing our own stress state, how important seemingly trivial issues are to growing children and that emotional bonds hugely influence our capacity for concern and our self worth.

We went away with inspiration, motivation, tools and techniques to make positive interventions with a greater understanding. We would recommend her book "What every Parent Needs to Know" to all carers.

Tom & Janetta Sams Foster Carers

Hastings Attractions

Thank you to Ann Savage, MK Foster Carer has kindly negotiated preferential terms for Kent County Council Foster Carers at the following Hastings Attractions. Please try to book, even if it is on the morning of the visit. You will need to show your KCC Foster Carer Pass.

For more details call 01424 444412 - www.discoverhastings.co.uk
Email: paulhoward@bluereefaquarium.co.uk

One Attraction - Group Price	Booked Price	Un-booked Price
Smugglers Adventure	£4.00	£4.95
Blue Reef Aquarium	£4.00	£4.95
Hastings Castle 1066	£2.60	£2.85
Two Attractions Visit - Group Price	Booked Price	Un-booked Price
Smugglers Adventure & Hastings Castle 1066	£6.55	£7.80
Smugglers Adventure & Blue Reef Aquarium	£6.55	£7.80
Three Attractions Visit - Group Price	Booked Price	Un-booked Price
Smugglers Adventure, Blue Reef Aquarium & Hastings Castle 1066	£7.95	£11.50

Children's Centres in Shepway

**Do you look after children aged 0-5
and want free, fun activities to do with the children and support?**

Did you know that finding support and fun things for yourselves and the children you care for to do, is now easier than ever? Around 80 Sure Start Children's Centres have been set up around Kent, providing lots of fun activities, drop-in groups, trips and events, almost all, free of charge (or for a very nominal payment for some of the trips) for all parents/carers of children aged 0-5.

We have lots of fun things going on and whether you are interested in coming along to our drop-in groups, where your children can play with lovely toys and make friends with others (and where you can get a welcome chance to sit down for 5 minutes with a tea or coffee, or find a good excuse to have fun with the children yourself!), or whether you would be interested in going on any of the free training courses that we provide on everything from Paediatric First aid to positive parenting to craft activities, there is something for everyone.

Our friendly, fantastic Community Involvement Workers can also provide outreach visits to families who feel that they might be able to benefit from some additional support, which could include a home visit, support in accessing other services, training and a range of things that can help make life as a parent/carer a bit easier.

Lydd and New Romney Children's Centres are two of the newer Children's Centres in Shepway. The manager first came in contact with children's centres as a parent who took her own child to children's centres in her local community, so therefore knows first hand how good they can be for parents/carers and children.

In Lydd and New Romney one of our Community Involvement Workers - Dawn Wilson - has taken the lead role in working with Foster Families and families with Looked After Children. Dawn used to work in the Fostering and Adoption Department and here at the centre, we are all committed to ensuring that all children are given every opportunity to benefit from the best opportunities as well as making friends and having fun.

Lydd has been open since the end of July last year and celebrated its grand opening in October. The mayor visited along with local councillors to start the celebrations, there were also fun visits from a police car, a fire engine that the children could sit in, African drumming and lots of lovely food.

We have run lots of different things for and with local families including trips (including to Lathe Barn and Kidz Planet in Folkestone), have had countless events (any excuse for a good party we say!), run groups nearly every day, including during the holidays. We have an allotment club and lots of groups which run with health visitor and midwifery clinics. We also have Citizen's Advice Bureau surgeries open to all, running from Lydd and St Mary's Bay once a week at each location.

We have a team of volunteers, but are always looking for more. We can provide references after 6 months, we provide free training and can cover the costs of childcare (and can provide creche for some volunteering activities) and have lots of social events for our volunteers (including a free 3 course Christmas lunch in a pub and an evening at a beauty salon!).

For more information on anything on this site or to arrange a home visit if you live on the Romney Marsh, please contact us on 01797 329256 (and ask for Dawn Wilson) or check out our website on http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/chc/chc_lydd_home.cfm

If you live in another area of Kent, you can find out where your nearest Children's Centre is by calling the Children & Family Information Service 08000 32 32 30.

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

Welcome

We are delighted to announce the arrival of two new members of staff,

welcome
to Caren Bassett and Greg Gibbins

who have joined us as fostering social workers

Farewell & Happy Retirement

Bob Davidson,
fostering social worker,
left the Fostering Service on 19th June.

He will be missed by the members of the team and the EK1 foster carers.

We wish him a long & happy retirement.

Bowling Morning

On the 10 May the social party organised by Emma Darling held a bowling morning. This was open to all carers and their children, the morning was highly attended and saw lots of children and carers having fun together. We would like to thank the carers who attended and the staff who gave up their Sunday morning.

The Spitfires Project

The Spitfires project was held for year 9/10 children at the Canterbury Cricket Club on the 8th & 9th April. This was opened up to all areas and saw 14 children enjoy having a 2 day event of making their own Keep Britain Clean animation DVDs, along with composing their own music CDs.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the staff and carers that promoted this to their children. On the 26th & 27th May we hosted the same project to year 5/6 children.



Well done to Gail Browning & Jan Plumridge
for competing the Race for Life on Sunday 17th May

Recruitment

Foster Care Fortnight 2009 11th May - 24th May

Many thanks to the staff and foster carers who helped with the information stands that were held around the county, in key towns identified as having a shortfall of foster carers.

Overall we had 68 potential foster carers speak to us at the information stands - lets hope they take the next step and call for an information and application pack.



Cranbrook Thursday 14th May

Deborah Cumber Fostering Social Worker, (left)
& Teresa Lane Fostering Social Worker
& Foster Carer Pam Mackie (right)
at the Information stand at the Co-Op Foodstore



Fremlins Walk, Maidstone Tuesday 19th May



Dawn Blackwell, Fostering
Social Worker with
Jo Harwood, foster carer



Chris Crabb, Social Worker
Assistant Education
& Sue French, Fostering
Social Worker



Veronica Smith, Fostering
Social Worker,
Sandra Chambers foster carer
& Sally Clegg Fostering Social
Worker

County Square Ashford Thursday 21st May



Becky Christmas Foster Carer
with Fiona Reynolds
Fostering Social Worker



Dave Ashford Foster Carer
with Fiona Reynolds
Fostering Social Worker




Viv, Fred & Hannah Tutt

Recruitment

Following requests from foster carers, a Foster Carer Business Card has been produced. The double sided card gives details of the fostering website and the Initial Enquiries Team contact details and is designed to be used to pass on to anyone who showed an interest in becoming a foster carer for Kent County Council.

Make sure you ask your fostering worker for a supply.



Kent County Council Foster Carers provide care for local children who are unable to live with their own families

Are you interested in becoming a Foster Carer?

Could you offer a home to a young person?



To find out more about fostering for Kent County Council log on to www.kent.gov.uk/fostering or simply contact the Initial Enquiry Team on **0845 330 2968**

Foster Carer Business Card

Remember the Bounty Scheme Payment - £250 reward

If a current carer refers a potential applicant to Kent, and that potential applicant goes on to be approved by Kent County Council. Your fostering social worker will be able to give you more information and the necessary paperwork.

Information Sessions - July - December 2009

Please give the dates and venues for the information sessions (details below) to anyone you know who is interested in finding out more about becoming a KCC foster carer. Alternatively ask them to call our Initial Enquiries Team on 0845 330 2968

Thursday 9th July 2009
7pm - 8.30pm

Pfizers Sports & Social Club
Ramsgate Road, CT13 3QL

Tuesday 29th September
7pm - 8.30pm

St Paul's Church Hall
Maidstone ME14 2AL

Tuesday 6th October 2009
7pm—8:30pm

Alexander Centre, Faversham ME13 8NY

www.kent.gov.uk/adoption and www.kent.gov.uk/fostering

A small Project Group has been established to look at the adoption and fostering website pages www.kent.gov.uk/adoption and www.kent.gov.uk/fostering and are having their first meeting at the end of July.

If you have any comments/suggestions please contact Pritpal Sodhi (pritpal.sodhi@kent.gov.uk)

Training & Development

Children's Workforce Development Council

I am pleased that we are now seeing steady progress on carers completing their workbooks and congratulations to the following carers have received their Successful Completers Certificate:

Susan Blaney - EK2

Jo Harwood - EK1

Paula Lenoard - EK2

Barry Blaney - EK2

Liz Marlow - EK2

Sue Skinner - EK2

Tracey Belcher - MK

Deborah Tolley - EK2

Sheila McNally - EK2

Maggie Clifton -TFC

Lin Whiteling - EK2

Jane Thone - EK2

Stuart Griffiths - MK

Gay Hall - MK

Andrew McDonald - EK2

Teresa Griffiths - MK

Diane Howard - EK2

Julie McDonald - EK2

Don Leonard - EK2

Since the implementation of the Standards last April there have been a number of developments including the recent launch of a specific set of Standards for Short Break carers.

Carers who also foster as a couple can also now complete one workbook as long as their individual and joint evidence is clearly highlighted.

I know that within area fostering teams groups have been established to work through the Standards and complete the workbooks and these will be developed further over the coming year.

Thinking of Doing an NVQ

If you are interested in applying for the NVQ Level 3 Health and Social Care (children and young people) why not attend the Thinking of Doing the NVQ sessions on 1st July at South Kent College and 13th July at West Kent College. For further information please contact your fostering worker or contact Sue Douglas (sue.douglas@kent.gov.uk).

e-Safety Advice for Foster Carers

The Internet, whether accessed from a computer, mobile phone or other device, has become embedded within modern everyday life. It is used to buy and sell goods, online banking, finding information and socialising. It also has a dark side, with criminals finding ways to get hold of personal information in order to steal your identity or your money.

The internet offers exciting benefits and opportunities but it can also expose children and adults to inappropriate and often criminal behaviour. It's important that simple rules are followed and that children and carers are aware of the risks and know how to deal with these issues. Parents and carers can sometimes be intimidated by children's confidence and knowledge, but excellent resources are available to help you to manage the risks, and with some simple guidance you can help to ensure that children are safe and secure online.

Some Key Advice for Carers:

Have House rules about how the Internet is used and be clear about who might be able to view online personal information such as names, schools, phone numbers, emails, photos etc.

Don't panic! Talk to the child and ask them to show you (or even teach you) how they use the internet and the computer. Dialogue is the key to ensure a child feels safe and secure online and able to discuss problems encountered.

Make sure you know what they are doing online much like you would in "real" life.

Where possible locate the computer in a family area and supervise younger children. Always supervise children when using a webcam.

Use anti-virus software, parental controls and filtering software (although be aware these tools are not always 100% effective) to try and ensure inappropriate material is not accessed. You can ask mobile phone providers to block inappropriate content and use parental control settings on games consoles where available.

Ensure your wireless network is secure - Check with your router manufacturer and/or Internet Service Provider if you are not sure how to do this.

Make sure that the children in your care know how to report a problem and who they can talk to if they are concerned. (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Use child-friendly search engines where possible e.g www.askkids.com <http://kids.yahoo.com> or www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/find (ideally)

Be realistic – banning computers, a phone and so on, doesn't work! Children will then use computers and games consoles at friend's houses etc. If you educate both yourself and the children in your care then the whole family will benefit from using the internet

Remember if you are unsure or require more help or advice then you can speak to the young person's social worker or your own fostering social worker

e-Safety Advice for Foster Carers

For more Help and advice

www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Sign up in the “Parent/Carer” Section for monthly emails about technology and tips to keep your family safe. Use the report abuse button to seek advice and report online abuse. Children and adults can also use the report abuse button to report illegal content online and sexual behaviour

www.childnet-int.org – Resources such as the Know It All for parents section

www.iwf.org.uk – Report Illegal content

www.kent.police.uk/internetsafety - Advice from Kent Police

www.kent.gov.uk/esafety - Advice from Kent County Council

www.bbc.co.uk/chatguide/parents - BBC Chatguide advice for Parents/carers

www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearning - Becta’s “next Generation Learning” Campaign

www.fosi.org - Family Online Safety Institute

www.myguide.gov.uk - Free online computer courses

www.getsafeonline.org – Security advice

www.cybermentors.org.uk – Advice for young people affected by bullying

www.microsoft.com/protect/default.mspx - Windows Safety Advice

www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-vista/features/parental-controls.aspx - Windows Vista Parental Controls

<https://fss.live.com/Default.aspx> - Windows XP Live Family Package

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/hectorsworld/safetybutton.aspx - Hector Protector Free Download

Parental Controls/Filtering/Anti-virus Products:

(Please note we do not endorse any specific products, these are provided as suggestions only - alternatives are available)

www.mcafee-online.com/uk

www.norton-online.com/uk

www.netnanny.com

www.opendns.com

www1.k9webprotection.com

Quest Seekers - Join the Summer Reading Challenge 2009 from 11 July at any Kent Library

Whether your child is just beginning to pick up books, or an avid reader already, the Summer Reading Challenge 2009 will fire up their imagination.

Just sign up at your local Kent library (it's free!) and your children will receive a 'moving image' membership card and a poster to keep track of their quest.



As a Quest Seeker, your child can take part in three tasks: Firebird Rising, Mountain Mission and Dragon's Lair.

Each task involves reading two books – they can be any books at all and if they finish all three tasks they retrieve the golden book, and their quest is complete!

The Summer Reading Challenge is great fun for everyone – but it also gives kids a real sense of achievement.

If you don't have a library ticket yet, don't worry: you and the children in your care can join instantly, and take away the books you've chosen. There's even a special Carer's ticket, which allows you to borrow extra books for eight weeks instead of the usual three weeks.

Ask at your local Kent Library for more information



Libraries & Archives

NOTICE BOARD

Here are the links to the manual as well as policies and guidance.
Please remember that you should look on line every week for any new information
or changes to ensure you stay up to date with the world of foster care.

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/childrens_carers/
Foster_Carer_Newsletter_-_April_09.pdf](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/childrens_carers/Foster_Carer_Newsletter_-_April_09.pdf)

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/childrens_carers/
KCC_Foster_Care_Manual.pdf](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/childrens_carers/KCC_Foster_Care_Manual.pdf)

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/children/carers_guidance.cfm

Christmas Card Competition

We know it's early to be talking about Christmas, but we need you to let you know we will be
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

30th September - Deadline for articles 28th August 2009

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