

Agenda Items	Notes	Actions
<p>1. Minutes of last meeting- Autumn 09/10/19. Matters arising</p>	<p><u>Minutes agreed</u> <u>Foster carer held file</u> to be in place for all children</p> <p><u>2nd foster carer rep</u> invited to sit on the corporate Parenting board</p> <p><u>Child's guide to fostering</u></p>	<p>SSW to ensure FCH is in place for all children</p> <p>Contact Cheryl or Mary W if interested</p> <p>Kate Woodhouse has copies of the 'child's guide' – to be re-circulated .</p>
<p>2. Reps roundup</p>	<p><u>Lou</u>- issues around supporting young people once they reach 18; impact of change of status to 'tenant- landlord' on the young person and the foster carer, which can lead to the young person moving on earlier than expected; how we can support them while they complete their education. Mary did note that whilst the change is difficult – it is not possible for DCC to provide funding which is the responsibility of DWP. Is it possible to do it more streamlined though?</p> <p><u>Alison</u>- issues around inconsistencies around equipment for foster carers re costs, and what can/can't be reimbursed; equipment store needed to help foster carers pass on equipment to each other. Others noted that there is clarity in the Financial handbook – the issue may be making sure all are aware of this.</p> <p><u>Lou</u>- link foster carers unhappy about link care placement sending abruptly.</p>	<p>Mary Wilton to discuss with James Hollingworth (manager of leaving care) Now starting when the young person is 16</p> <p>Alex Dale to consider discussions with the DWP. SW's to feedback to teams as there is a price list for equipment which all should know about Equipment store is on the 'to do list'.</p> <p>Mary-a new tech solution (Channel Shift) may be available soon to help us share info more easily about what equipment is available In the meantime, an 'equipment available' stand at foster carer conference, where carers can put a note of any equipment they have and no longer need.</p> <p>Mary W to discuss with Di McKenna. SSW to talk with CSW re planning a therapeutic end to link care where necessary</p> <p>SSW to discuss in teams and ensure carers are</p>

	<p><u>Amanda</u>- are foster carers aware a child's holiday allowance can be used for 'stay at home' breaks;; support for foster carers when times are tough; plans for contact/family time need communicating to foster carers, especially if they change; the importance of high quality training for foster carers.</p>	<p>aware of how holiday allowance can be used. Jayne to include this information in a newsletter Role for mentors to support other carers. MW- to take issues re family time to CIC managers workshop Jackie Lovelock- could newly appointed SW's spend time in fostering teams/meeting foster carers as part of induction? Jackie to discuss with Rob Duncan. Jayne to explore whether some parts of systemic training can be available to foster carers as part of the training review</p>
3. Fostering Data	<p><u>Mary W</u>- Data is still being collated. Numbers of children in care is increasing, but the rate of increase has slowed. In December 2019, 370 children were placed with DCC foster carers. DCC has a lower number of placement breakdowns than IFAs.</p>	<p>Mary W- Full data will be available end of March 2020</p>
4. Listen and Value- foster carer conference	<p>A crèche is being provided Key speaker – Alison Hart. There will be six workshops in the afternoon. There will be a notice board for equipment sharing plus information stalls.</p>	<p>SSW to encourage carers to attend.</p>
5. Active fostering	<p>'Swim parties' have been organised at some local leisure centres, for foster families and their children.</p>	<p>SSW to promote this with carers Jayne B to include this in the next newsletter Carers need to book sessions through Clare Robinson</p>
6. Corporate parenting board	<p>The next meeting is in March 2020. Cheryl hopes to attend- she would like to focus on foster carer retention- how to value existing foster carers more.</p> <p>Cheryl wonders if a foster carer could be involved in devising a new exit survey and analysing foster carers comments.</p>	<p>Alex and Cheryl to feedback to FCC.</p> <p>Mary W to progress when post is filled- Evanne offered to assist</p>

7. Fostering friendly	Jayne B- proposal that organisations/ business adopt a fostering friendly approach (e.g. time off for foster carers)- a logo is being devised.	Jayne B and Jane Parfremment continue discussions.
8. Winter newsletter	Jayne B- newsletter is going out on Monday, comments welcomed	Jayne B to send newsletter out
9. Training	Jayne B- therapeutic parenting training has had very positive feedback and carers are reporting that it has impacted on their practice- more sessions are being planned. Fostering changes is being replaced with a 'building better carer's' course.	Training to be rolled out.
	<p>Jane Randolph was unable to get to the meeting, Jane has submitted her items below and Mary Wilton has responded</p> <p>There was great concern about the perceived 'secrecy' that surrounds transition and many carers still feel that they are kept in the dark when a YP is being made ready to leave the FC placement to go into independence. They feel that After Care Workers are not linking in with them and FCs NEED to know.</p> <p>FCs feel that they need to be involved with the Pathway Plan but not responsible for it as some feel that they are put in this position</p> <p>The problem of how frequently some CSWs change was discussed and how damaging this can be. (One FC gave an example of 7 CSWs in 2 years)</p> <p>What is being done to encourage them to stay?</p> <p>What is being done to identify the reasons for them leaving?</p>	<p>To be discussed with Leaving Care Service and Heads of Service responsible for children's social work</p> <p>To be discussed with Leaving Care Service and Heads of Service responsible for children's social work</p> <p>This was discussed at the mtg - there are a number of strategies being tried including: Grow your own – i.e. training unequal DCC staff who already have proven commitment to DCC. Now paying a market supplement – i.e. extra pay for children's social workers Increasing level of support and training We've yet to see how it works – but changes in social workers are being</p>

	<p>More tact is required in the conversation about Staying Put. The leaving care worker should consult the FC before mentioning this as it can cause a big problem if the child is expecting to stay and the FC does not offer it.</p>	<p>kept under scrutiny by SMT given the impact on children and foster carers</p> <p>To be discussed with Leaving Care Service and Heads of Service responsible for children's social work. Chris taking this back to IROs.</p>