

Fostering News

As part of the Training and Development opportunities available to foster carers I am pleased to announce the launch of further on-line training. From September 2010 we will be piloting a further range of on-line short courses. The short on-line courses do not replace face to face training and provide the opportunity to undertake training at your own convenience to support your learning and development. More details on the courses available and the application process are available on the Training and Development pages.

As you know existing carers have until March 2011 to complete the CWDC TDS for foster carers with new carers having to complete them within 12 months of approval. Both carers need to complete the standards and a joint workbook can now be completed as long as individual evidence of completing the standards is highlighted. Short Break carers also need to complete the CWDC Standards for Short Break carers. As an alternative to completing the workbook you can also complete the standards on-line and more recently a CD Rom is also available. You can get more information from your fostering team or from www.cwdcouncil.org.uk



I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the children, young people and foster carers that attended the foster carer photo-shoot on Tuesday 31st August 2010. As the weather was kind to us we took the opportunity to go outdoors and also conducted a number of interviews with our carers.

October 2010

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Do you offer Day Care?

Please note there are Changes to Day Care and Fostering regulations

If you offer day care for any child under 8 you are now required to register as a Childminder. All local authorities are alerted that all foster carers approved under the Foster Services Regulations 2002, who also 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.

Teresa Vickers
County Manager Fostering

KFCA Drama Club

The KFCA drama groups had another successful performance on 10 July 2010. The enthusiasm of the children was really rewarding. We cannot over emphasise the positive benefits of children participating in activities such as this. They gain confidence and self esteem as well as having a good time. Carer cost is limited to £1.25 per rehearsal which contributes to the rental of the hall.

The clubs will be starting up again in September; we are hoping to see more foster children participating this year (and foster carers own children are welcome). For more information see the KFCA web site (www.kfca.org.uk) for contact details or contact the KFCA drama leader Maria Dobner (treasurer@kfca.org.uk).

Mental Health Project

The KFCA held a workshop on 24 September 2010 – ‘Thinking about Yourself in Fostering’ facilitated by Teresa Griffiths and Adrienne Ayres. The workshop was well received by foster carers with positive feedback. The committee will consider holding further sessions in 2011 if there is a demand.

Also for your diary is a major conference on Mental Health to be held at Lenham on 20 January 2011. Brian Cairns will be one of the guest speakers. Invitations will be issued.

KFCA Conference and AGM

The annual AGM will be held on 03 March 2011 at KFCA. To encourage better attendance by Foster Carers the meeting will consist of a very short AGM followed by a conference for Foster Carers.

This is very much in the planning stage and we would welcome any ideas on what issues carers would like discussed which would enable us to ensure appropriate people are there to answer your questions. Please contact Cathy Goodwin (CGood666@aol.com).

Magazine for Foster Carers

There is a very useful and interesting quarterly magazine for foster carers which costs £2 an issue or £7 for an annual subscription. The new issue has articles on Sure Start, Talking Trouble, Play Time, Withdrawal, Cyberbullying, etc. It is a good read and well worth the money.

For more information see www.fosterfamilies.co.uk

FosterTalk

And finally, don't forget the support services of FosterTalk are now available to all KCC Foster Carers courtesy of KCC. The various services are tailored for your needs; let's make use of this exceptional bonus. For more information see the FosterTalk web site. www.fostertalk.org



KFCA Christmas Extravaganza

FREE entrance to Extravaganza and Disco

The KFCA is providing this event for KCC Foster families and friends to be held on

04 December 2010

at Detling Village Hall

from 6pm until 10:30pm.

From 6pm until 8pm

We will cater for the younger members of the family (and the young at heart) with Santa's Grotto; party games, children's entertainer, Christmas Raffle with extras including a Tombola, guess the weight of the Christmas cake and how many chocolate coins in the jar; face painting, etc.

From 8pm to 10:30

there will be a disco with a live band and a DJ.

There will be refreshments on hand including hot dogs, cheese burgers, and mince pies.

The event is open to all KCC foster families and their friends.

To enable us to cater for appropriate numbers, you must book your place at this event by emailing the KFCA Treasurer (treasurer@kfca.org.uk) or by phone or text message (07882597457).

We need to know your name, the total number of places you are booking and the number of children (10 years old or younger) who will visit Santa's Grotto for a present.

Book early as places are limited.

Kent Foster Care Association,
10 Scocles Road, Minster-on Sea, Sheppey, ME12 3SD

www.kfca.org.uk

Telephone: 07050611567

Policy & Performance

Safeguarding Unit news

Following the restructuring of Children, Families and Education, the Policy & Performance Team is now known as the Safeguarding Unit. We are still based at Sessions House, Maidstone and will continue to work closely with the Districts, Fostering and Adoption.

Health Care Record

A pilot for a new Health Care Record for Looked After Children will soon be launched in East Kent. All parents & carers will be familiar with the "Red Book" which is provided for every young child, and the new Health Care Record for LAC expands on this.

Parents and permanent carers can generally recall important health information such as childhood illnesses, consultants and other health professionals seen, etc. For the child in care, the aim is to ensure that this information will not get lost if the child changes placement. The idea behind the new KCC Health Record for LAC, is to provide a record that is passed between carers, and follows the child. In addition to providing valuable factual information at the start of placement, it is completed by the carer to provide a running record. A young person may want to have a copy of the record when they leave care, or to have access to it as part of 'Life Story Work'.

The record is being presented in a loose leaf folder, so that additional pages can be put in, or pages that are not relevant to a particular child's needs (e.g. some which are appropriate only for disabled children) can be dispensed with.

The medication administration records which are currently in use have been simplified and will be included in the Health Folder. Information that is not currently required by the foster carer will be filed by the child's social worker, and it is proposed that a back up copy should be filed when the record is handed to a young person to keep on leaving care.

KCC have decided to pilot the formats with 30 carers who are looking after a range of children, so that feedback can be gained about the contents and presentation.

If you are in East Kent and would like to be part of the pilot which will take place over the next 6 months please speak to your fostering social worker.

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.

Allegations & Complaints against Foster Carers

Updated guidance and procedures to be followed when an allegation or complaint is made against a foster carer has recently been agreed and are available electronically. The guidance covers child protection allegations, as well as complaints, and includes timescales, support and payments to foster carers.

Catch22 16plus Out of Hours Service

Catch22 16plus Service is currently on contract to Kent County Council to provide a service to all their young people 16yrs - 21yrs (24yrs if in Higher Education) who are in the care of the local Authority or have left care.

In addition to this since December 2009 we have been operating a 'Social work practice' pilot scheme which was commissioned by the Dept of Education on behalf of the previous Government

The initial aim of the pilot in Kent was to

- look at alternative ways of providing a service to young people
- improve outcomes for children in care
- reduce staff turnover
- increase time spent by workers with young people
- increase decision making and accountability by the workers

One of the main developments of the service is that since May 10 we have been operating an 'out of hours' service

From Monday -Friday (except Bank holidays) between 5:00pm-Midnight Catch22 staff on a rota basis are available to give advice and support to young people, parents, foster carers and supported accommodation providers regarding any issues of concern etc. After midnight our out of hours service reverts back to the KCC system.

Telephone number is 07872 419023

Transport for a LAC is no different than for any child

The arrangements for transporting Looked After Children are no different from those for any child.

All transport providers have to first register as suppliers to the County Council and we undertake checks on their licensing, insurance and so on. All taxi drivers are CRB checked as part of the licensing process conducted by the district council - they can't have a licence without it - and all minibus drivers, coach drivers and escorts are CRB checked by the county council. All escorts also have to pass a KCC training course. If any parent or carer has a concern with the status of the driver or escort, they should ask to see their ID. All licensing authorities require the driver to have the badge with them and most drivers have it attached to their dashboard. All escorts have photo ID issued by KCC.

All our arrangements with transport providers are governed by a legally-binding contract and we also provide supplementary guidance to ensure that all suppliers are fully aware of their responsibilities.

The circumstances of each journey depends upon the number of factors; the individual personality of the child and driver, the type of vehicle, the number of passengers, the duration of the journey etc. All companies are aware that they should not stop anywhere on route between the pick up and destination, unless there is an emergency. If a carer is aware that the vehicle is regularly stopping en route they should first ask the driver why and, if not satisfied with the explanation, should report it to Transport Integration.

The law is very clear on children travelling in the front seats of taxis and all drivers will be fully aware of the requirements. The law also covers children travelling in private cars and other vehicles and a useful guide can be found at http://www.dft.gov.uk/think_media/241015/241057/251.pdf

Nick Smyth
Senior Schools Transport Officer (Special Needs)

Stop Press!!!!

The Integrated Support Service for Looked After Children is now headed up by Tony Doran, Head Teacher for the Virtual School 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 during the October school holiday

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

Sarah Skinner
ILSS Service Development Manager

The Fostering Service Welcomes New Carers

Rubina & Mazher Baig - WK
Michelle & Steve Barber - EK1
Tony & Jan Borgioli - Short Breaks
Rita & Blair Boulting - EK1
Leigh Carvill & Jon Hope - EK2
Maryann & Tony Clemo - EK2
Rosemarie Collins & Kerry Collins – MK
Kevin & Marie Durling - MK
Sarah & Lee Evans - EK1
Alan & Amanda Forrest - EK2
Clare Gregory & David Christian - EK2
Tina Greib - EK2
Julie & Rob Harrington - Short Breaks
Emily Lydamore - Mid Kent
Bridget & Sidney McKinnon - Mid Kent
Alison & Kevin Maynard - EK1
Debbie Mead - EK2
Amanda & George Pavlou - WK
Elaine & Stephen Pereira - Mid Kent
Robert Reilly - Short Breaks
Jeannette Shoer - Mid Kent
Peter Smithers - WK
Adrian & Amanda Thorn - EK2
Mark & Debbie Williams - Mid Kent

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

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

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

An Invitation to Foster Carers

The EK2 Fostering Team at Aberdeen House
are holding a

**Coffee Morning/Bring & Buy
In aid of the Pakistan Disaster Appeal**

On Wednesday 3rd November 2010
10am —12 Mid Day

We would like you to come along & support this worthwhile event
You will be able to sell, buy and eat cakes etc.

There will be a voluntary contribution to the charity.

Looking forward to seeing you all here

**Are you interested in joining our
Emergency Bed Scheme?**

The Scheme operates on a 7 night / 8 day cycle, although at times we may need some flexibility. Carers are on duty for 6 weeks, followed by a 2 week paid break. Carers on the scheme need to be able to care for a wide age range of children/young people who need emergency foster care. Emergency Bed foster carers will receive an enhanced rate of payment, double fee and maintenance when the bed is occupied and normal fee when carers are on their 2-week break.

If you are interested or wish to discuss further please contact Maggie Nash or Stephanie Jones at
the

EK2 Fostering Team, Aberdeen House, 68 Ellington Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9ST

or phone on 01843 570003

June Harrison, Jo Jackson & Barbara Bailey
did the Race for Life and collected £241.00.

Thank you to all who supported us.



East Kent 1 - Canterbury with Swale 01227 598500

Foster Carer Payments 01233 652259

It has been a busy summer over here at East Kent 1 Fostering. The team would like to welcome Sarah Capell Fostering Social Worker Support for TRP into her new post. Sarah came from the Post Adoption Team and is looking forward to working with the young people and the families within the TRP scheme.

Summer Fete

The summer fete raised funds for the foster carers social fund, as well as young people in the area working hard and achieving both GCSE and A Level's.

For many young people, birth children and foster children alike, futures have been decided.

Hannah and Chris are off to university, whilst Nathan leaves university having achieved a First Degree.

The team would like to congratulate all the young people who have achieved successful results as well as thanking the carers for their support during what is always a stressful time for many youngsters.

Pie Factory Sing Up Sessions

Huge thanks to all the carers who supported the young people during the Pie Factory sing up sessions.

These sessions were held at Ramsgate and Lenham during the summer period and future dates have been sent out.

These sessions are free and can help young people experience the world of music, as well as building confidence and providing positive interaction with other young people.

Ronnie LAC from EK1 has just been given an award from Duncan Goodhew (and a lovely photo of them together receiving a medal) for not only learning to swim, but most improved young person in swimming.

CWDC

The team would like to remind carers that the workshops have begun to support completion of the CWDC workbooks. Two groups have been arranged at the Christian Centre in Seasalter, Whitstable and at the Seashells Centre on the Isle of Sheppey. For more information please contact Mel D'Ardenne at Brook House.

Please attend these, as many of you will know, workbooks have to be completed by March 2011.

The team would also like to remind carers that 2 weeks Annual leave is the agreed contract; anything requested over those 2 weeks will unfortunately be unpaid.

Last but not least, there have been some milestone birthdays over the summer within the team, not least for Paul Cole who turned 60 years young on the 9th September, Happy Birthday Paul from all at EK1.

Nicola Anthony
Team Leader - EK1 Fostering Team

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

Hi all,

I hope you have all had a good summer; I know some of you may have taken up the many activities on offer during the holidays.

Stella Brown, Fostering Administration Assistant has gone on maternity leave, please contact Linda Ausher, if you have any training issues.

I am sorry to hear from West Kent Carers Social Committee that the Swattenden activity week planned for October has had to be cancelled, it was unfortunate that there were not enough carers who were able to assist with overnight stays; hopefully the carers group will be able to arrange day activities in the future.

I do need to remind those who have not completed their CWDC folders that they need to be submitted to me as soon as possible as the deadline of March for existing cares is fast approaching.

As we all know Christmas is around the corner and I am aware that Dartford & Gravesend support groups are organising 2 Christmas parties for carers and their children.

Please keep a look out for the flyers for dates and times and I hope to see many of you there.

Sue Roberts-Hughes
Team Leader - West Kent Fostering Team

During August West Kent Foster Carers Social Group organised a Day at the Beach at Minnis Bay. However, the English weather being what it is, it had to be cancelled, but the response was very positive and it will be looked at again next year.

Many carers used the Doit4Real Camps again, taking advantage of the various activities on offer and were able to use PEA to cover all or part of the costs.

Carers were made aware of the link giving details of holiday activities throughout the county and it is always useful to check this periodically for additions.

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

Some of our children have sent in their artwork from visits to either Eagle Heights or Kent Life Museum and were rewarded with a book token. This work will be included in the Creativity4Health Celebrations on 29th October at the Design Museum in London and they have been invited to attend with their carers. If any other children would like to send in their artwork or photos of their visits to these venues during the summer, please send them to Jenny Finch, West Kent Fostering Team, 17 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4UL.

Following the success of the Foster Carers' Social Group Activity Day at Swattenden in June, it had been hoped that a residential week could be held during October half term. Unfortunately, it was not possible to provide adequate overnight cover by the centre and volunteer carers, and so this had to be cancelled. However, the centre are happy to look at hosting daytime events next year and this will be looked into.

Music Workshops are available to our young people at Northfleet Youth Club, Hall Road, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 8AJ on Mondays started on 20 September 7.30-9.30pm and a Songwriting Taster Session was held there on 13 September.

These workshops will continue during the Autumn and if your young people are interested, contact Russ Grooms on russ@rythmixmusic.org.uk or 08701 417484.

The Premium Football Coaching course was popular during August and the places filled very quickly. This is running again in October half term and again, places are full already and we hope the same offer will be extended to us next year.

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

CWDC Workshop

The CWDC Workshop is being held at The Kings Hill Community Centre. Each Standard is looked at and discussed and help is offered at whichever stages carers are working at to complete the book. The Workshop is run by Jenny Finch (Social Worker Assistant - Education) and Jackey Lorimer (Social Worker Assistant).

We work in a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere where carers are encouraged to ask questions about the standards and advice is given to help carers manage their own way of collating the necessary information. We also provide handouts which are available for you to take so you can use them alongside other evidence that is needed.

We would like to invite and encourage Foster Carers to attend. Even if you have missed the first few sessions, this is not a problem. Just turn up with your workbook, a file, a pen and notebook. There's coffee/tea biscuits/cakes available. If you would like to bring your lunch you are welcome to bring it and eat as we go along!

These are the next dates when the Workshop is being held:

Monday 11 October 12pm - 2pm

Tuesday 9 November 12pm - 2pm

Wednesday 3 November 12pm - 2pm

Wednesday 17 November 12pm - 2pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

Jackey Lorimer
Social Worker Assistant (Fostering)

Joshua and Christopher are two brothers, who are white British and have only been in care 10 months. They have a special relationship with each other and have cared for each other since they were young, for this reason they need to remain together.

Joshua and Christopher have settled well with their foster carers, they have made appropriate attachments to their foster carers, however they now need a family who can offer them a long term placement and nurture them through their remaining minority and into their adulthood.

Joshua is 12; he is an extremely intelligent young person with a thirst for knowledge and opportunity to learn new skills. Joshua is a keen reader and makes his way through books very quickly. Joshua has just started to learn the guitar.

Joshua has a very quirky sense of humour and is a very talkative young man. He enjoys the company of others and is keen to enter in to conversation with the people he meets.

Joshua and Christopher have missed out on many childhood experiences such as learning to ride a bike, exploring the outdoors and visiting places of interest, however they are quickly making up for this and are keen to take on every new experience he is presented

Christopher is 10, he is just about to sit his 11+ and is hoping to follow in Joshua's footsteps and attend Grammar School. Christopher was initially the less talkative of the two boys; however he has now found his own voice and likes to make his views known.

Christopher is a very popular young person and has many friends both at school and within the social clubs he attends. This reflects his caring and compassionate nature.

Both boys are friendly, bright sociable young guys who have a lust for life and are keen to try everything new. They are genuine charming boys who need a nurturing, fun loving, caring home environment.

If you would like further information about Joshua or Christopher
or are considering fostering them, please contact:
Andrea Chapman - Social Worker Tonbridge and Malling Team - 01732 841863
Stephen Brookman - Social worker W/K Fostering Team - 01732 525335

Mid Kent Area - 01233 898635
Foster Carer Payments 01233 652266

We have welcomed to the team Joe Rotchell and Janet Francis both fostering social workers. They will bring to the team up to date knowledge of Children and Families including duty and long term work and we are very pleased to have them joining us.

It has been a very busy summer in the Mid Kent Team and more staff will help recruit and assess those new foster carers that we need for the area. There have been many foster carers over the summer holidays that have helped out having children at short notice for respite and emergency placements – our thanks from all the team for your ongoing commitment.

KFCA Drama Group.

On 10th July 2010, several members of the team enjoyed a night out at Lenham, watching 3 Dimensions Show Time, the 4th Annual production from the KFCA. The evening was very enjoyable and we would like to thank all the foster carers and volunteers who are involved in this project.

To have the opportunity to see all the children having such a good time and achieving so much, was inspirational. We hope that other foster carers will support the Mid Kent Drama Group, managed by Sue Hope and Teresa Griffiths. Contact the office for further details. Supporting children with leisure activities is a key part of the foster carers role, enabling children to develop confidence, social skills and self esteem.

CWDC

There will be a further workshop running in Ashford following the positive feedback received from foster carers attending the first sessions. The dates are:

8th October 2010 – CWDC New Foster Carers

Book a place via Gladys Lopato.

Please can we remind existing foster carers that completed portfolios need to be with the team by December 2010, to allow time for them to be signed off by Mark Vening or Caroline Smith.

New carers have to complete by the end of their first year of fostering.

Mark Vening - Team Leader

Caroline Smith - Principal Social Worker

Treatment

Staff news

We have welcomed Emma Hodgkins to the team in the role of birth family therapist following the departure of Angie Lemmer who is now working in CAMHS Dover.

It is with a lot of sadness that I am announcing that I am leaving the Programme Managers job after 3 years.

I have greatly enjoyed working with our wonderful foster carers and never cease to be amazed at their patience kindness and resilience in the face of challenging and difficult behaviours.

A big thank you to all at MTFC for making it a memorable experience especially the brilliant youngsters who work so hard to change their behaviours in the face of great adversity, hats off to them all.

Programme news

The programme goes from strength to strength with 9 full time carers and 2 sets of respite carers we are nearly at the magic 10 maximum placements.

We have now taken 28 young people on programme and the young people continue to gain great benefit from their time with us.

TFC Moving on placements needed

We are still looking for follow on and respite carers to join the team so if you are interested in a change of scene or know of anyone who might be please get in touch with Carol Cracknell Fostering Social Worker at Westchurch house 01233 660987.

Debbie Simmons

Treatment Programme Manager

Therapeutic Reparenting Fostering

Providing specialised foster care for 4 -13 year olds

When children are ready to move on from the TRP, we identify adoptive families, or long term foster families, according to the child's plan and development.

Recently a ten year old boy moved from his TRP family to an Adoptive one. Everyone who has been part of his network is truly excited about the new family's future together.

There are profiles of two boys included in this newsletter, who need long term foster families, we are also seeking a family for a 12 year old girl

IF you feel that you could offer one of our children a long term family where they can continue to make progress do have a discussion with the TRP lead in your fostering team (**telephone numbers are at the bottom of the next page**).

The TRP continues to offer support to the long term Carers / parents of any of our children when needed and any move is well planned so that everyone has time to learn about each other and the adults can develop good working relationships.

Mark is a bright, active twelve year old white British boy who is looking for a permanent placement, having spent three years on the therapeutic Re-parenting Programme.

Mark would benefit from two energetic carers, either experienced or with a sound psychological understanding of children, and with good routines and boundaries. We feel that he would flourish in a family with an active male carer as his previous male role models have been difficult for him. He has just started at a school in Sevenoaks, and we would like him to continue at this school. Transport to the school is provided.

He loves performing arts, particularly street dancing and acting. He enjoys skate-boarding and football, gymnastics, reading music and gardening. He likes puzzles and building projects and is a whiz at Lego construction. He has good academic potential but has not always been able to work to his capacity.

Until recently Mark has seen his family three times a year but recently contact has been less frequent.

Mark has a good sense of humour and lots of interests. He can be affectionate and would benefit from being the youngest child in the family. His behaviour can be challenging at times and he becomes anxious about change and new situations. At times he can be immature but in general is a charming and rewarding young man. He is quick witted and fun to be with.

**For more information please contact
Danielle Babin (01732 362442) or Deborah Cumber 01732 525340**

**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

Therapeutic Reparenting Fostering

Providing specialised foster care for 4 -13 year olds

John is a cheerful, polite, bright and active eleven year old white British boy who is looking for a permanent home. He has spent the last 2 ½ years on the Therapeutic Re-parenting Programme and is now ready to be claimed by a forever family.

John would benefit from energetic carers who have experience in parenting, or who have a sound psychological understanding of children. John functions well in a structure where there are good routines and boundaries. We feel that John would flourish in a family where he would always be the youngest child in placement. Any older young people in the family need to be secure and settled. It would be preferable that there is no change in the family composition for at least a year after placement. John will be starting his secondary education at a school in Ashford in September 2010 and we would like him to continue at this school.

John loves playing with Yugio cards, bike riding and playing tennis and football. He also recently started attending a drama club and is taking guitar lessons. He enjoys a common interest of cars with his present male foster carer and enjoys the company and input of a strong father figure.

John has made significant academic and behavioural progress since being part of the TRP and targets at school are now primarily academic rather than behavioural.

John sees his brother monthly and his mother three times a year. Contact is always supervised.

John is now able to trust the adults around him and looks to them for reassurance and information. He is also starting to understand his own emotions and is starting to understand his complex past. His ability to build relationships and trust others has developed and he has gained self esteem and confidence. This progress has been a pleasure to watch and he is very rewarding to care for.

John has a good sense of humour and can be affectionate. Like most children his age he is developing his own identity. His behaviour can at times be challenging and he can become anxious about change and new situations, so he benefits from clear consistent boundaries and care. His present carers view him as a charming and a rewarding young man and say that he is fun to be with.

**For more information please contact
Michael Ffoulkes (0845 3302967) or Sonja van Rooyen (01233 898634)**

Could you be the family for Anna ?

Hi, my name is Anna and I am 12 years old. I wonder if you can find a foster family who can take care of me. I like pop groups, make up, clothes, and I enjoy helping at home with cooking and making cakes. I love dancing and have danced on stage at some shows. I am a good swimmer and I go to Guides.

I moved lots of time when I was little but during the last 3 years I have been with a foster family who have really understood me and helped me to become very settled. What I need now is a family who will be able to be my family through my teen years and beyond.

I need someone who can be clear about what is expected of me and I am better with a predictable routine. I would love to be in a family where I had an older or younger sister.

I have enjoyed holidays at home and abroad and I love new experiences as long as they are explained to me beforehand.

I am still not too good at managing myself when I am out and know that I need someone who can help me with this. I am in mainstream school and in school I need small classes and structured break times as I get very distracted when there are lots of people around.

Anna is white British and twelve years old. She has benefited from a therapeutic re-parenting programme and has made good emotional, social and educational progress. She now needs a nurturing family environment where she can remain until she reaches the age of maturity. She will need sensitive and skilful carers who are mindful of her past experiences and who are nurturing, energetic, active, consistent and caring.

If you feel you could be the family for Anna, please contact

Margaret Waite - Anna's social worker – 01303 253476

Marge Wiltcher - Fostering social worker – 01843 570003

Short Breaks

New Carers

Hi, firstly a warm welcome to our new Short Break Foster Carers Tony and Jan Borgioli, Julie and Rob Harrington and Robert Reilly.

The Team welcomes you, and looks forward to working with you in due course.

The Team receives a high volume of referrals for disabled children and it is always pleasing to have new foster carers on board!

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us please get them to call in!

New Payment System

The Team is introducing a new payment system on the 1 October. All existing foster carers should have received an e mail with details of this new system but if you have any queries please speak with your fostering social worker Veronica, Fiona or Gwen or the Team's administration officer Karen Pitkin, who can be contacted on 01233 898634.

We hope that the new system will help reduce the number of payment issues, but please note this system refers to overnight stays only.

We are liaising with the Disabled Children's Team about changing the way in which you submit your invoices for day care – so watch this space!

Support Groups

We appreciate that for many Short Break carers attending support groups can be difficult.

We would like to continue offering you the opportunity of meeting up with other carers but will be exploring what changes may be needed to make things easier for everyone.

KCC Events

May I thank all those foster carers who attended the County Show during the summer and helped promote the work of the Short Break Team. Your continued support at this and other events is very much appreciated.

CWDC

Thank you to all our foster carers who have completed their CWDC. I know many others are nearing completion, whilst other's will be just starting. If you need any assistance then please do not hesitate to ask.

Training

I am currently devising a package of specialist training for all Short Break carers – and hopefully the details will be circulated soon. I appreciate your patience in this matter.

Best wishes to you and your families, and thank for the invaluable work you provide for disabled children and their parents/carers. If you would like me to include an event, success story in the next edition of this magazine then please drop me an e mail at robert.attwell@kent.gov.uk.

Robert Attwell
Short Break Team

Recruitment & Retention

The Fostering Service have had information stands at Westwood Cross Shopping Centre and various community events such as the Kent Show, Thanet Pride, Littlestone Emergency Services Day and the Maidstone Mela.

Thank you to the many foster carers who have helped us to have a presence at these events.

Marilyn Clark	Justin Dumigan
Sue Hollingworth	Sue Hope
Sylvie Judge	Denise & Peter Lathrope
Kay Matthews	Hede Merritt
Carol Moody	Margaret Silander
Anita Stokes	Deborah Tulley
Viv & Fred Tutt	Lyn Whiteing

People who want to find out more about fostering state they have found it very useful and informative to speak with foster carers who are actually doing the job of caring for other people's children.

Research has shown that word of mouth is the best form of advertising, therefore please ask your fostering worker for a supply of Foster Carers Business Cards, then when you are asked about becoming a KCC foster carer, you will be able to pass on the contact details for our Initial Enquiries Team 0845 330 2968 and our website address www.kent.gov.uk/fostering

Chris Clark
Fostering Recruitment Co-ordinator

Information Sessions October 2010 - January 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

Monday 18 October
7pm - 8.30pm

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

Tuesday 9 November
7pm - 8.30pm

The Canterbury Campus
Knight Avenue, Canterbury CT2 8QA

Thursday 9 December
7pm - 8.30pm

Little Forest Children's Centre
Friars Way, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 3UA

Thursday 13 January
7pm - 8.30pm

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

Training & Development

New on-line short courses

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

The courses will be 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 pilot programme will be available from September 2010.

The courses focus on subjects covering core knowledge and values, promoting positive behaviour, understanding trauma and working with looked after children.

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

Training & Development

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 your 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.

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	Making Sense of Adolescence	Working with Disabled Children and Young People
Impulsive Behaviour	Sexualised Behaviour	Transitions and Vulnerability
Attachment and Loss	Resilience and Recovery	Promoting Positive Contact
Children and parental mental health issues		

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 .

Notice Board

Please make sure you read the Department of Health Safety Notice on KentTrustWeb which highlights the dangers of blinds that have pull cords.

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

Children's Car Seats

It would certainly be advisable **NOT** to use a child's car seat, that have been involved in significant crashes. The advice from Kent Highway Services, Road Safety Driving Team suggest the car seat is scrapped and a new one obtained.

Even with cycle helmets, if someone comes off their bike and lands on their head, this needs to be very thoroughly checked before using again, and we recommend purchasing a new helmet.

Likewise, it is never a good idea to buy a secondhand car seat, as it could have previously been involved in a crash, or the webbing could be starting to wear.

The manufacturers of the seat could always be contacted to ask their advice. The child's life is the most important thing here.

Kent Highway Services, Road Safety Driving Team have just started a new campaign called the Good Egg Guide which is all about car seats (visit www.protectchildgb.org.uk) and you may have seen buses around Kent and Medway with bus advertising.

For 2 weeks in October there will be free clinics where car seat fitting can be checked by experts, and these venues are also on this website. Booklets will also be given out to those attending these clinics.

Christmas Card Competition

We are holding a Christmas Card Competition to obtain the design for the Fostering Service 2010 Christmas Card which will be distributed all over Kent. The overall winner will receive a prize.

There are 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.

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.

Closing date for entries is Friday 29th October 2010

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

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

Deadline for articles

5th November 2010

Publication Dates

3rd December 2010

2011

25 February

31 March

27 May

30 June

26 August

30 September