

I hope that you have all had a good summer if not in weather but in activity and fun holidays.

This is a packed newsletter with lots of information so please take the time to read fully.

I know you will all have received the letter from Liz Totman, Head of Specialist Children's Service - Families & Social Care, regarding the importance of keeping and attending health appointments for the young people you look after.

IF the young person is no longer with you **PLEASE** pick up the phone and let the health professionals know. I would also like to remind you that it is also important that young people are registered with dentists and have regular check ups.

It feels very strange to be thinking about Christmas in 28° sunshine but I hope you will encourage the young people you look after to take part in our Christmas card competition (see page 26) and while on the subject of Christmas I would like to draw your attention to the Kent Foster Care Association's invitation (on page 2) for the Christmas Party for all children.

I hope that you will support this event, a great deal of time and energy has gone into this event so that all children have a great evening.

Teresa Vickers
County Manager Fostering



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Kent Foster Care Association



Project 2011 – Transition to Independence

We continue to progress with investigating issues related to LAC progressing to independence. Besides talks with foster carers in each of the four areas and attending a conference in London on Support Lodging and Staying Put; we have met with Catch22, Connections, and LAC Nurses. We are attending KCC Corporate Parenting meetings and looking at legislative changes that will impact on this area in the future including government driven pilot schemes on Staying Put.

We will bring this together at the Transition to Independence Conference which will be held in Lenham on **18 January 2012**. Invites will be issued closer to the date.

KFCA Christmas Extravaganza

A date for your diary: **Saturday 26 November 2011** at Lenham, the KFCA is hosting a Christmas Extravaganza and disco for KCC foster families and friends.

Entrance is free but it will be necessary to book your place to enable us to manage numbers for catering and visits to Santa. Invites and further details will be issued soon.

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, burgers, and mince pies.

Update your diary now!

Other News

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.

Your support is important to us.

Together we can make a difference

www.kfca.org.uk



Cathy Goodwin

Policy & Performance

Children Who Go Missing: There may be occasions when Looked after children go missing from the home of the foster-carer. It is important that the foster-carer, with consultation and advice from their Fostering social worker or the child's social worker, is able to determine whether this is an **unauthorised period of absence** – for example a child saying they would be in at a certain time and then being late - or whether the child has gone **missing**.

The Kent Safeguarding children's board have developed protocols in relation to young people who go missing from home or care.

[Missing Childrens Procedures 2011 kscb.pdf](#)

These protocols must be followed when any Looked after child goes missing from foster-care.

- Foster carers should make enquiries and take reasonable steps to locate the missing child
- Once established child/ young person is missing Foster carer telephones police with details of the missing child/young person

Foster carer to notify social worker (or duty worker if social worker is not available) and fostering social worker. Out of hours to be notified if child is missing when social services offices are closed.

There are many reasons why a child may be missing.

These include:

- ◆ What would it be like to live on the street?
- ◆ I want to be at home with my family
- ◆ If I lived with Fred I wouldn't have to go to school
- ◆ I need to get away from being bullied and being unhappy
- ◆ I am angry with my carers

And those beyond the child's control e.g. abduction, accident.

The Kent Safeguarding procedures give the following information:

- A definition of a **missing child/young person** as opposed to an **unauthorised absence**.
- Matters which should be considered and discussed between foster carer and the social worker during a child's placement which may impact on the potential for 'unauthorised absences' or the 'child going missing'.
- Basic initial actions which need to be undertaken by the foster-carer when a child/young person has an 'unauthorised absence' or it is suspected that he/she may have gone missing.
- Notification of the child's social worker, their manager, duty officer or out-of hours service to any 'unauthorised absences' and/or 'missing incident'.

An assessment of the risk posed to the child (should be undertaken jointly by the child's social worker (or out of hours social worker) and the foster-carer and incorporated in the placement plan for the child.

The Fostering Service Welcomes New Carers

Paul and Karen Deering - EK1

Michelle Beddall & Tim O'Donnell - EK2

Carol Bowen & David James - EK2

Nicola and Paul Clarke - EK1

Amanda Cooper & Michael Clancy - WK

Eve and Howard Horne - EK1

John & Val Josey - EK2

Jane Keenan and Sarah Gallagher -EK1

Carol & Barry Leach - WK

Melanie & Wayne Mayone-Radford - EK2

Melissa Miles & Peter O'Bree - EK2

Darren Moses & Stefan Cooke - EK2

Kelly Nichols—WK

Kaye & Colin Perry - EK2

Michelle Pluckrose & Jason Evans - WK

Rita & Maurice Price - Short Breaks

Gillian & William Sanderson - WK

Hayley & Andrew Seal - EK2

Vicki & Lance Thompsett - WK

Leila & Robert Thompson - WK

Debbie & Chris Walker - 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.**

Hello from the Foster Carer Payments Team



Left to Right

Back Row:

Trish Collison (Adoption and SGO)
Charlie Faulkner (Team Leader)
Minnie Love (Respite & Short Breaks)
Sophie Jackson (Admin)

Front Row:

Evey Turner (Left) East Kent,
Sue Heath (Middle) Mid Kent,
Sarah Mills (Right) West Kent

Above is a picture of the Team so it might help to put a face to the name!

There have been a couple changes which we need to make you aware of, and this is to benefit all involved. Historically, when a placement is ended, the Payments Team could only accept an instruction from the Social Worker. However, we can now accept instructions from the Carer by phone, so please contact the office on the below area number and we can amend the placement.

The second change is that on Monday mornings, phone calls are diverted to the answer phone. Whilst this is not the most ideal solution, we have found that having a few hours un-interrupted allows the processing of payments with fewer errors, and additionally we can guarantee that all paperwork received up to that day is on the pay run. The system is a manual one, so it is important that there is a set time available for the team to purely process.

There are designated support people for your Area and they are as follows.

East Kent
Evey Turner 01622 772238

West Kent
Sarah Mills 01622 775152

Mid Kent
Sue Heath 01622 772212

Short Breaks
Minnie Love 01622 775159

When calling to check payments it would be beneficial to have the dates, Child's full name, Social Worker, and Fostering Officer details to hand so that we can send an email to chase this on your behalf.

Please note, we do not have the facility to chase this on an ongoing basis, but we can alert the relevant people that we have not received paperwork.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience whilst we are improving the service that we offer.

kindest Regards
 Charlie Faulkner
 Team Leader

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 in July and August. We would like to thank all our carers who have helped out, especially with extra children for respite. Our team have also worked extremely hard on duty to accommodate all the requests for carers Annual Leave, alongside a high number of referrals from the districts.

The team has changed considerably since our last newsletter, we said goodbye to Helen Causer, Tracy Ramsden and Suzanne Mehmett. Tracy has hit the ground running in her new role as a foster carer and we are pleased that she is doing so well. Kristen Corsie will not be re joining the team, having decided to enjoy her new role as full time Mum to Joshua. At the end of the summer, two new social workers will join the team, Carol Akehurst and Amanda Jobey, both from Children and Families. Carol will be taking on the lead role for parent and child placements and Amanda will be the lead for carers supporting children with a disability, in long term placements. We are looking forward to them joining the team.

Mid Kent are currently recruiting for further staff, two Fostering Social Workers and two Fostering Social Work assistants. It should be an exciting time ahead, with the team expanding and hopefully being able to increase our numbers of foster carers.

CWDC

From April 2011, family/friends carers (also known as kinship/connected person) will need to complete a CWDC workbook. Mid Kent ran a workshop to support carers to complete this, on Friday 16th September 2011 in Ashford.

Permanency Policy

Please take time to read the new Permanency Policy on the fostering website via the links below

[Permanency Policy and Guidance](#)

[Permanent Fostering Procedures](#)

[Permanent Fostering Flowchart](#)

For those carers with children in placement long term, you will start to hear permanency being discussed at Looked After Child Reviews. The procedures replace the old long term panels, where carers and children were matched and agreed as long term.

There are a significant number of children in placement long term, in the Mid Kent area, if you have any questions relating to permanency please speak to your fostering worker or child's social worker. Equally if your family feels able to commit to a permanent placement for a child, until the age of eighteen (and beyond!) please make the fostering team aware. We are in urgent need of families who can offer this security to a child.

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

We hope you have all enjoyed your summer break. We would like to thank all those carers who have offered to help us out in an emergency and to all of you for the very valuable work you do in caring for our looked after children.

Numbers

We have had a very busy few months with a rise in the numbers of children being placed and many carers being asked to take emergency placements or placements that mean they need an exemption.

We have also now got over 200 foster carers in East Kent 2 and we would like to thank the fostering social workers for their hard work in completing their assessments.

Respite

We would like to remind carers to give as much notice as possible when you are asking for respite for the children you care for to enable us to make a good match.

Arranging introductions for the children is extremely important and carers must ensure that sufficient planning and thought goes into arranging introductions for their LAC to make it as good a transition as possible.

Family/Friend carers

We continue to have a high number of Connected Person (Family/Friend) assessment requests and these carers now have their own CWDC to complete within the first year of their approval or within eighteen months for existing carers.

The Madhouse

My dad can be a bit of a nut
but sometimes I wish he'd just keep his mouth shut.
He sings and jumps and dances around and mum just looks at him with a frown.

My mum makes dinners that taste so yum
when she calls from the kitchen we all run, run, run.
She helps us with homework and makes the house neat
and if we are good we all get a treat.

At times my sister can be lovely and sweet
but usually only when she's asleep
most of the times she whinges and
moans and if she gets cross she says "I'm leaving home".

With us and the foster kids we are quite a crowd
the people next door must think we're too loud.

When I get cross I can be quite trappy
but most of the time I'm usually happy.

With all of the people and pets in my home
I never worry I might be alone.
It might be a madhouse but to me that's ok,
I've lived here my whole life and that's just our way.

Callie - Class 4 Year 5

East Kent 2 - Thanet with Dover Area 01843 570003 Foster Carer Payments 01622 775159

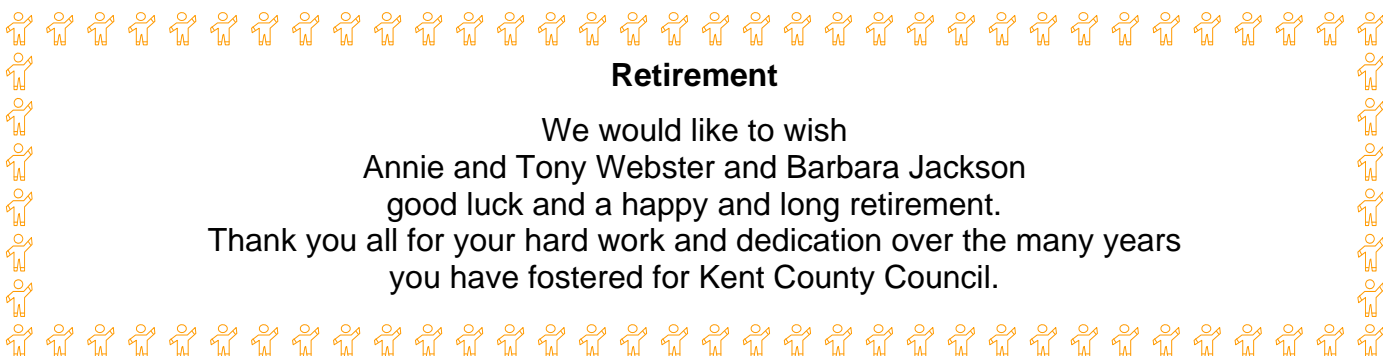
Staff

We were all very sorry to say goodbye to Barbara when she retired after so many years working in the team. We shall all miss her and hope she'll continue to pop in to see us from time to time.

Anthony will be starting a career break in August and I'm sure we would all like to wish him well.

Emma will begin her maternity leave at the end of August and we all wish her, Mark and Tayla all the best for when the twins arrive!

Murphy Thomas and Sheila Will are social workers who will be starting in the Team in September and October respectively. Murphy is coming to us from the Asylum Team and Sheila is coming to us as Senior Practitioner from the Disabled children team. They will be attending some support groups where you will get to meet them.



Retirement

We would like to wish
Annie and Tony Webster and Barbara Jackson
good luck and a happy and long retirement.
Thank you all for your hard work and dedication over the many years
you have fostered for Kent County Council.

Sons and Daughters Fun Day

Please look out for the flyer advertising the next Sons and Daughters Fun Day
which will take place at Pfizer social club on Sunday 23rd October from 9.30 to 12.30.



Several team members - Barbara, Elaine, Jackie, June and Jo
took part in the Race for Life in June. Together they have raised approximately £300.
So a big thank you to everyone who donated.

Maggie Nash
Team Leader - EK2 Fostering Team

Stephanie Jones
Team Leader/Principal Social Worker

West Kent Area - 01732 525324
Foster Carer Payments - 01622 775152

Hi all, well it looks like the summer is over and autumn and dare I say Christmas is fast approaching.

I am wanting to make you all aware that there are 3 Christmas parties being held across West Kent, which have been organised by foster carers from the following support groups:-

Dartford

03.12.11 at Veterans Hall, Haynes Road, Dartford
5pm – 9pm
Contact Coral Croney – 01322 293820

Sevenoaks

04.12.11 at Scout Hut, Mill Lane, Sevenoaks
3pm – 6pm
Contact Jill Walker - 07590307850

Gravesend

16.12.11 at St Aidens Community Centre, Gravesend
6.30pm – 9pm
Contact Carol Freed 01474 745444

If you would like to attend any of these parties or requires any further information please contact the named carers above for each support group.

A number of the support groups are also planning Christmas lunches or evening meals.

If you would like to attend any of the events please contact the office on 01732 525322 where we will be able to give you the information for your area.

Sue Roberts-Hughes Team Leader - West Kent Fostering

Short Breaks for Disabled Children Foster Carer Payments 01622 775159

Staff News!

I am pleased to let you all know that one of our social workers Fiona Reynolds is having a baby, and due to commence her maternity leave in October. The team are all really pleased with her news and look forward to hearing more from her during the coming months! I am sure the team and all our foster carers would like to send Fiona and Martin our warmest wishes!

Fiona mainly covers the West Kent area of the county, and those foster carers she supports will be reallocated another social worker during her period of leave.

New Foster Carers

The Short Break Service is very pleased to welcome Maurice and Rita Price, who were approved by panel on the 14 July. Maurice and Price reside in Marden and are already matched with one youngster.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Sue Hart and Lorraine Roe, experienced foster carers who have joined us from the Therapeutic Re-parenting Scheme. Their skills and knowledge will be a tremendous asset to our service, and they have already begun to offer short breaks to a number of disabled youngsters, and benefit from having accommodation suitable for youngsters with a physical disability. Sue and Lorraine reside in West Kingsdown.

We are currently assessing four other sets of applicants and hopefully they will all be approved by the autumn. In addition we are currently undertaking checks on a number of other applicants, who hopefully will be commencing their Skills to Foster training during the autumn.

Payment Forms

Thank you all for sending in your payment forms as requested. It certainly makes things easier for this team to manage your payments - although I appreciate some foster carers still experience payment delays and difficulties. Whilst the forms are primarily used to ensure you receive payment it also helps me monitor the service i.e. number of over night stays provided, who may have space in an emergency. However it would be really useful to know in advance what stays have been booked, not to say good practice, as I am usually unaware of a child stay until after it has occurred! Can you please in future ensure that you send your forms in by the 15th of the month for dates booked in the following month (i.e. 15th October for November dates). If you are off rota or have no children booked for a stay it would still be very useful if you send in a form stating this.

Please note this forms are to be used only for overnight stays and not day care.
I appreciate your support in this matter.

Training News

Fiona and I will be running a disability awareness workshop on Friday 16 September, 9.30am to 1.00pm at the Christian Centre, Seasalter and again on Tuesday 27 September at Lenham Village Hall. All carers are welcome and this may be particularly useful for carers new to our service. I shall also be running a Communicating with Disabled Children Workshop on the 27 February 2012 (Seasalter).

Our carers can now also access online training, and some of you have already signed up to AKAMAS courses. In addition there is an online Safeguarding Disabled Children course, please let me know if you are interested in this training.

Short Breaks for Disabled Children Foster Carer Payments 01622 775159

Sue Hollingworth

I am pleased to report that Sue, who experienced a nasty fall in June, is recovering well and is already back to work providing short breaks!



Sad Farewells

The Short Break Service is saying a sad farewell to Fred and Viv Tutt, long standing champions for the service! Fred and Viv were approved as foster carers in 1995, and became one of the first set of carers in Kent offering short breaks for disabled children. They have without doubt provided a consistently high standard of service for many children and young people during this period ... too many to mention! They have now decided it is time to enjoy their long overdue retirement!! Their passion, skills and willingness to help will be sorely missed, by the children, their families and carers and social workers alike.

However I am sure everyone would like to wish them the very best for their future, and hopefully they will stay in touch.

On behalf of the team may I thank Christine Holmes for her excellent support she has provided to the short break service during the last few years. Christine was approved as a link carer during 1993, and has been providing a short break service for Daniel since 2002. Daniel will now be transferring on to adult services and Chris will be continuing to support him and his family. Therefore she will be resigning as a foster carer. We wish her and Daniel our best wishes in the future.



Finally

It has been a very busy summer for our foster carers and it came as no surprise that August has been our busiest month this year. Early indications are that you provided 235 overnight stays for disabled children during August which brings your total since the 1 April to 879 overnight stays ... a fantastic achievement!

I am confident that you will have topped the 1000 mark by the end of September.

I know Fiona and Veronica would join me in saying a huge thank you to you all for your ongoing support and commitment to the service. We know the success of the service depends upon the quality of its carers and we believe we have the best. I am also grateful for the support of Fiona and Veronica who remain enthusiastic and passionate about the work you all do.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch about any issue.
My e mail address is robert.attwell@kent.gov.uk.

**Best wishes
Robert Attwell**

Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care Kent (TFC)

Over the last four months we have had three young people aged between eleven and thirteen placed on the programme and all are settling in well. The summer months have been busy with supporting the young people towards the end of school term and the Skills Trainers have been busy finding out about local activities/events taking place. One of the events that they organised was a trip to Go Ape and was a really enjoyable day for everyone involved.

Monkey business at TFC



We don't hang around at TFC, when we get told to aim high, we do.

The Band, a name used for a group of gorilla's, swung their way to GO-APE, at Bedgebury Forest, and hit new heights, literally!



The Band members of Charlotte, Anthony, Connor and Jordan, joined by Sophie and Neil, enjoyed a day of zip wires, swings, ropes and cargo-nets, and to cap it all, "branched" out to complete the whole circuit in 4 hours.

You could say we are "barking" mad, but to get to the "root" of the story, we all had fun, and became good "buddies".

We are held a BBQ on 16th August when the young people, full time and respite carers and staff got together to enjoy good food, good company and a range of activities.

A few of the young people helped the skills trainer with the cooking so there were no burnt sausages and the carers provided lots of different dishes for us to enjoy.

The feasting was followed by games, chatting and relaxing and talk about when our next get together will be.



Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care Kent (TFC)

Training

Our Foster carers have continued to benefit from specialist training provided by Annie Bousfield, programme supervisor and Jill Hanney the Individual therapist. Annie provided training on 23rd May on Sexual Abuse and Jill has provided two sessions, on 4th July Trauma Training and 5th September Self Harm. The carers have found that small group learning allow for the focus to be on the needs of the young people on the programme and provides a positive environment for discussion and reflection.

Recruitment

As part of our need to recruit more carers we held our own Information Evening on 29th September at Westchurch House in Ashford. The evening provided the attendees the opportunity to hear more about Treatment Foster Care, meet members of the team and hear directly from some of our carers about the programme. Both new enquirers and existing KCC foster carers were welcome to attend.

We also plan to attend local foster carer Support Groups over the next few months.

Re-certification

As the first UK site to gain certification we are busy working on the re-certification process which will take place over the autumn. The whole team have been involved in reviewing the programme and Annie Bousfield, Programme Supervisor, has been liaising closely with the National Team.

Move On Placements

We regularly require Move On placements for the young people who are ready to move on from the programme. If you are interested in offering a Move On placement please contact your Fostering Social Worker

Annie Bousfield Programme Supervisor Pritpal Sodhi Programme Manager
01233 660987

Therapeutic Reparenting Fostering (TRP)

Providing specialised foster care for 4 -13 year olds

The TRP continues to be a valued resource and we regularly receive enquiries and referrals from children's' Social Workers.

This means we continue to need more foster carers.

Our criteria for carers remain that each TRP family needs to be able to offer the child approximately two years care (it can be longer and is need led), with consistent care and boundaries.

The TRP child needs to be the youngest child in the foster family by a number of years, and any other children within the foster family need to be settled and developmentally mature. This allows the TRP child to be the focus of the adults and to be treated as a much younger child.

Carers, Social Workers and other adults / agencies involved in the child's care attend monthly Network Meetings, alongside a clinical psychologist or psychiatrist. These meetings create time to think about, and plan for, the child; to begin to understand them and the coping strategies they have developed..... and to then work together and begin to change these and to give a more positive experience.

Often the children struggle to be alongside other children or to accept the care and boundaries that we ask carers to provide. Others may be those "too good" children or worryingly self reliant and "mini adults" who would rather blend in to the back ground and not build relationships.

This often means that they are unable to be cared for in busier foster families and have had a number of previous moves.

Foster carers within the TRP are asked to think psychologically about the child and what lies behind the presenting behaviour, but we don't ask that you know all the theory or act as therapist, rather that you can blend a psychological understanding into the daily care experiences of a child, moulding the care you offer to the child's needs and can work as part of a team

It is essential that if there are two carers, that if one works outside of fostering, they are able to attend at least 50% of the monthly network meetings and monthly carers meetings.

We realise that not all fostering families can meet our criteria but hope that as families change and grow, it might be something that carers feel they can consider.

If there is anything you would like to know about the TRP then do call us to ask.

Amanda Byatt—Therapeutic Reparenting Supervisor

Therapeutic Reparenting Fostering (TRP)

Providing specialised foster care for 4 -13 year olds

We are also always very happy to talk to carers who are interested in offering a permanent family to those children who are ready to move on from their TRP placements and do not have a plan of adoption.

TRP support continues around any new placement for an agreed period of time to allow the child and new family to feel settled. We have also been able to offer support further into permanent family placements if there are any “wobbles”, as there can be for many maturing Looked After Children.

We are all very excited for one of our children who is having introductions to his new permanent family as I write this page for the news letter.

Welcome Debbie and Ian !

For Current TRP carers !!!

We have a development day planned for 11th October at Lenham.

Please let me know if you are able to attend.

There is another development day planned for February next year.

Thank you to those who attended the two days training in July.

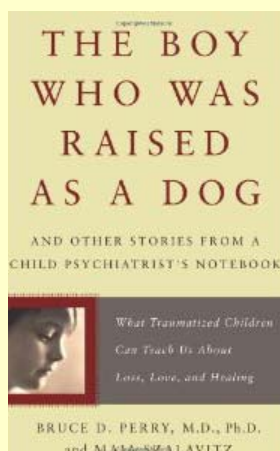
We are always very happy to talk to those who are interested in learning more about the TRP.

The TRP leads in the fostering teams are:

Mid-Kent	Sonja Van-Rooyen	01233 898634
West Kent	Deborah Cumber	01732 525324
East Kent One	Bobby Thomas	01227 598573
East Kent Two	Michelle Dennis	01843 570003
TRP Supervisor	Amanda Byatt	01732 525342

Amanda Byatt—Therapeutic Reparenting Supervisor

Book Reviews from Foster Carers (Thanks very much Chris and Hede)



The boy who was raised as a dog by Bruce D. Perry M.D., Ph. D. and Maia Szalavitz

Well, with a title like this you are either going to love this book or hate it. Luckily I loved it and have recommended it to several friends already. It is a book of stories compiled by Bruce Perry as he worked as a psychiatrist in the last three decades. There are 10 short stories retelling some of his cases, he tells you about the behaviours the child is presenting and what the main care giver says about the child. Then he links this information to experiments and ideas of that era, which went on to become what we now know as Attachment Disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

What makes this book so compelling and such a good read is that it is understandable and makes sense. There are some technical bits, about brain chemistry, but it is easy to grasp the concepts, and as this information is mixed in with real situations and behaviours the links are easy to make. In each chapter you are introduced to new children and their families, and as their problems are brought to light, it was easy to picture in my mind children that I have worked within the past and see, with new insight, how their early nurturing and exposure to stress has influenced their present/ future lives.

This is a book everyone can enjoy, it includes; stories to capture your curiosity and (simple & practical) science to make sense of the various bizarre (yet all too often encountered) behaviours. It does not have to be read in one go, but I must admit that once I started to read it, it was hard to put down, I even tried reading some of the brain science bits to my 8yr old foster child, but he was not impressed!

General conclusion: It's definitely worth a read, and its available from Amazon at £7.84 for a book or £7.45 for a Kindle. I am sure it is also available at all good book sellers and probably even accessible via the Foster Carer Library.

While the child I care for was going through a tough time understanding the rules of friendship with others at school, I came across some useful books in our local library. One of the books was called "Being Jealous" by Sarah Leveté, this had picture photo's of children expressing how they felt, which helped him relate to his situation. This encouraged him to talk about how he felt and also to put a name to the feeling. My foster child was also able to read the book on his own and this helped with his self-esteem and therefore he became more confident and more able to understand the rules of friendship.

I have found Sarah Leveté's series of books and another range of books by Pat Thomas to be extremely useful in opening discussions about feelings and emotions and the world around us and they have helped the child feel more confident about themselves and the world around them. It can also reinforce what you have spoken about as they can see that you are giving the same message as in the book.

Both authors are child friendly and I would recommend them if you need to introduce or think about issues with a child

Book Reviews

Other First Look at Books by Pat Thomas that might be helpful

Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability

Skin I'm in

Is It Right to Fight?: A First Look at Anger

I Miss You: A First Look at Death

Why Do I Feel Scared?: A First Look at Being Brave

My New Family: A First Look at Adoption

A First Look at Adoption: My Parents Picked Me

I Can Do It!: A First Look at Not Giving Up

Stop Picking on Me!

My Family's Changing (First Look at family break ups)

I Can Be Safe: A First Look at Safety

Do I Have to Go to School?: A First Look at Starting School

My Brother, My Sister, and Me: A First Look at sibling rivalry

I'm Telling the Truth: A First Look at Honesty

My Friends and Me: First Look at Friendship

My Manners Matter: A First Look at Being Polite

Everyone Matters: A First Look at Respect for Others

I Can Make a Difference: A First Look at Setting a Good Example

My Amazing Body: A First Look at Health and Fitness

Do I Have to Go to the Dentist?: A First Look at Healthy Teeth

Do I Have to Go to the Hospital?: A First Look at Going to the Hospital

Why Is It So Hard to Breathe?: A First Look at Asthma

Why Am I So Tired?: A First Look at Childhood Diabetes

Do I Have to Go to the Dentist?: A First Look at Healthy Teeth

Recruitment & Retention

Dear Foster Carers,

I would like to apologise for the recent email, sent out to some current foster carers advertising the Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care information evening being held on 29 September in Ashford, that made all email addresses visible to everyone who received it.

An attempt was made to recall this message once the error was discovered and a new email was sent hiding the email addresses.

If this affected you and would like to discuss this with me please call me on 01732 525345.

**Kind Regards
Kathryn French
Initial Enquiries Team Coordinator**

Who are the Initial Enquiries Team?

Kathryn French Team Coordinator heads up the team of four Initial Enquiry Advisors; Coleen Tanswell, Laura Kennard, Celia Swain and Lynda Ham.

The Initial Enquiries Team (IET) was established in January 2004 to be a centralised, county team responsible for recruiting prospective Foster Carers and Adopters. This role was originally handled by the four individual area Fostering Teams and two area Adoption Teams. From its inception the IET has allowed social workers to focus on the vital task of assessment.

The Advisors work to a simple criterion:

- ◆ To ensure that all enquirers are dealt with in a speedy, efficient and courteous manner with high standards of customer care.
- ◆ That appropriate information is sent out.
- ◆ To encourage prospective foster carers and adopters to continue with their applications, where appropriate.
- ◆ To offer advice, seek advice and where necessary pass any unanswered queries on to the people/teams best placed to answer them.
- ◆ To support the Fostering and Adoption teams.

Recruitment & Retention

Thank you to the staff from the Fostering Service and foster carers who took information stands along to several community events, such as Tunbridge Wells Mela on Sunday 17th July, Gravesend Big Day Out on Saturday 23rd July and Maidstone Mela on Sunday 11 September.

Entry to these community events was free to the public and there were many activities to keep both children and adults entertained. Most had fun fairs, food stalls and a full programme of on stage entertainment such as singers and dancers.

Some events were less busy with enquiries than others, this could have been due to the inclement weather on the day. The feedback is that many of those who showed an interest in fostering, seemed keen. Let's hope they take the next step and contact the Initial Enquiries Team for an application pack.



**Sue Roberts-Hughes & her Grand-Daughter, Molly
who very kindly pumped up some balloons**

Do 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 October 2011 - January 2012

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

Monday 16 January 2012 - 7pm - 8:30pm

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

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

Chris Clark - Fostering & Adoption Recruitment Coordinator

Training & Development

An update from the Training and Development Team

We have been busy organising more courses for foster carers across the county.

I wanted to ensure that all foster carers are aware of the What's New in Fostering morning Workshop 2011, taking place on 7th October at Seasalter Christian Centre. Another was held on 30th September at Lenham Community Centre. These have been arranged to give foster carers the opportunity to explore the new Revised set of Regulations, Standards and Guidance, and what they mean for foster carers, how they affect foster carers, and how these changes will affect foster children?

Please contact Sue Douglas on 01732 525344 or via email on sue.douglas@kent.gov.uk to register.

I also wanted to remind you to check the training calendar, to plan your future training.

We have lots of courses running and a wide range of different subjects. To give a few examples, Safer Care, Helping your Child with Education and Learning, a Speakeasy Course (a 6 week -2 hour course set up to support foster carers to Keep Children Safe from Harm, and to help them feel more confident in talking to children about Relationships and Sex, Puberty and Growing up).

On 2nd November, we also have the Preparation for Independence Course, facilitated by the Catch 22 Service at Seasalter Christian Centre, this is running for the first time this year.

We are always adding courses throughout the year, so please keep checking your emails, and the Training Calendar, for further details, and contact the Team Administrators in your local Fostering Teams for further information on venues, times, registration".

Lisa Fitzpatrick
Training and Development Manager - Fostering and Adoption

We were able to gain places for 2 of our team and 4 carers to attend the annual conference of the Kent Challenging Behaviour Network which was focused upon Autism and held in Ashford.

This was a really good day attended by a range of professionals including various talks and a choice of workshops.

Vanessa, a short breaks carer, has been kind enough to give us some feedback on the day:

"My husband and I care for three boys on the autistic spectrum via the Short Breaks Scheme. When I saw the flyer for the Autism focussed KCBN Annual Conference, I was very keen to attend, in the hope of learning some useful new strategies that we could utilise. I was not disappointed. This excellent event was packed full of interesting pieces of information delivered by engaging speakers, including a young lady with Asperger's syndrome, who gave us some insight into her experiences as a person with Asperger's.

The conference also included workshops. I found the Social Stories workshop very inspiring. We learnt how to write Social Stories (these are used to help people on the autistic spectrum be more aware of how others think and behave in particular situations). I look forward to implementing what I have learnt!"

Lisa Fitzpatrick - Training and Development Manager - Fostering and Adoption

Training & Development

What's new in Fostering 2011

Workshop Available Now!!

A new revised set of Fostering Regulations, standards and guidance came into force this year April 2011

What do they mean?

What are the key changes?

How does this affect you?

How do these changes affect your foster children?

To find out about how the new changes aim to support you with fostering, come along to half day workshop to find out more on

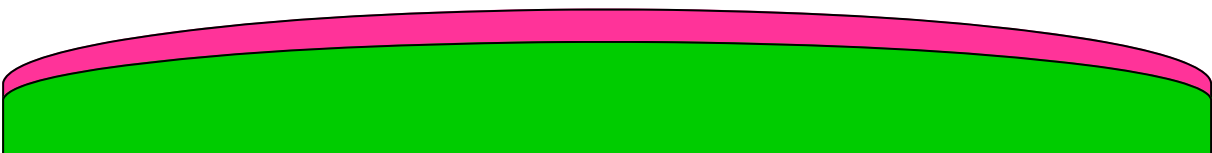
7th October 2011

**Seasalter Christian Centre,
49 Faversham Road, Seasalter, Whitstable CT5 4AX**

Time 9.30am to 12.30pm

**If you are interested please e-mail Sue Douglas
with your name and address
at sue.douglas@kent.gov.uk or telephone 01732 525344**

CWDC Standards 1,2,7



Training & Development

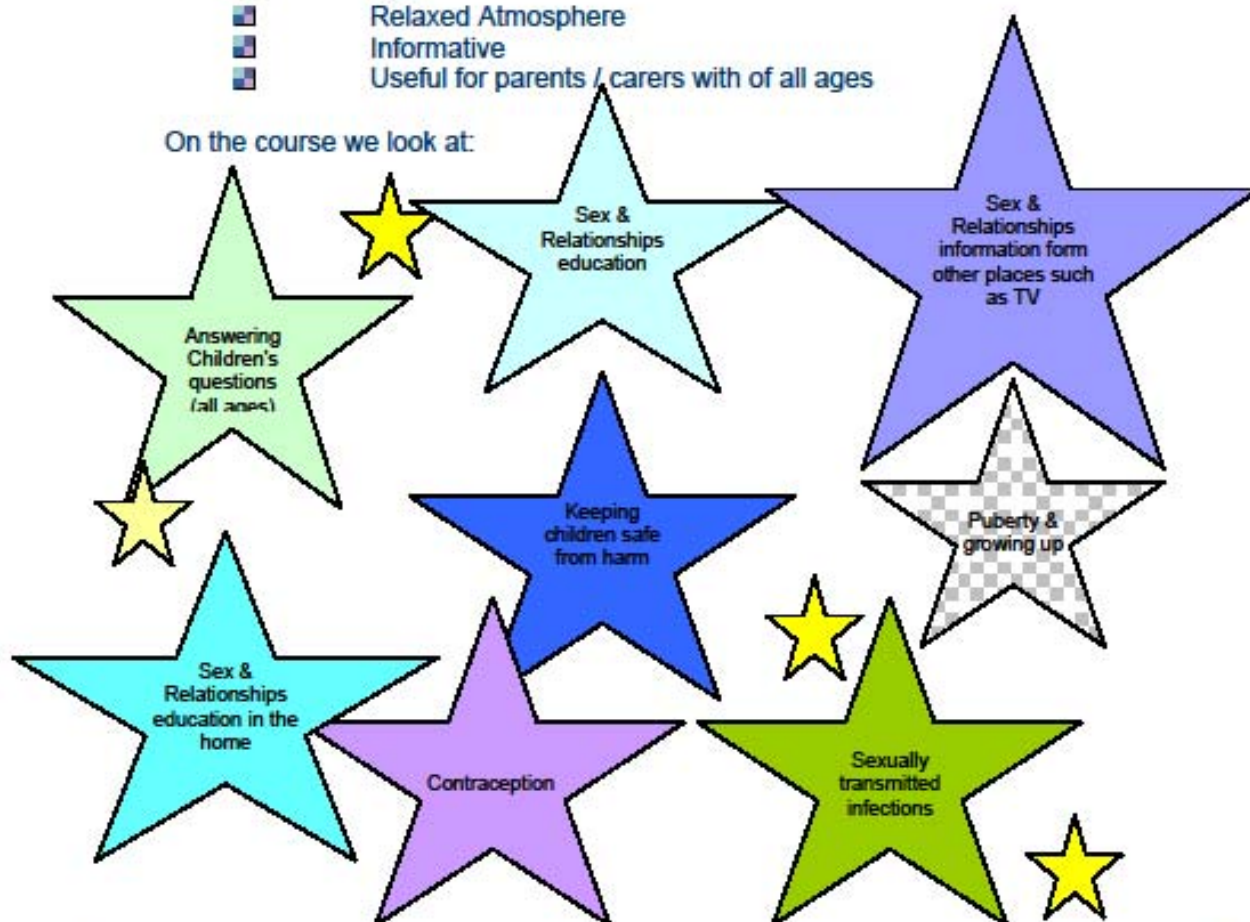


Does the thought of talking to your children about sex and relationships worry or confuse you?

If so, let us introduce you to Speakeasy, a course designed just for you!

- Fun
- Relaxed Atmosphere
- Informative
- Useful for parents / carers with of all ages

On the course we look at:



This is a 6 week course – 2 hours per session 10:00am to 12:00 noon.
If you are interested we would expect you to attend every session.

Course leader Pat Tarrant – Parent Support Advisor

Dates: 4th / 11th / 18th October 1st / 8th / 15th November 2011

Bluebell Children's Centre, School Road, Hothfield, Ashford TN26 1HA

To book your place please contact Gladys Lopato at MK Fostering
gladys.lopat@kent.gov.uk 01233 898635

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**

Lisa Fitzpatrick - Training and Development Manager - Fostering and Adoption

Christmas Card Competition

We are holding a Christmas Card Competition
to obtain the design for the
Fostering Service 2011 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 to reproduced

**Make sure your entry is clearly marked with your name,
age, address and telephone number**

This could be an activity for the children
during the half-term school holiday

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

Closing date for entries is Monday 31st October 2011

Notice Board

Holiday Insurance

A reminder to all carers that if they are taking children on holiday with them it is their responsibility to purchase travel insurance for the child, as they would for their own family, and if travelling in Europe to ensure that there is an E111 in place for the child.

Discounted Attraction Tickets & Holidays

Interested in discounted tickets to Thorpe Park, Chessington World of Adventures etc..
Ring 0871 2224001 and give the code "You at Work"

Each carer that is joined to FosterTalk is provided with a unique Username and Password to the website www.fostertalk.org and once logged in, you will be able to access the **members only** area which includes 'member discounts'.

You will be re-directed to a third party website (You at Work) where there will be access to hundreds of discounts which are updated every week by You at Work.

If you are unsure of your username or password (which would have been sent on all welcome, renewal and reminder letters) you can request for this to be emailed to you by clicking on 'forgotten login?' under the member login on the website. This will then send a request through to Foster Talk for processing.

You are also welcome to call them on 0844 800 3880 where they will be happy to talk you through the process over the telephone.

[Click here](#) for an example flyer which is sent to all carers/members about the available discounts.

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

4 November
2 February
4 May

Publication Dates

2 December
2 March
1 June