

Foster Focus Autumn 2019 E-bulletin

Dear foster carers & your families, welcome to the autumn edition of your newsletter. We hope you had a lovely summer and that you and the children have settled back into school & the usual routines. Lots to report on in this edition ensuring that you are getting the best support, incentives and opportunities from Derbyshire to help you in your role of foster carers.



As October is Sons and Daughters month you will see we are making sure we thank them for the vital role they play and jointly recognise with them how much they affect our children in care – read more ...

Mary Wilton & Gwen Roe

And it's Goodbye from Gwen

You should all know by now that I am retiring at the end of October – with a couple of weeks leave my last day in the office is 18th October. But I am not going entirely! I will be working part time in the South Fostering Team as a part time team manager working alongside Jackie Lovelock who is also going part time until March 2020.

I have thoroughly enjoyed managing the fostering service in Derbyshire. There have been many ups and downs, a few debates along the way. I have worked with fantastic people – foster carers, children and social workers. And, 40 years after I started my fostering career, I am still learning from all of you – including the children! The resilience of children, young people and their carers never ceases to amaze me. I am sure I would not survive some of the experiences they have had. But I hope, in some small way I have been a part of the caring provision that has developed that resilience and meant that children are given the love and the support they need. I leave with some very fond memories. Thank you all.

And if you want to come and say Goodbye you would be most welcome to join us at County Hall on Friday 18th 12.30 – 2.00pm – Hope to see you there.

Alton Towers

Over 100 Derbyshire children in care and foster families headed off to Alton Towers as part of “The Big Convoy” The trip was funded and arranged by Terry Galloway. The press release below tells you all about the FANTASTIC day.



https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/over-650-children-care-going-3351397?utm_source=sharebar&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sharebar

Many of you got in touch to say what a wonderful time you had and here are a few of your comments and photo's...

“Just to let you know we had a great time at Alton Towers on Saturday! Thank You” – Nicola

“I just wanted to say an enormous thank you to ALL for arranging the trip to magical Alton Towers!”- Amie

“Many many thanks for today’s trip to Alton towers. The boys have had a blast. The weather didn’t dampen our spirits just our pants!!” – Hayley




Training

The new training manual October – December 2019 is available online

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/children-and-families/foster/fostering/approved-foster-carers/training-support/foster-carer-training-and-support.aspx>


Sarah Naish is back in Derbyshire to deliver the superb Therapeutic Parenting for Foster Carers training session. This is booking up fast so reserve YOUR place NOW.....




Therapeutic Parenting for Foster Carers:
Training for Derbyshire & Derby City
Foster Carers, Social Workers & Supervising Social Workers
16th December 2019
9:30am - 1:30pm
The Lime Tree, Lime Tree Road, Matlock DE4 3EJ
Refreshments are provided
Delivered by Rosie Jefferies and Sarah Naish, this free event will include a copy of Sarah's best selling book:
"The A-Z of Therapeutic Parenting - Strategies and Solutions"
This event will guide Foster Carers in their Therapeutic Parenting Journey to help them to:

- Overcome challenges
- Understand how trauma affects their children everyday
- Rediscover empathy
- Learn a process to walk through even the most difficult situations
- Why do our children do the things they do?!
- The P.A.R.E.N.T.S. Model

Booking is essential as places are limited, please email your request to:
S4S.training@derbyshire.gov.uk
*each delegate booking requires a separate unique email address
For further information contact Clare Robinson on 01629 538427



Funded by the NHS and supported by
Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council



Foster Carers Handbook

Suzanne Ellis, our newly appointed Policy and Performance Assistant, is setting up a Review Group to hold quarterly meetings to discuss and update the current Foster Carers Handbook. If you are interested in joining this Group please forward your details to suzanne.ellis@derbyshire.gov.uk

Fostering Conference 2020

Save the Date 24th March @ The Riverside Centre, Riverside Court, Pride Park DE24 8HY

The Fostering Conference planning group has had the first meeting and following discussions at the Foster Care Council agreed the theme for next year – LISTEN & VALUE.

The 4 foster carers on the steering group discussed what the day should include and the topics for discussion. Below are the initial ideas to be covered through different workshops.

Bookings are not yet open but please save the date in your diaries. If you have any ideas for the conference or would like involved please get in touch Jayne.bacon@derbyshire.gov.uk	Listen to us	Value us
	Involve us	Appreciate us
	Support us	Listen again!
	Train us	Understand us
	Engage with us	Entrust us
	Notice us	

Active Fostering

LOOK OUT FOR THE SURVEY....

We would like to get some information from you about Active fostering and how many of you are using the different activities on offer.

What we want to know...

- How many of you used the **Countryside Services** – FREE parking passes for Foster Carers during the 6 weeks holiday?
- Did you take advantage of the buy one get one free cycle hire at Middleton Top?



- Feedback from those who attended any of the **Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust Offers?**
- How the FREE swimming are lessons going?
- How often do you access the services offered by the Active Fostering scheme at your local leisure centre?

Active Fostering October Half Term Holiday Clubs

Your Spireites Trust



Find out what CFCCT has to offer the kids this October Half Term and if you want to book a place visit <https://bit.ly/2n0qtPT> and when required use this discount code: **dccfoster**

16 children and young people with disabilities have been regularly attending the Community Trusts PAN Disability Football sessions and a foster carer for some of these children recently took the time to send this thank you...

I am a foster carer for the disabled team and I would just like to say a huge, huge thank you to you for the funding to enable the children to attend the sessions over the summer holidays. We attend the Friday night sessions and I have got to say how amazing Scott and the rest of the team are, the sessions over the summer holidays were such a great success.

I know all the children loved the sessions, they were so beneficial to both the children and the foster carers. For the 1st time for many of the children they were given the opportunity to participate in activities that they are often excluded from (often due to their disabilities/behaviours), and due to the staff's dedication and commitment with each and every child they were able to enjoy the sessions including the amazing trips to the different football grounds.

It has made such a difference to the long summer holiday having this support and knowing that our children were being well looked after whilst having lots of fun. Lasting happy memories have been made for all of the children.

I really hope we will able to continue to access these sessions.

Thank you once again

Michelle

Care Leaver Successful in gaining Coach Core Apprenticeship



The East Midlands region have signed up to the coach core apprentice scheme through the Royal Foundation (see more on the website below) <https://www.royalfoundation.com/programme/coach-core>

North East Derbyshire District Council agreed to appoint a Coach Core apprentice to work in the local community and the leisure facilities. They also ring fenced the opportunity to a Derbyshire Care Leaver and following interviews an appointment has been made. We hope to follow this story and share progress with you.

Your Spireites Trust



Derbyshire Fostering Families ONLY fun session

FREE – Halloween themed fancy dress party for primary aged children in care & their foster families in Chester's Den, Chesterfield Football Club.

**Friday 25th October 4.00 pm until 6.00 pm
Food included for all children**

Booking essential

Jayne.bacon@derbyshire.gov.uk



FosterTalk Membership Discount

<https://www.fostertalk.org/discounts-communications/fostertalk-member-discounts>

Don't forget to log on and get access to loads of brilliant Foster Carer discounts. Use your membership and take advantage of everything it offers...

Foster Care Council

The Autumn Foster Care Council (FCC) meeting took place on 9th October 2019. The Participation Team attended the meeting to encourage children in care to attend the children in care council, fostering reps fed back some ideas about information required when placing children with them and how best to do 'unannounced visits' in an open and respectful way was debated.

If you want to share anything with the FCC do not hesitate to contact your local rep who will be happy to discuss your ideas, comments or concerns with the full council. The meetings take place 4 times per year and the 2020 dates have now been arranged.

FCC meetings all Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 Room 267 @ County Hall

Winter & 2019 AGM 22nd Jan

Spring 1st April

Summer 15th July

Autumn 7th October

Winter & 2020 AGM 12th Jan 2021

You can find the minutes from the last meetings and details of how to contact your local reps on the fostering website at the link below.

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/children-and-families/foster/fostering/approved-foster-carers/foster-carer-news/foster-carer-news.aspx>

FLU Vaccination

Flu can be easily spread from person to person, especially amongst children and within school settings.

Flu can be unpleasant, however for young children, those with long term conditions, and pregnant women flu can be far more serious. It can lead to serious health complications including bronchitis, pneumonia and ear infections.

That's why all primary school aged children, including reception children will be offered a free nasal flu vaccine at school. Younger children aged two and three and pregnant women can receive their free vaccination at their GP's surgery or pharmacist.

Keep your family healthy and well this winter by making sure they get their flu vaccination.

To find out more visit NHS Choices here

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/child-flu-vaccine.aspx>

All Derbyshire Foster Carers can access the vaccination via a local pharmacist free of charge, until 31st January 2020. Take along your foster carers ID badge to receive

your free vaccination. Details about the vaccine and where you can get vaccinated can be found at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/frontlineflufighters

Twitter

Stay Well This Winter – if you or a member of your family is eligible for a free flu jab make sure to take it up. Find out more here:

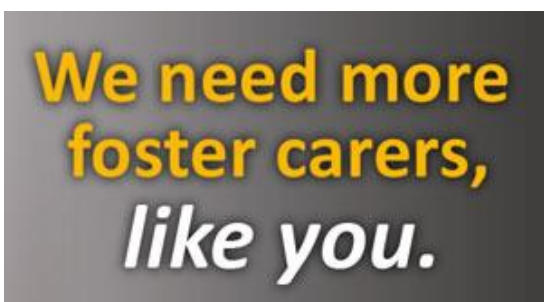
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Flu/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Facebook

Stay Well This Winter – if you or a member of your family are eligible for a free flu jab make sure to take it up. Find out more about the flu vaccination here:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Flu/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Recruitment Plans 2020



The recruitment team and supporting foster carers have planned the dates for the Talk Fostering recruitment events for 2020. This year around 25 foster carers have been involved in helping at events to recruit more carers. If you would like to help recruit more

carers in 2020 at any of the events below please get in touch with Kate.woodhouse@derbyshire.gov.uk or call 01629 536534.

Please pre book to help so we can manage numbers.

2020 Talk Fostering Recruitment Events Dates

- Wednesday 22nd Jan 5pm–7pm Committee Room 1 County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
- Wednesday 5th February 4:30pm-6:30pm Ripley Leisure Centre DE5 3HR
- Wednesday 25th March 5pm–7pm Committee Room 1 County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
- Thursday 23rd April 4:30pm-6:30pm The Dome Buxton SK17 6RY
- Tuesday 19th May 5pm–7pm Members Room County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
- Wednesday 10th June 3:30pm–7:00pm The Hub @ The ProAct Chesterfield S41 8NZ
- Wednesday 1st July 5pm–7pm Committee Room 1 County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
- Wednesday 16th Sept 5pm–7pm Committee Room 1 County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
- Wednesday 7th October 4pm-6pm Etwall Leisure Centre Hilton Rd Etwall Derby DE65 6HZ
- Wednesday 18th Nov 2pm–7pm Committee Room 1 County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG

Football club mascot Chester helps to net new foster carers for children in our care

Please take a look at the following link...



<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/news-events/news-updates/news/football-club-mascot-chester-helps-to-net-new-foster-carers-for-children-in-our-care.aspx>

Children in Care Council News

Children in care are invited to attend the next **Big Conversation6** which will be held on **Monday 28th October 2019** from 5pm onwards in the Members Room at County Hall, Matlock.

This event gives children in care the opportunity to meet with our strategic directors and their corporate parents to talk about the care they receive and what changes need to be made to improve their life in care.

Please come along with your foster children aged 10 – 19 years old (this event is solely for children in care) tea and coffee will be available during the duration of the event for foster carers in Committee Room 1, giving you a chance to meet socially with other carers whilst your foster children take part in the event.

Our Care Leavers will be organising, hosting and facilitating the event again this year.

A buffet tea will be served from 5pm in committee Room 1 giving time for everyone to meet each other before the event starts at 5:45pm.

Please can you RSVP for catering purposes to Childrens Services BS HQ Support CAYA.BSHQSupport@derbyshire.gov.uk

Many Thanks Ruth Peat

Social Pedagogy

SP 2 days training

14th & 15th November 9:30am - 4:00pm at County Hall Matlock

16th & 17th January 9:30am - 4:00pm at Woodville Youth Centre

12th & 13th March 9:30am - 4:00pm at County Hall

Contact Simon.taylor@derbyshire.gov.uk for more details or to book your place.

www.thempra.org.uk/ this is a great website for those of you who may want to know more about Social Pedagogy and even access the MOOC online training course. The certificate of completion for this is £25 – we will reimburse any foster carer who wishes to do this course.

SP Taster Day – Includes LUNCH

Friday 15th May 2020 9:30am -2:30pm @ County Hall, Matlock in Committee Room 1.
Contact clare.robinson2@derbyshire.gov.uk to book your place on this course.

The social pedagogy in fostering steering group meets every quarter to discuss all things SP, foster carers are very welcome to join this group. Next year's meeting will take place at County Hall 10am -12noon on the following dates

16/1/20 23/4/20 16/7/20 5/11/20

Fostering Christmas Card Competition



At a recent Talk Fostering recruitment meeting a few foster carers shared an idea to have a fostering Christmas card designed by a foster family and used by carers, staff, Members and corporately by DCC to send to family and friends who might be interested in Fostering with Derbyshire.

You have until the end of October to get your designs in...this can be a family entry, you can draw, colour, paint or design on the computer and you may win £30 in love to Shop Vouchers if you are the winning design. Your entry needs to be A5 size and can be portrait or landscape. We plan to produce 4,000 cards and give them to all existing Foster Carers to send to potential new carers as well as selling them to DCC staff. There will also be an e-card.

Get your designs in now – email to Jayne.bacon@derbyshire.gov.uk or post to Jayne Bacon, Fostering, Room 287, County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG

GOOD LUCK

October is Fostering Sons & Daughters Month



All of your sons and daughters 18 and under will this month receive a certificate of thanks from Derbyshire. This is in recognition of the important role they play in the lives of children in care and to thank them for their love and support to other children living in their home. We are so pleased to again have agreement to send a £15 voucher to them in December too.

And finally

YOU SAID: Bring the Fostering Conference to the south of the County

WE DID: The 2020 Conference will be held at The Riverside Centre, Riverside Court, Pride Park Derby DE24 8HY

YOU SAID: We want to feel valued and be listened to

WE DID: The 2020 Foster Care Conference title is Listen & Value and this will be the focus for the day

YOU SAID: Attending training when looking after children under 5 is difficult

WE DID: The 2020 Fostering Conference will have an onsite crèche

YOU SAID: We want to know more about Therapeutic Fostering

WE DID: Arranged more training on Therapeutic Fostering, including a book for each participant

The Winter Edition of your Foster Focus Ebulletin will be emailed on 29th January 2020. Please get in touch if you have any articles, stories & ideas you'd like to share.