

It is very hard to believe that we are once again at the end of another year, without doubt it have been exceptionally busy for all of the Fostering and Children & Families teams, and of course for all of you who have worked so hard to care for all the children and young people who have needed to live with foster families.

There have been lots of developments throughout this year and there is still lots to do. I am planning to set up a foster payments working/review group for disabled children's services and will be looking for some representation from carers who look after disabled children, both "Short Breaks" and Long term. Please talk to your Fostering worker if you are interested in being part of this short life group.

I am really pleased to tell you that the Foster care manual has now been updated and is online, this is a vital tool for your work, please make sure you have a look through. It can be found at http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/children/carers_events.cfm

I have recently been asked again about the issue of carers offering Day care to children under 8 and the need for them to be registered childminders, I have therefore added the information about this at the bottom of this page. We are hoping that the new legislation will not require this but for the moment it remains in place.

We have had some changes in staff personnel including the appointment of Stephanie Jones in EK2 as Job share (with Maggie Nash) Team Leader. Morag Robinson as Job share Principal SW (with Stephanie Jones). Congratulations to them both.

I am also pleased to announce that Pritpal Sodhi has been Appointed to the post of Programme Manager Treatment Foster care. The Fostering Service will be very sad to lose Pritpal from his current post of Training Manager for Foster carers and Adopters, but very pleased to have him in his new role.

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*Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas & New Year
Teresa Vickers
County Fostering Manager*

DAY CARE FOR 0 - 8 year olds

All local authorities have been alerted that all foster carers approved under the Foster Services Regulations 2002, who also offer day care for children between 0 and 8 years must register with Ofsted. Care provided by a foster carer approved under Fostering Services Regulations in relation to children other than those for whom he or she acts as foster parent is currently included within definition of qualifying childcare for both Employer supported childcare (ie. vouchers) and working tax credits. Foster carers who are registered under the Fostering Services Regulations, but who are also caring for children who are not their foster children may wrongly assume that it is not necessary for them to also register with Ofsted. Anyone providing childcare for children aged 0-8 which meets definition of childcare in Childcare Act 2006, and is not exempted from requirement to register, must legally be registered with Ofsted.

The only exception to this is where as part of the care plan for a child it is agreed that the child has "respite/Day care" with a named other foster carer

Due to snow and the poor state of the roads, the KFCA regretfully cancelled the Christmas Extravaganza on 4 December 2010. We tried to contact everyone who had booked a place. We have been unable to reschedule due to the venues being fully booked.

**Merry Christmas
Cathy Goodwin**

Dates for Your Diary

Mental Health Conference – 20 January 2011

A conference will take place on 20 January 2011 at Lenham Community Centre at 10am (with coffee and registration from 9:30). We will look at the issues raised by foster carers and will have guest speakers from CAMHS to respond to these.

Sarah Skinner will introduce the new organisation under ILSS (Integrated LAC Support Service); Dr Andrew Briggs will speak on the West Kent project and how they have improved the service; Adrienne Ayres will talk about Network Meetings and how these support foster carers; and Brian Cairns will talk to us about how foster carers can promote positive emotional stability.

Following conclusions by Teresa Vickers, there will be a sandwich lunch and an opportunity to talk to the guest and other carers.

If you have not already booked your place,
contact Sue Douglas by email sue.douglas@kent.gov.uk
or Phone: 01732 525344

KFCA Foster Carer Conference & AGM – 03 March 2011

The conference is for foster carers by foster carers! Come along and have your say. This will be held at Lenham Community Centre on 3 March 2011 at 10am (with coffee and registration from 9:30).

We will discuss plans for a project in 2011 to look at the 16+ service; there will be discussions on Anger Management led by Annie Webster of EK2 and discussions on strategies for successful fostering led by Teresa and Stuart Griffith of MK.

We have invited Tony Doran, the new virtual head of LAC education to tell us about these significant changes. Also invited is Teresa Vickers to tell us about new organisations and how these will impact carers. FosterTalk will tell us more about their support services.

**So lots of things to talk about!
Invitations will be issued in early January.**

Policy & Performance

What's new in policy?

Recently approved procedures

Parent & Child Fostering Procedures

Procedures to be followed by children's social workers and fostering teams on placing a parent with their own child in a foster carer's home. Authorisation from a senior manager is now required before a parent and child referral is made, and time limits and financial considerations are to be clearly identified. Information to be provided to foster carer, and the range of issues to be covered in the placement planning meeting as well as support for the placement, and for the parent and child when the placement ends, is covered. Procedures include expectations of foster carers about diary recording. Training is being planned for carers who are interested in offering these invaluable placements.

Special Guardianship Policy & Procedures

This updated Policy and accompanying procedures sets out the legislative and KCC requirements for Special Guardianship Orders. While Kent's Permanence Policy & Guidance requires adoption to be considered for children under the age of 9 years who cannot live with their birth families, Special Guardianship is a valuable legal order for older children or those where permanence cannot be achieved through adoption (for example there may be cultural opposition to adoption). The child is no longer "Looked After" and the Special Guardian is able to make important decisions regarding their upbringing. If you are interested in becoming a Special Guardian to a child in your care please speak to your fostering social worker.

Information leaflet on Special Guardianship KCC has agreed that from April 2011 applications to become a Special Guardian to a Looked After Child will be put before an Adoption & Permanence Panel prior to going to court.

Permanent Fostering Procedures

For many children however fostering develops into a long term situation i.e. the child has been in foster care for 3 years or more. While this may be due to court processes or plans that have not been successful it is essential that, from this point (if not before), formal steps to identify or formalise a permanent fostering placement are triggered. The new procedures define the care planning requirements for children, and will ensure that formal steps are taken to agree and support these placements. When a decision is being considered about making a long term foster placement permanent, a "Matching Needs & Services" meeting will be called by the District Social Work team, and the Integrated LAC Support Service will be invited, along with fostering and other involved parties, to ensure that support is planned. If a KCC foster carer wishes to make the placement permanent, then this will be considered by the fostering panel who originally recommended their approval. You should speak to your fostering social worker if you are interested in finding out more.

Integrated Support Service for Looked After Children

We are a group of multi agency professionals including education advisers, fostering education social work assistants, LAC nurses, Connexions personal assistants and education welfare officers who work together to support improving educational outcomes for our children.

More information about the future development of the service will be shared with you over the coming months.

In the meantime please remember

- Personal Education Plans (PEP's) should be undertaken for every looked after child within 20 days of them becoming looked after and 6 monthly thereafter.
- Personal Education Allowance (PEA) funding is available for children and young people who need some extra support with their education.
- Kent's Pledge to looked after children means we provide a computer to all children aged 11 plus once they have been looked after for 6 months or more.
- 'Sing Up' for looked after children - various groups and support is available to increase self confidence and learning.
- Football coaching - places are available during Maidstone, Chatham and Sittingbourne, throughout all the half terms, starting next year in February.

Multi agency training is available throughout the coming year to look at how we can work together to improve outcomes for our children.

For information about any of these or to find out more please go to

http://www.kent.gov.uk/childrens_social_services/children_in_care/looked_after_children.aspx,

or alternatively contact the ILSS teams who will be happy to assist on telephone number: 01227 284550

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires

You may receive a request soon to complete 'Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire' for Looked After Children, which are used to explore the child's emotional and behavioural health needs. Many carers completed these last year, and, once returned to KCC, a 'score' was assigned to each one to compare the population of Looked After Children in Kent, with that of other local authorities. The CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service) Expert Group in Kent has looked at how to take forward the SDQ so that it is shared with the relevant health professionals to ensure actions can be taken to address the individual child's needs. The details are still under consideration, but in the meantime please ensure that if you do receive a request to complete an SDQ for a particular child in your care, this is done swiftly to ensure any concerns can be addressed.

During the past year 248 Looked After Children and their carers from around the county have taken part in creative events as part of the Creativity4Health initiative, which aims to encourage them to try new activities, expand their interests and give them the opportunity to gain an Arts Award. This is a recognised qualification to complement their qualifications gained at school or college. Some of our carers trained as Arts Award Advisors so that they can guide children and young people through their Arts Award, and this is another example of how Foster Carers can expand their professional role.

There have been a variety of events during the year and children have taken part in drama productions, music workshops, arts and crafts workshops, visit to museums and days at the Swattenden Centre. This culminated in a celebratory event at the Design Museum in London on 29th October. Nine children and four carers from East Kent, one carer and child from Mid Kent and one carer and two children from West Kent had the chance to make models, sing, dance, drum, dress up and enjoy a free lunch on the terrace overlooking the Thames and Tower Bridge. Sam Oxberry and Jenny Finch from the ILSS went along too and joined in the fun.

Sarah Skinner
Ilss Service Development Manager

The Fostering Service Welcomes New Carers

Lavdie Alushi - WK

Grant Baker & Tarquin Flanagan - EK1

Anthony Bartlett & Denise Mulcahy - WK

Emma & Mark Hamilton-Black—WK

Mandy & Stuart Breen - EK2

Susan & David Canfield - EK1

Nicola & Neil Carey - WK

Val Conway - MK

Sandra & Paul Coyne - MK

Chris & Nicky Johnson - EK1

Maria McDonagh - EK1

Julie Dorward & Lee Townsend - WK

Tina & Niyi Somorin - WK

**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 1 - Canterbury with Swale 01227 598500 Foster Carer Payments 01622 772213

It has again been a busy period for the EK1 area, with events happening in and around the fostering team. We have staff returning from maternity leave, staff embarking on maternity leave and Joanne Moore, new Fostering Social Worker joining in January.

We welcome back Emma Darling, returning in January from maternity leave following precious time spent with her little boy.

All at EK1 wish Tamsin Alliston and her husband good luck and best wishes on the impending birth of their first child and we eagerly await little Alliston's arrival.

January sees the start of a new year and the team are already busy planning the year ahead with support groups, training and development, recruitment and successful planning for children at the forefront of their agenda.

January also welcomes a new member of the team, Joanne, who will lead on work with children with disabilities and who no doubt will be welcomed into the team by staff members and foster carers alike. We look forward to her arrival.

The team would like to officially congratulate all the nominees and winners at the Quality Service Awards held in October, not least the 32 nominees and their families for their high standard of care provided to the looked after children in the EK1 area.

EK1 should be proud of its achievements, having the highest number of nominees throughout the county, which no doubt reflects the excellent commitment all foster carers make on a daily basis for all looked after children.

The team would also like to officially thank the Social Committee for its continuing, tireless work on behalf of the children in the area.

The Summer Fun Day held in July and a cake sale in November helped to provide a wonderful Christmas party on 12th December where guest of honour was Father Christmas himself and which was enjoyed by the children from EK1 as well as by foster carers and staff members who attended the event.

So again a big thank you to those who organised and supported the celebrations.

**Nicola Anthony
Team Leader - EK1 Fostering Team**

West Kent Area - 01732 525324
Foster Carer Payments - 01622 772213

I hope you are all aware that as of 26th November, the West Kent Fostering Team has moved it's office to:

West Kent Fostering
30 Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4QG

The telephone numbers to contact the fostering team are
01732 525325 or **01732 525322** or **01732 525324**.

Fostering Workers now share desks, so I would advise you to use these numbers instead of previous direct line numbers for workers, as some of the numbers are no longer in use.

I do hope you are all managing in the snow and recent poor weather.
I am sure the children are enjoying it.

I would like to send Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas to you all
from the West Kent Fostering Team.

Sue Roberts-Hughes
Team Leader
West Kent Fostering

Birth Announcement

I am sure you will be please to hear that Stella Brown,
who is on maternity leave,
had her baby son Lewis Grant
on 29th October 2010.

Stella is enjoying the time at home
but will be returning to the team in the summer.

**East Kent 2 - Thanet with Dover Area 01843 570003
Foster Carer Payments 01622 772213**



The Team held another very successful coffee morning on 3rd November at Aberdeen House. There were loads of delicious home made and shop bought cakes for people to choose from and a raffle with lots of lovely prizes. I would like to thank the staff who helped organise things and all those carers who supported the event or who sent in donations.

We raised £250 for the Pakistan Flood Appeal so well done to everyone!

Emergency Bed carers & Parent and Child Work

We are still looking for carers who may be interested in being Emergency Bed carers or who would like to undertake Parent and Child work.

Please contact Steph or Maggie if you would like more information or to discuss this further.

Children's Christmas Party

Please remember that the Children's Christmas Party is on 11th December from 3 - 5pm at Pfizer Social Club. We look forward to seeing you all there for this well organised event (thanks Sue) and hope that some of you will offer to help on the day.

Please contact Sue Skinner for further details.

East Kent 2 - Thanet with Dover Area 01843 570003 Foster Carer Payments 01622 772213

Hello! My name is Jade, I am a final year social work student and a new addition to the East Kent 2 fostering team. I participated in the 'sons and daughters' group on Sunday for the first time, which I found to be a fantastic opportunity for the children. It was a real introductory day for me into the world of 'sons and daughters' of foster carers. The group had a sports theme this weekend, alongside art and craft activities.



The boys arrived and headed straight to the football pitch, making good use of the larger space and the outdoor astro-turf.



The girls opted for a less exhausting activity and chose to participate in arts and craft work, making an array of items including puppets, fairies, pirate ships and butterflies. The girls later participated in sports such as badminton, basket ball, ping pong and playground games. The boys however did not find making fairies and butterflies as appealing as football!



We had a mixture of new and experienced children within this group, but despite this element they all played and bonded together extremely well. The children were very supportive of each other, made new friends, and have voiced their suggestions for the next group. This group has made me understand the importance of this special time away from fostering, and how the children enjoyed taking part in the activities with other sons and daughters. I found this to be a very positive experience for the children and look forward to attending the next session, only to be beaten again at ping pong!

Jade

Fostering Social Worker Rob Cushway writes;

This was our third sons and daughters Fun Day and was thoroughly enjoyed by the 15 children who attended, as well as Jade, Karen and myself as the facilitators. The three annual Fun Days have proved to be extremely successful and popular. The one held on Sunday was attended by a good mix of previous participants and children who are new to fostering. Alongside the arts, crafts and sports, we had "circle time" where we share experiences of fostering, but the day also provided opportunities to "check in" with individual children in a less direct and more relaxed manner. Jade has only just joined the team on placement until the summer, but she made an immediately good impression, and is keen to be part of our next group Fun Day which will be held in the Spring.

Maggie Nash
Team Leader - EK1 Fostering Team

Stephanie Jones
Team Leader/Principal Social Worker

Mid Kent Area - 01233 898635
Foster Carer Payments 01622 772213

A busy time for the team at Mid Kent, we have moved from one part of Kroner House, to another part of the building so all phone numbers will remain the same.

We are hoping to recruit a further social worker to the team – details available soon.

KFCA Mental Health Conference 20th January 2011.

Just to remind carers of this event, which has been organised by the KFCA with the focus on mental health of Looked After Children. As it is being held at Lenham, we hope to see lots of Mid Kent Carers in attendance –To book your place please contact Sue Douglas
(sue.douglas@kent.gov.uk)

CWDC

The deadline for portfolio's to be handed in is fast approaching – the team are asking experienced foster carers to have them in by December 2010, to give a sufficient period for them to be signed off. If carers are struggling to complete, please discuss with your fostering worker who will provide additional support and be able to link you to a carer who has finished and can give practical advice on how to put evidence together. New foster carers need to complete within their first year.

Welcome to Family Foster Carers

John and Diane Charles

Paula Worden, Alexis and Peter McCann

Susan Hamilton

Yasmeen Tariq



Celebration Time for Ashford Foster Carers Diane and Paul Gooderidge



The Mid Kent Team were delighted when Diane and Paul were winners for a second time in November. Having already won bronze at the Quality Service Awards, Diane and Paul were nominated for Carer of the Year, at the Deaf Children's society Child of Achievement Awards 2010. They won the award, for their long term care of a young man who was deaf, alongside other health and behavioural difficulties. Diane and Paul showed commitment, stability and consistency over a period of 13 years.

There were many challenges along the way and we are so pleased that they have been recognised for their hard work and commitment.

**Congratulations from us all,
you are an inspiration to both fostering workers and other foster carers. Well Done!**



Mark Vening - Team Leader

Caroline Smith - Principal Social Worker

Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care Kent

The young people on the Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care programme have had a number of trips out recently. One young lady went to 10 Downing Street, two young men went to see a football match at Wembley Stadium, one young man went to America with his carer and over half term all of them had an activity week at Kingswood Activity Centre. It would have been unthinkable for these activities to have taken place prior to them coming on the programme

We are also very pleased to have all of our young people in education.

Carer wise we are delighted to say that five carers now have NVQ 3 CYYP and all but one have completed CWDC.

Two members of staff, both our Skills Trainers are pregnant and of course we are delighted for them.

Recruitment of Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Carers

We are actively looking to recruitment more foster carers and we urgently need carers in three different categories:

- Permanent full time carers
- Respite Carers who provide cover for the two nights a month respite care that all MTFC carers get Follow-On carers to support young people as they leave the programme.

At the recent weekly Foster Carer's Meeting, we asked the carers to comment on what it's like to be in Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care.

This is what they said:

- The weekly meetings ensure you remain part of a good professional team and are able to reflect on issues together as a team to solve any problems
- Weekly meetings to let out our feelings and get support
- Individual Therapy every week for the young people and give us advice on how to manage their behaviours
- Birth Family Therapist to work with the families of our young people
- Skills workers to work with the young people around sensitive subjects
- Having 24/7 support in the form of our own Out of Hours
- Working as a team
- The support is excellent
- It is really great to work with the young people using the Points System

It is very helpful to let the Programme or the Programme Supervisor take responsibility for difficult decisions with the young people, so we can keep a positive relationship with the young person.

If you would be interested in any of these options do please ring 01233 660987 for a chat.

Annie Bousfield Programme Supervisor

Pritpal Sodhi Acting Programme Manager

Short Breaks for Disabled Children Foster Carer Payments 01622 772213

Payments

Firstly may I thank you for adopting our new payment scheme so well, although unfortunately external difficulties have hindered our progress, with many of you experiencing payment difficulties. As a team we will continue to liaise with the Foster Payment Team on your behalf, so please continue to e mail your concerns to us.

Unfortunately there has been no progress made on implementing a similar payment scheme for day care.

New Carers

We haven't had any new foster carers approved since the last newsletter but the outlook is far from bleak! We have a number of new carers nearing the completion of their assessment and will be going to panel early in the New Year. We also have a number of prospective carers booked on to the Skills To Foster Training, who we believe will be an asset to the Short Break Service. What is equally exciting is that these new carers are located all across the County, and therefore we will be in a much better position to offer short breaks in both West and East Kent 1 areas.

Support Groups

As a team we have been discussing the most useful way of providing a support group service. It is a difficult task given that many of our short break foster carers work full time. We will be liaising with our carers in the New Year and would welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Looking Back!

I joined the Short Break Team back In February, and looking back during 2010 it has been a period of steady growth. We have lost and gained a few carers, with more on the way. As foster carers you provide a short break service for over 120 disabled children and young people!!

2011 will see an increase in the numbers of foster carers we have, and a more even spread across the County!

I am well supported in my task by the team's three dedicated social workers!

Training

At last we can see the shoots of a training calendar for our short break foster carers. A number of new courses are coming on board, and I am hopeful we can e mail the programme out to you all shortly. As a start Fiona Reynolds, social worker based at Gibson Drive, West Malling (West Kent) and I will be running two Communication Workshops – 26 January (Lenham) and the 3 February at Pfizers. We hope to see many of you attend not least to share your knowledge and experience with other carers!

And finally

The Short Break Team remains committed to ensuring our foster carers feel supported and have access to good training and supervision. If we can achieve this we will increase the experiences and opportunities of the many disabled children and young people you care for.

Fiona Reynolds, Social Worker is based at Gibson Drive, West Malling.
(fiona.reynolds@kent.gov.uk)

Gwen Kidd, Social Worker is based at Aberdeen House, Ramsgate.
(gwen.kidd@kent.gov.uk)

Veronica Smith, Social Worker is based at Kroner House, Ashford.
(veronica.smith@kent.gov.uk)

A big thank you to all our carers, we appreciate your support and ongoing commitment to the disabled children and young people you offer support to, and we share and understand the problems and difficulties you experience.

Best wishes to you and your family's this Christmas time. I sincerely hope you have a fantastic festive break and look forward to seeing and working with you in 2011.

Please do not hesitate to e mail me at robert.attwell@kent.gov.uk if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or ideas to improve our service to disabled children.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Robert Attwell - Short Breaks Team

Therapeutic Reparenting Fostering

Providing specialised foster care for 4 -13 year olds

We continue to welcome enquiries regarding becoming a Foster carer with the TRP, or offering a long term family to a child who is ready to move on from their TRP Family.

There are currently three children for whom we are actively searching for long term foster families for.

Do give us a call if you would like to discuss.

We are really pleased to announce that two of our foster carer families will be leaving us this year !

Perhaps this seems a strange thing to be pleased about but the families have made a long term commitment to the children they have cared for within the TRP which is a wonderful outcome for both children.

We wish them all a very special family Christmas.

We would all like to wish the TRP carers, and their families, a very happy Christmas and New Year, and to say thank you again for all your work this year, we could not do any of this without your energy, commitment and care.

Thank you

We are always very happy to talk to those who are interested in learning more about the TRP.

The TRP leads in the fostering teams are:

Mid-Kent	Sonja Van-Rooyen	01233 898634
West Kent	Deborah Cumber	01732 525324
East Kent One	Bobbie Thomas	01227 598573
East Kent Two	Marge Wiltcher	01843 570003

TRP Supervisor

Amanda Byatt

01732 525342

Recruitment & Retention



Hello, my name is Kathryn French and I am part of the Initial Enquiries Team (IET / Gateway) Coordinator. I have been with KCC for 5½ years. I previously worked for the Kent Registration Service at the Maidstone Register Office firstly as a Registrar of births, deaths and marriages then I was promoted to Assistant Area Manager, managing a team of 7 staff.

I have had a busy first couple of weeks in my new role with an office move and then snow preventing travel. I am excited to be part of the Fostering Service and all the new challenges this will present. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming months.

I would like to welcome Celia Swain to the team. She has joined us from Children's Safeguards Service within CFE.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year and with that in mind feel I can get away with a shameless plug, so... If you find yourselves talking to friends or family who are interested in fostering, get them to look at our website www.kent.gov.uk/fostering or call one of our advisors on 0845 330 2968 for further information

**Kathryn French - Team Coordinator
Fostering & Adoption - Initial Enquiries Team**

Information Sessions January 2011- April 2011

We are holding regular information sessions at various venues around the county -details are below. 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 or take a look at our website www.kent.gov.uk/fostering

**Thursday 13 January 2011
7pm - 8.30pm**

**Pfizers Sports & Social Club
Ramsgate Road, Sandwich CT13 3QL**

**Monday 7 February 2011
7pm - 8.30pm**

**St Teresa's Church Hall
Maidstone Road, Ashford TN24 8TX**

**Tuesday 8 March 2011
7pm - 8.30pm**

**Alexander Centre
Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NY**

**Tuesday 5 April 2011
7pm - 8:30pm**

**Emanuel Pentecostal Church
East Hill, Dartford DA1 1RX**

Please send articles for the next Newsletter 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

Deadline for articles

25 February
27 May
26 August

Publication Dates for 2011

31 March
30 June
30 September

Training & Development

CWDC

The government have [announced](#) its decision to no longer fund workforce development activity through the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC), to remove its Non Departmental Public Body status and to bring ongoing key functions into the Department for Education (DfE). This will have no effect on the work of the CWDC responsibility which will move into the DfE. All requirements currently required regarding the training of foster carers will continue to be valid. If you have not completed the CWDC standards you need to do this asap so that your workbooks can be assessed.

Respite foster carers can now complete the standards for short break foster carers instead. *These standards cover the key areas but there are more parallels with respite care. The short break standards are also shorter, with fewer outcomes to evidence. The standards for short break carers were designed for carers dealing specifically with children with disabilities, and the CWDC have put together guidance to show how these can be easily adapted for respite carers.*

[View the guidance for using the standards with support carers.](#)
[Access the TSD Standards workbook for short break carers.](#)

Thinking of Doing the Diploma Workshop

We had a very good turn out for the workshop on 6th December 2010 with representatives from the newly merged and newly named K college in attendance (formally SKC and WKC).

The course will begin in the New Year.

Thinking of Doing the Btec Level 4 Expert Practice in Working with Traumatized Children?

On the 27th January 2011 we will be holding a workshop on the Btec level 4 from 10.30-12 at Lenham Community Centre. The workshop will provide the opportunity to learn more about the course and hear from a carer who has completed the Btec.

Eligibility includes

- **completion of NVQ Level 3 Health & Social Care (Children & Young People);**
- **achievement of Payment for Skills Level 2;**
- **consolidation of practice into learning and completion of CWDC Standards**

To book a place on the workshop please discuss with your fostering worker and then contact:

Sue Douglas 01732 525344

Sue.Douglas@kent.gov.uk

30 Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4QG

CLOSING DATE: 19th January 2011

New on-line short courses places available

As part of the training and development opportunities available to Kent County Council foster carers we launched a pilot scheme in October 2010 of more in depth on-line courses for KCC foster carers.

The courses are available for you to undertake from your home or other suitable venue and allow you to work at your own pace and at a convenient time. The courses focus on subjects covering core knowledge and values, promoting positive behaviour, understanding trauma and working with looked after children.

Training & Development

Which Courses can I undertake?

As part of the pilot programme we have agreed the following list of courses that carers can select from:

Child Development	Transitions and Vulnerability
Making Sense of Adolescence	Attachment & Loss
Working with Disabled Children & Young People	Resilience and Recovery
Impulsive Behaviour	Promoting Positive Contact
Sexualised Behaviour	Children and Parental Mental Health Issues

How does it work?

You must have access to a computer with internet access and be able to print off course materials. As well as information for you to read and think about, the training materials contain a number of interactive exercises to help your learning: Online Activities, Practical Exercises and the End of Course Quiz. The courses also includes a range of printable resources that can enhance your learning and provide a permanent record for the your portfolio. These include a workbook, completion certificate and development log. Courses are also linked into the CWDC national training standards. You will need to be able to allocate the allotted time needed to complete each course (please see course info below)

As with all our on-line training this **does not** replace face to face training.

How do I get started?

- ✦ Access to the on-line short course programme needs to form part of the carers Personal Development Plan (PDP) and discussed in supervision.
- ✦ Once agreement has been reached with your fostering worker complete the Application form and hand this back to your worker.
- ✦ Your worker will need to endorse the application form and ask the Team Leader to counter sign.
- ✦ Applications are then sent to Training and Development.
- ✦ The application criteria includes that:
- ✦ The application is part of your PDP and discussed in supervision
- ✦ You have completed an application form and it has been approved

You must complete the course within **3** months of receiving your password

What happens next?

Once your application for a course has been approved carers will be allocated a place on the course. You will be notified via e-mail if you application has been successful and will be given a pin number and password to access the website. You will also receive a Student Handbook. You will only be able to undertake one course at a time.

How Do I complete the Course?

At the end of the course you will need to complete a multiple-choice quiz to check that you have understood what you have been learning. You have a maximum of 3 attempts at the quiz and you will be able to review your answers and re-visit the course material as part of your learning. If you need to retake a course this needs to be discussed with your fostering worker.

What happens when a carer finishes the course?

You will be able to download, save and print your Completion Certificate and Development Log.

Only one course can be completed during the pilot per application.

For further course details please contact your fostering team and/or Sue Douglas Senior Training Administrator on sue.douglas@kent.gov.uk.