

Welcome to the Summer Issue of the Fostering News which is packed with information about the area fostering teams activities and events.

You should have by now received the Training Calendar for 2011/12, up to date information about training courses is available at KentTrustWeb.

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

Make sure you take a look at the information about the AKAMAS E- Learning Training & Development Opportunities.

Pop up house

A model house, which has been developed by a care leaver, will shortly be made available to foster carers, via fostering teams. When a child or young person arrives in a new fostering placement, carers will now be able to explain about themselves and their family in a creative way.

The paper model comes with instructions on how to put together, and can be coloured in and glued together either by the carer or the child (with adult assistance). The base on which the house sits can be personalised by having photos of pets etc added.

Carers can ask for additional packs if the child wishes to keep the model. This will be in addition to the foster carer profile, which is emailed to the social worker so they can prepare the child for the placement.

Please keep your profile information up to date and let your fostering social worker have new photos and information as necessary.

A pdf of the Pop Up House can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

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Kent Foster Care Association



We regretfully had to cancel the **Who Has Got Talent** contest on 5 June due to lack of bookings. The next event planned is a Christmas Party on 26 November 2011 – if we are to make a success of this event we need foster carers support. Invites will be issued in October.

Project 2011 – Transition to Independence

It has been a busy time making progress with this project. We have met with foster carers in each of the four areas of Kent and collected their views. We have attended a conference in London on Support Lodging and Staying Put.

Discussions with Catch22 have taken place and we plan to meet with Connections in the near future.

The LAC Nurse has agreed a meeting date.

We have looked at legislative changes and investigated government pilots in Staying Put. We plan to bring the multiple threads together to enable us to hold a conference for foster carers early in 2012.

Other News

What we are pleased to report is there is an enormous amount of work happening to put in place a new structure and strategic direction for the Virtual School Kent. Also of great significance is the enlarging of the CAMHS team supporting LAC which will extend the service to 17 and 18 year olds.

We have taken part in the Corporate Parenting Group and attended a conference on Closing the Gap for LAC and have seen first hand the enormous effort being made to improve the services to LAC in Kent.

As a refresher to all those we have met at the KCC New Carer Induction sessions we would like to remind you about our website and forum:- www.kfca.org.uk for the latest KFCA news, projects and helpful links. You can also send us your comments, views or to 'get involved' via the contacts page.

Finally

We have now introduced a new logo and letterhead which we will be using from here on in.

Your support is important to us.

Together we can make a difference

www.kfca.org.uk



Cathy Goodwin

Advisory Board

The Advisory board continue to meet every two months, bringing issues from foster carers support groups to managers. The group consists of foster carers, two from each area, foster carers representing KFCA, team leaders, a district manager, policy and performance officer, looked after nurses, virtual school officer, county fostering manager Teresa Vickers and is chaired by Liz Totman, Head of Corporate Parenting.

We are very keen to raise awareness of concerns and problems that carers face on a daily basis. We met with Nick Jordan and Charlie (Charlotte) Faulkner from the foster payments team recently who are now very clear about the issues and have assured us that they are working hard to resolve these problems.

After a letter written by one of the support groups and endorsed by the carer reps in other areas we are now to be visited by Malcolm Newsam, Interim Manager of CFE. We will ensure that he hears the concerns that have been raised including the poor situation of respite payments, leading to a serious lack of respite carers and the added pressure this places on all carers. Also the withdrawal of services and the increasing caseloads on social workers and the resulting lack of support they are able to offer to foster carers.

We all, as foster carers have taken on greater responsibility over the years and as professionals we expect to deliver a service that treats vulnerable children to the best service and opportunities we can offer. The message that we will be giving Mr Newsam that it is becoming increasingly difficult for carers to help looked after children from fulfilling their full potential. We hope that he will be able to give a positive message to us and that he will be able to work on our concerns to improve the situation for all.

Your Advisory boards reps are

East Kent 1	Sue Purcell & Shelly Massey
East Kent 2	Ros Carroll Julie Mead & Rinie Upton Panel Representative
West Kent	Sharon Watson-Manderson & Denise Ilott
Mid Kent	Freddie Brockwell & Janetta Sams
KFCA	Cathy Goodwin & Gary Dobner

Policy & Performance

Permanent Fostering Procedures

Permanent Fostering - what is it, and how does it differ from long term fostering?
Procedures have been agreed by KCC to ensure that permanent fostering placements are formally recognised. A permanent fostering arrangement is intended to be a 'family for life' for a child - one they will treat as a safe and stable base beyond childhood.

There are several strands to the new procedures

- Discussion between the carer and their fostering social worker, with the child's social worker about the plans for the child.
- Consideration as to whether the child can stay with the same carer
- The Independent Reviewing Officer is informed of the discussion, and may hold a review
- In some cases, a 'life appreciation' meeting could be held where information is gathered together. This is particularly important if the child has had many placements
- An "identifying needs and services" meeting will be held to consider future support needs
- A formal matching meeting is held
- The case is presented to the Fostering Panel for consideration*
- If the Panel and the Decision Maker agree, then a letter is sent to the child (if age appropriate), the carers, and the child's social worker confirming the decision
- The child's care plan is updated at the next review, and thought is given to how future reviews are managed
-

*If the child is not remaining with the current foster carers but moving to new permanent carers, the Adoption & Permanence Panel considers the case

In the past "long term fostering" has been used as a general term - the new KCC procedure clarifies that once a long term placement is formally agreed, using the process above, then it is designated as a Permanent fostering placement. The intention is to support stability for the child and their foster carers.

If you have any questions about the procedures, please contact your local fostering team

Virtual School Kent

Carers will be long familiar with their Social Work Assistants for Education who have been based with their Fostering Teams in East and West Kent over the last few years.

With the official launch of Virtual School Kent – VSK – our roles have been redefined and our numbers increased to 6. We are now known as Fostering Education Liaison Officers (FELOs) and while we are part of Virtual School Kent, we are continuing to work very closely with Fostering Teams and Carers. Here is a link to the VSK website <http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/>

We will continue to attend Support Groups and work directly with Carers offering support, help and advice around educational matters. We will arrange extended activities with other agencies – Volunteer Reading Help, Adult Education, Libraries and promote out of school activities. We will also develop and extend our relationships with schools and continue to liaise with the young person's Social Worker. Working closely with the LAC Education Advisors (now known as Assistant Heads for Progress & Achievement) we will try to achieve the best possible education outcomes for all our young people.

Details of Fostering Education Liaison Officers in your areas are:

East Kent

Sam Oxberry	Canterbury & Swale	01227 284414
Jan Dimond	Ashford & Shepway	01227 284550
Steve Orwin	Dover	01227 284550
Julia Griggs	Thanet	01227 284550

West Kent

Caroline Brewster	Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells & Maidstone	01732 525099
Jenny Finch	Dartford, Gravesend, Sevenoaks & Swanley	01732 525099

Kent Freedom Pass

The Kent Freedom Pass provides young people with access to the bus network of Kent - any time of the day, any day of the week, and any week of the year.

Following a decision of the County Council on 17 February 2011, the previously published plans for the Council's budget have been confirmed.

This means that the scheme which will be offered for 2011/2012 will be as follows:

- ◆ The standard fee for a Kent Freedom Pass will be £100
- ◆ Children in receipt of Free School Meals will pay £50
- ◆ KCC's local Looked After Children and Young Carers will not pay any fee

KCC's Looked after children will be entitled to have a Freedom pass up to their 18th Birthday.

The application process and how to apply for the return of schools in September 2011 can be obtained from www.kent.gov.uk/kentfreedompass

Or contact:

Kent Freedom Pass,
Transport Integration
Commercial Services
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 1QG

E-mail: kentfreedompass@kent.gov.uk

24 hour helpline: 08458 247 247

The Fostering Service Welcomes New Carers

Susan & Adrian Allen - EK2
Jackie Andrews & Jeff Harding - Short Break Carers
Wendy & Steve Atkins - EK2
Arnie & Ant Bartlett - EK1
Paul and Sue Bourke - WK
Sally Brooks & Colin Hopkins - Mid Kent
Ian & Alison Burns - WK
Laura Carpenter & Paul Downer - EK2
Kate Corbishley - EK1
Tracy & Gareth Cox - EK2
Sue Davies - EK1
Christopher & Sharon Doolan - Mid Kent
Mag's Farnham and Barry Vickers - EK2
Richard & Diane Goodwin - WK
Lauren & David Graham - EK2
Annie & Alan Hawkins - WK
Helen & Peter Hedges - Mid Kent
Anita & Dave Hougham - EK1
Tina Howe - Short Break Carer
Jane Keenan and Sarah Gallagher - EK1
Kim & Anthony King - EK1
Lisa & Paul Murrum - MK
Rena & Eric Parker - EK2
Kaye & Colin Perry – EK2
Susan & Ian Pirie - WK
Emma Pullen - EK1
Alexandra Redding - Mid Kent
Kim & Martin Rogers - EK1
Linda Thompson - EK1
Hayley & James Todd - EK2
Dave & Lily Webster - EK2

**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 772238

Wow, it is that time of year again when thoughts are on exams, stressful teenagers and of course holidays. It is no doubt a very busy time of year, so for those who are considering respite so don't forget 'book early to avoid disappointment' as they say, if you haven't already done so that is.

The team at EK1 would like to wish everyone taking exams this year the very best of luck and hope the wait for results is not too daunting. To those going on a well deserved holiday, have a wonderful relaxing time.

Congratulations

Spring has definitely been in the air over at EK1, with the birth of two very special little people.

Tamsin and Gary welcomed the arrival of Evie Grace on 20th March.

The second new arrival was the birth of Nicola's first granddaughter, Ava, on 22nd April.

Congratulations from everyone at EK1 to all the families and from everyone in the fostering service.

It is also the time of year when thoughts and plans move to transition periods, moving to a new class, new school, college or university and for all those young people it is exciting but scary at the same time. Hopefully we can all support them through those periods and help them to settle into their new ventures.

There have also been transitions into the team and we would like to welcome all those new carers and hope that if you see them you will please welcome them – remember you were all new carers once taking that first placement and, as with young people, excited and scared at the same time.

Bounty Scheme

Those who have been with us for some time will know about the Bounty Scheme but here is a reminder anyway – introduce someone to fostering and on their approval you will receive £250 to spend as you wish. In these difficult times that is worth reminding everyone of.

Smaller Support Groups

Can we also remind everyone of the smaller Support Groups currently being set up across the East Kent 1 Districts and we would encourage attendance at these as well as the larger groups.

On a final note, Nicola and the team would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment to the EK1 Fostering Team.

Nicola Anthony Team Leader - EK1 Fostering Team

Mid Kent Area - 01233 898635 Foster Carer Payments 01622 772212

It has been a busy period for the Mid Kent Team, making a high number of placements and we would like to thank all our carers who have helped out, especially on out of hours and those Friday afternoon moments, when carer's flexibility has been much appreciated by the team.

We are preparing for a very sad time, as in June we will be saying goodbye to Tracy Ramsden, a much valued and respected member of the team, whose knowledge and care towards her carers, the children and colleagues will be sadly missed. On a positive, our loss will be the children's gain, when Tracy becomes a registered foster carer for KCC. The team wish Tracy lots of luck in her new career and expect an outstanding CWDC portfolio within her first year (no excuses when you have read as many as Tracy has!)

We will also be saying goodbye to Suzanne Mehmet, who will be joining Medway as a senior within child protection. Suzanne's knowledge of children and families will be a great loss to the team and we wish her well in her new role.

Mid Kent will have a full time Fostering Social Worker joining the team in September and further interviews will take place in June. With two staff leaving we are aware that this will mean some changes for foster carers in their allocated worker over the next few months. We will try where at all possible to keep changes to a minimum and there will continue to be 2 duty workers on each day, for any emergency support, should carers allocated worker be unavailable.

Recruitment of foster carers

Mid Kent staff and carers have supported two events in May to promote fostering fortnight and recruit new carers. Tots to Teens at Detling and a Saturday Information Day at Sessions House. Although Tots to Teens did not have the number of people expected, several couples from this event came to the day at Sessions House. The presentations/information session was attended by some quality applicants and although we would have liked higher numbers attending, the event went very well.

Thank you to staff and foster carers who spoke at these events and promoted the rewards of fostering, whilst also finding the confidence to speak into the microphone!

Annual leave/Respite

We have had a high number of requests for annual leave and respite during the half term period. We anticipate this will be the same for the summer holidays so please get your requests in for dates with as much notice as possible. If you have a spare bedroom available and might be able to help out with additional respite (within registration) please discuss with your fostering worker.

CWDC

From April 2011, family/friends carers (also known as kinship/connected person) will need to complete a CWDC workbook. Mid Kent will be running a workshop to support carers to complete this.

East Kent 2 - Thanet with Dover Area 01843 570003 Foster Carer Payments 01622 772238

Farewell

Marge Wiltcher has retired on 27th May. Marge had been a member of the EK2 fostering team for 10 years, and had been lead worker for the Therapeutic Reparenting Programme. We wish Marge a very happy retirement, and you may see her around Kent in her Morris Dancing role!

Kate Ball was due to return from maternity leave this spring, but has now decided to take up alternative employment - all the best Kate.

Welcome

We have appointed two new social workers - Anne Lewis, who is an experienced worker both within KCC and the Private Sector, joined the team on 16th May, and Su Bridle, who some of you may have spoken to in her previous role as team leader in the Out of Hours service, joins us on 1st June.

Welcome to you both.

We are also pleased to announce that Michelle Dennis will be taking over the lead role with TRP within the team.

Thank You

The team would like to thank all EK2 foster carers for their very hard work over the past months, and for their responsiveness to the pressures that we have been under recently, particularly with the continued increase in numbers of looked after children.

Support Groups

We would like to remind you about attendance at Support Groups - if you are not sure when these are speak to your worker, Duty or our admin team.

Also I would like to emphasise to our new foster carers that they need to attend the New Carer Support Group which meets at the office on a monthly basis - this is a very valuable resource, and attendance is an expectation - details should be in your initial pack, or can be obtained from your worker.

East Kent 2 - Thanet with Dover Area 01843 570003 Foster Carer Payments 01622 772238

Foster Carer Consultation Booklets

We have been advised by the IRO Service that the foster carer consultation booklets are not always being completed - the team will be sending email copies of this form out to carers and we would ask that you complete these each time.

Also you need to bring to LAC reviews details of all health appointments for any child.

Skills to Foster

The Spring course has just finished - this was a large group with 11 couples/single applicants attending, so this is potentially excellent news!

Emergency Bed

We continue to seek a designated Emergency Bed in the EK2 area.

If you think you may be interested in this scheme please speak to your worker, or contact Maggie or Stephanie.

Therapeutic Reparenting Programme and Parent/Child Programme

We are seeking carers for both these schemes - please contact Michelle (TRP) or Jackie (Parent/Child) if you think you may be interested.

**West Kent Area - 01732 525324
Foster Carer Payments - 01622 772210**

Farewell

To Jill Ferrell, Social Worker, who has left the West Kent Fostering Team to go on to pastures new.
We wish her well in her new job.

I am so pleased to hear that on 15th June 2011, four foster carers from the Sevenoaks Support Group, Hazel Rann, Wendy Hogg, Jill Walker and Sue Green, and two fostering workers Jackey Lorimer and Marina Lewis, completed a sponsored five mile walk through Knole Park, the route was set by Hazel Rann.

The amount raised is over £300 towards their planned Christmas Party.



Congratulations and Well Done to All

I would also like to remind all carers that it is expected that carers do attend support groups. There are 5 support groups held across the West Kent Area in Gravesend, Dartford, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Larkfield that holds an evening session on alternative months.

You are welcome to attend any of the above support groups to find the group that most suits your needs.

West Kent Area - 01732 525324
Foster Carer Payments - 01622 772210

Could you be the family for Jack?

Jack is a 10 year old, white British boy currently looking for a family to offer permanency through Fostering. He is an active child who enjoys outdoor play which includes riding his bicycle, contact rugby and swimming. He also enjoys gardening especially being able to grow his own vegetables. Jack is inquisitive child and asks many questions and can be forthcoming with information regarding his day's events etc. More recently Jack has been involved in the school choir which he thoroughly enjoys. He loves singing and will sing at home especially in the shower. Jack is a bit of a comedian and enjoys making people laugh.

Jack's behaviour was challenging when he first came into foster care in September 2006, but since being with his current therapeutic carers for two and a half years this has gradually diminished.

Jack loves going to school. He particularly enjoys science, sport and art. Jack is doing well at school and enjoys learning about facts and information. School teachers continue to maintain firm consistent boundaries which are kept consistent in the home and at school.

Jack will benefit from a family who are outgoing and proactive. Jack's family will need to be energetic, affectionate and have a good sense of humour. Jack would thrive with a family who provide him with lots of love, care, attention and firm and consistent boundaries. Jack will need to continue to have direct contact with his siblings and limited contact with his birth mother as they are part of his sense of identify and he needs to be reassured that his birth mother is also doing well.

**If you feel you could be the family for Jack
please contact Deepinder Kaur Gill Social Worker
in the Dartford Children & Families Team
on 01474 328664
or West Kent Fostering Duty on 01732-525335**

West Kent Area - 01732 525324
Foster Carer Payments - 01622 772210

Hello our names are Steven age 12 and my brother Jason 10.

We are looking for a permanent foster home as we have been at our present foster home for a year and are unable to return home to our mum and dad.

We are both white British. I have brown hair and Jason has fair hair. Since we have been in foster care we have adhered to boundaries set by our foster carers and we get on with our foster carers really well.

Both me and my brother, Jason, are in mainstream school and we attend regularly. We both like and need help with our home work.

My favourite lesson is PE and science.

Since he had extra lessons, Jason likes English and he also likes PE.

We have had holidays abroad since we have been in foster care usually going to Spain and have enjoyed it so much, we are trying to learn the language.

We are both good eaters, Jason is not too keen on certain fish, but I will try most things.

Jason was overweight when we were put in foster care, but over the year his diet has improved and he has lost a lot of this weight, which he is really proud of.

We like and are good around pets and are especially used to having dogs and we would be pleased if our new foster home had a dog. Although we would prefer they didn't smoke.

We both play rugby and like outdoor sports.

We also like listening to music, Tinie Tempah, Michael Jackson and JLS.

**If you think you would be able to offer us a permanent foster home
or you would like find out more about us
please contact Bernadette McDonald
our Social Worker in the Children & Families Team
on 01322 611040**

**If Bernadette is not around, you can speak with Martin O'Flynn,
Social Work Assistant on 01322 611079
or West Kent Fostering Duty on 01732-525335**

Sam & Jason

West Kent Area - 01732 525324
Foster Carer Payments - 01622 772210

Could you be the family for Mary?

Mary turned seven years old in June 2010 and is currently subject of a Care Order. Mary is of average height and weight with fair skin and auburn hair. Mary is an amiable, placid child who enjoys playing with her dolls, dance, drama, singing and learning to swim. Mary also enjoys most child focused activities, peer group activities and days out. Mary enjoys school and there are minimal concerns regarding her educational development but she does need extra support with reading and writing and is receiving extra tuition to assist her. Mary for the most part is a placid, polite child.

Mary has been in foster care since July 2009 and was placed with her older brother, however their relationship and lack of attachment to each other has led to the decision that the children should be placed in separate placements. Since her brother's move there have been no such difficulties with Mary's behaviour. Mary requires a committed foster carer who has the potential to become a long term placement for Mary.

Mary requires carers who are able to demonstrate an understanding of her past and support her to form attachments to others. Mary would benefit from a placement where she is the only child or youngest child in the placement, but this is not imperative. Ideally Mary requires two carers or an experienced single carer.

Mary has five brothers and sisters in separate placements, carers will need to be creative with maintaining contact arrangements between siblings. Any interested carer would need to be a Kent Carer or be prepared to transfer to Kent County Council.

**For further information regarding Mary,
please contact Deepinder Kaur Gill Social Worker in the
Dartford Children & Families Team on 01474 328664
or West Kent Fostering Duty on 01732-525335**

Short Breaks for Disabled Children Foster Carer Payments 01622 772212

Gwen's left the building!

Many of you knew Gwen, and it was a cause for both celebration and sadness when she retired on the 6 May. As a team Fiona, Veronica and I took Gwen out for lunch at Cullins Yard, Dover on the 4 May, and that was followed by a lunch on the 5 May held at Windchimes attended by colleagues both past and present and many of the short break foster carers.

The East Kent (2) Fostering Team organised the Windchimes event and they should be congratulated for providing Gwen with an excellent send off! Maggie Nash, Team Leader and Andrew Knowles, a well known foster carer gave speeches ... much to Gwen's embarrassment I am sure. I am sure she was thrilled with not only the attendance but the many cards, gifts and flowers she received. She will be sorely missed, but will remain in all of our thoughts!

Gwen's last day at work was Friday 6 May and she was still calling me after 4.00pm, updating me about some issue or another!!! Gwen is off on a cruise to New York shortly and I am sure we all wish her a wonderful trip .. Bon voyage Gwen!!!

Whilst I am on the Gwen thing, Sue Hollingworth has kindly agreed to host a BBQ for Gwen at her home on the 2 September, for foster carers, their birth children and as many of the children the short break service supports. Please try and keep this date free, as I know Gwen would love to see as many of you as possible. Further details in due course.

New Foster Carers & Team Update

May I welcome Tina Howe to the Short Break Team. Tina was successfully approved by Panel on the 12 May. Tina works within the West Kent area, and I am sure Fiona is pleased to have her, as we are still short of carers in the West and North of the County. Recently Jackie and Jeff joined us, who reside in Folkestone. They are all very much welcomed.

Whilst on the subject of new carers I am pleased to report to you that there is a healthy interest in the short break service, and we currently have six sets of carers currently attending their Skills To Foster training, and another eight sets of carers currently having their checks and references carried out. This will provide the scheme with a huge boost, and in turn offer more placements and choice to disabled children and their families and carers.

Fred and Viv Tutt (Canterbury) have signalled their intention to scale down their involvement with the team, and resign as short break carers in the summer. They have been long standing carers, of the highest quality, whose presence will be sorely missed. I intend to write more about them in the next newsletter ... they have been pre warned!

Just for your information the short break service provided over 150 nights support during April and you are all to be congratulated for your achievements.

Short Breaks for Disabled Children Foster Carer Payments 01622 772212

Sue Hollingworth, one of our Short Breaks carers has had recent fall.
We all wish her well and a speedy recovery.

Training & CWDC

Firstly CWDC, I have read the majority of your CWDC portfolio's and have been impressed with the standard of work, your commitment to the task and your knowledge and understanding about disability issues, not forgetting the detailed knowledge you have of the children you support. For those still waiting to have their CWDC portfolio's returned ... I appreciate your patience, they should be with you soon.

I am meeting with Lisa Fitzpatrick, Training Manager soon to discuss the training needs of our carers. She recognises the specialism of your work, and I have no doubt she will be instrumental in putting together some specific training courses i.e. autism, epilepsy, manual handling.

Fiona and I are currently putting together a Disability Awareness workshop for new carers ... details to follow.

And finally

My continued appreciation to all our carers for the work you do, Gwen put it well at her leaving lunch when she said the 'scheme is successful due to the carers we have'. Without your commitment and dedication, sometimes in very trying circumstances the scheme would struggle. I would also add to this the commitment of Fiona and Veronica (and Gwen up until the 6 May!!) who work extremely hard behind the scenes on your behalf.

If any of you wish to contribute to your newsletter please let me know, I am happy to include your experiences, successes, ideas and forthcoming events.

You can e mail me at robert.attwell@kent.gov.uk.

Therapeutic Reparenting Fostering (TRP)

Providing specialised foster care for 4 -13 year olds

Hello's

TRP would like to welcome three new TRP foster carer families:

Paul and Sue (WK)

Mag's and Barry (EK2)

Jane and Sarah (EK1)

We welcome **Michelle Dennis** as the new TRP lead in the EK2 fostering team, she is replacing Marge who has retired. We are very pleased to have Michelle join us.

Work has also been underway in approving new long term families for children who are ready to move on from the TRP.

So welcome Laura and Paul

We are very pleased to have all on board.

Goodbyes

Marge Wiltcher, our previous EK2 fostering TRP lead retired in May. We wish her all the best and thank her for her time, care and energy. It was lovely to hear from Marge during her retirement speech that her years with the TRP had been the most rewarding and the best example of social work of her social work career.

We are also saying good bye to some of our TRP carers.

Sue and Lorraine are taking a break and are all set to work with the short breaks team – thank you.

Nicky and Sean have also moved on from the TRP, following their adoption of the child they have been caring for.

**Congratulations all of you,
it is a wonderful outcome.**

**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	Michelle Dennis	01843 570003

TRP Supervisor

Amanda Byatt

01732 525342

Amanda Byatt—Therapeutic Reparenting Supervisor

Therapeutic Reparenting Fostering (TRP)

Providing specialised foster care for 4 -13 year olds

Sometimes when I am asked to write something about the TRP for the newsletter I really do struggle to put into fresh words, what the model of working is (working in a team around the child looking at a child's attachment needs and development, and the impact of previous trauma, helping them to learn to trust and be emotionally aware) and the amazing work that the children and the carers actually do as we can't identify individual children or the progress they are making, as it is often so personal and intimate.

BUT !!! for this news letter I really have been spoilt:

Nicky and Sean's adoption of their daughter is true testament to the work they all did to understand and trust over a number of years, and the love that grew from this. Their little girl certainly did not arrive able to return their care and love, or to trust that they could meet her needs, but is well on the way now.

I would also like to share with you a poem that one of our children wrote to their carer. This is a child who arrived desperate to be in control and very self reliant, because no adult had ever shown that they could look after them. They rejected every offer of care and regard that was made, but with the support of the TRP, her carer understood and stuck in there !

Dee you choose my right from wrong

Excellent food

Nice twinkly eyes

I love you so much

Such a wonderful person

Easy to love because you give me more love than ever

I do not think I could explain the psychological task a TRP carer takes on, or show the emotional progress a child can make any better, thank you Dee for sharing your Poem!

Amanda Byatt—Therapeutic Reparenting Supervisor

Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care Kent (TFC)

Before you know it, its summer again and over the last few months the team have undergone a number of changes.

Both of our Skills workers went on maternity leave and Dionne gave birth to a beautiful baby girl - Mother and daughter are both doing well.

We are very pleased to have appointed a new Skills Worker to cover the maternity leave period and Neil will be starting with us on 13 June. We are also fortunate to have Sophie who is currently working with us as a Skills Worker on a temporary basis. This will ensure our young people continue to receive their weekly skills sessions.

Sophie is working hard on finding out about the different activities that may be available for young people over the holiday period. If you have any suggestions or know what's going on in your area please let her know.

We are planning to hold a BBQ on 16th August (weather permitting) where the young people on the programme, carers and staff can all come together.

There will be a number of young people joining the programme over the next few weeks and we welcome them onto the programme.

We continue to need **move on placements** for some of our young people and can provide tapered support to the move on placement.

Please contact us for more details.

As part of a series of workshops for TFC carers, Annie Bousfield - Programme Supervisor, recently conducted a workshop on child sexual abuse.

We will be running a series of workshops for TFC carers over the year.

Recruitment & Retention

The Initial Enquiries Team welcomes their newest team member, Lynda Ham, who has worked for KCC for almost 33 years in a variety of roles within her career.

Lynda joins a team of Advisors who give callers information regarding the basic criteria for fostering and details of the approval processes. The team send out information packs and sign post to our website as well as suggesting attendance at an information session, held monthly around the county.

The Advisors also take enquiries from prospective adopters and send out information packs to them.



If you know anyone who might be interested in Fostering a Kent child ask them to contact us on 0845 330 2968 or take a look at our website www.kent.gov.uk/fostering for more information. Should they be approved as a KCC Foster Carer you are eligible for a £250 bounty payment!

Regular information sessions are held around the county, please give the dates and venues of the information sessions (details below) to anyone you know who is interested in finding out more about becoming a KCC foster carer.

Information Sessions July 2011 - December 2011

Wednesday 13 July 2011 - 7pm - 8:30pm

Seasalter Christian Centre 49 Faversham Road, Seasalter CT5 4AX

Tuesday 13 September 2011 - 7pm - 8:30pm

Angel Centre, Riverside Room, Angel Lane Tonbridge TN9 1SF

Monday 10 October 2011 - 7pm - 8:30pm

St. Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AN

Thursday 17 November 2011 - 7pm - 8:30pm

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

6 December 2011 - 7pm - 8:30pm

**The Canterbury Academy (Previously Canterbury High School)
The Canterbury Campus, Knight Avenue, Canterbury CT2 8QA**

**Initial Enquiries Team - 0845 330 2968
www.kent.gov.uk/fostering**

Recruitment & Retention

Tots 2 Teens Exhibition

Thank you to the foster carers, Marilyn Clark, Heather Clark, Teresa Griffiths, Martin Johnson & Anne Mapley, who helped with the fostering information stand at the exhibition which took place on Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 May at the Kent Showground, Detling Hill.

The exhibition was not as busy as we had hoped, over all we had 17 fostering enquiries and 2 adoption enquiries. Three of those who had enquired about fostering came along to find out more, at our fostering information session which was held on Saturday 21 May, which was in the middle of National FosterCare Fortnight.

Tots 2 Teens Exhibition Enquiries

		10am - 11am	11am - 12noon	12noon - 1pm	1pm - 1:30pm	1pm - 2pm	2pm - 3pm	3pm - 4pm	4pm - 5pm	Total
Sat 14 May	Fostering	2	4	4	2		1	1		14
Sat 14 May	Adoption									0
Sun 15 May	Fostering	1	1	1						3
Sun 15 May	Adoption					1	1			2
	Totals	3	5	5	2	1	2	1		19

National FosterCare Fortnight 16th - 29th May

To raise the profile of KCC Fostering Service, as well as the Information Session on 21 May, in the week before and during FosterCare Fortnight, we had adverts in the local KM Group newspapers and billboard posters on platforms at railway stations in Ashford, Maidstone East, Tunbridge Wells, Gravesend, Canterbury East, Dover and Ramsgate.

The adverts featured KCC foster carers;

Rose & Mark (Mid Kent)

Julie & Terry (TRP)

Julie & Gary (EK1)

Jean & Vince (East Kent 2)

Becky (Mid Kent)

Also in the photo is one of the Gateway Advisors from our Initial Enquiries Team, Celia Swain, who at the time was in her previous post. Celia came along in response to the call for staff volunteers from Sessions House to be part of the photo shoot back in August 2010.

That's commitment!

Recruitment & Retention

Information Session - Saturday 21 May 2011

Thank you to Mid Kent foster carers, Claire Bourne, Becky Christmas, Sue Clark, Wendy Greenway, Gay Hall & Michelle O'Shea who were on hand to speak to potential 26 foster carers (16 potential foster homes) at the information session at Sessions House in Maidstone.

Where did the potential foster carers come from?

MK = 4 - Maidstone x 3 / Folkestone x 1

WK = 3 - Dartford x 2 / Sevenoaks x 1

EK1 = 3 - Faversham x 1 / Minster x 2

EK2 = 2 - Birchington x 1 / Broadstairs x 1

Rochester x 1 / Walderslade x 2 / Chatham x 1

Had they already received an information pack?

4 stated they had / 12 stated they hadn't.

How did they hear about the info session?

Website x 9 / Tots 2 Teens Exhibition x 3 / KMFM Radio x 2

Info Pack Flyer x 1 / Phone call with IET x 1

Social Care Expo

The Fostering Service shared an information stand, with the KCC's Professional Development Unit, at the Social Care Expo on Thursday 16 June 2011 at the Kent Showground, Detling Hill.

33 fostering enquires were recorded, below is a table with details of the number of enquiries recorded by staff and foster carers who helped at the event.

	9:00am - 10am	10am - 11am	11am - 12noon	12noon - 1pm	1pm - 2pm	2pm - 3pm	3pm - 4pm	Total
Fostering	1	6	4	5	6	8	3	33

Our thanks go to Foster Carers, Louisa Ley, Wendy Greenway, Margaret Matharu and Jane Baker-Davies, who came along and spoke to prospective foster carers about what fostering with KCC involves. We very much appreciate your contribution to raising the profile of fostering with Kent County Council.

Two couples who spoke to us at the Social Care Expo came along to the information session in Dover that evening. So they must be keen.

One of the best ways we can inform potential foster carers, is by giving them the opportunity to speak to our foster carers who are actually carrying out the work. There will be other information stands around the county over the next few months, please let us know if you are able to help, even if it's only for a few hours.

Chris Clark Fostering & Adoption Recruitment Coordinator

Training & Development

E- Learning Training & Development Opportunities

AKAMAS Short Course Programme – provides foster carers a range of accessible courses and flexible online learning opportunities to help you develop your confidence and knowledge in a range of issues such as Child Development and Making Sense of Adolescence.

How do Foster Carers get started?

Carers will need to express their interest with their Fostering Social workers as this will form part of their Personal Development Plan.

How does it work?

Carers can work in their own time and space at home providing they have access to a computer with internet use. Carers will also need to be able to print off course materials.

Each short course has 10 or 20 learning hours and 3 months to complete each course.

Courses available to undertake are as below:

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

For further information and application form, please contact Sue Douglas or Lisa Fitzpatrick on 01732 525344 or email sue.douglas@kent.gov.uk

BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: Attachment, trauma and resilience – Therapeutic caring for children
Author: Kate Cairns
Publisher: British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF) 2002
Reviewer: Kathryn French
Date: 1st June 2011

This book gives a fantastic insight into the realities of welcoming a child into your home that has lived through overwhelming stress. It highlights in real situations how the family managed the difficult behaviours that the children in their care displayed before moving on to theory and research models. It allows the reader to really understand the theory behind the methods of Therapeutic care by being able to link them back to the real situations at the beginning of the book. It is very interesting how this has brought understanding to the development of attachment within my own family as well as the behaviours this creates.

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

Training & Development

Resource Library (Training and Development) New Books for 2011

Helping Bereaved Children - a handbook for Practitioners

The social workers guide to Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Flesh Wounds? New ways of understanding self-injury

Child and adolescent mental health today

Moving on Up - all you need to ease the transition from primary to secondary school

Moving on Up to secondary school

Mixed-Up Kids? Race Identity and social order

Children living with domestic violence

What does Adopted mean - a young child's guide to adoption

What the standards say about.....Fostering

Foster care and social networking - a guide for social workers and foster carers

Adopting or Fostering a Sexually Abused Child

Approaching Fatherhood: a guide for adoptive dads and others

Listening to what children say, Children exposed to parental substance misuse -
the implications for family placement

Taking Extra Care: Respite, Shared and Permanent Care for Children with Disabilities

Bereavement Loss and Learning Disabilities

Step by Step Help for Children with ADHD

Kids in the Syndrome Mix

Understanding Dyspraxia

A-Z of Genetic Factors in Autism

Supporting Traumatized Children and Teenagers

Happy Families

Helping Children to Improve their Communication Skills

How to Detect Development Delay and What to Do Next

Communication Skills for Working with Children & Young People

Parenting a Child with Asperger Syndrome 200 tips

Contact Sue Douglas – for further information and to request loans.
Senior Administration Officer, Fostering & Adoption - Training & Development
30 Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling
Telephone: 01732 525344

Notice Board

connect with your past



Get Hands on with Archaeology
A free *Dig!* activity

BBC
HANDS ON
HISTORY
DIG!
bbc.co.uk/history

Thursday 11 August, 2011
King's Farm Library

1.00 - 1.30pm 1.45 - 2.15pm
2.30 - 3.00pm 3.15 - 3.45pm

Dig! sessions are led by the experts of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. They are suitable for 7 to 11 year olds. (All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.)

Booking essential, telephone 01474 365491
www.kent.gov.uk/libs

CANTERBURY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST LP

Libraries & Archives



The BBC has provided the workshop materials for this event. This event is not run by the BBC.

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The latest issue of **Foster Families** magazine, came out last week. Click [Here to see a free sample](#). This issue includes advice on

- ◆ self esteem from Marneta Viegas
- ◆ top tips for avoiding fussy eating by Aldo Zilli
- ◆ techniques for combating tantrums
- ◆ the story of a 75 year old who's still fostering
- ◆ advice on dealing with soiling and daytime wetting
- ◆ the chance to win a Maxi-Cosi Noa buggy

plus lots more!

The full magazine can be downloaded here for just £1 <http://fosterfamilies.co.uk/download.html>

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Have you ordered your next copy of Foster Families? Just £7 for a year's subscription.

Email subscriptions@fosterfamilies.co.uk for more information.

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

26 August
4 November

Publication Dates for 2011

30 September
2 December