



FOSTERING IN Scotland

issue 47

the newsletter of **The Fostering Network** Scotland

autumn 2014



In this issue:

- **Experiencing the Commonwealth Games**
- **Update on Foster Care Review**
- **Thoughts from a social pedagogue**
- **And more!**

Hi everyone

I am delighted to begin this letter by saying what a privilege it was to introduce three young people who 'kicked off' our UK National Conference on 1 October in London. Jerome, Francesca and Daniel brought a powerful, personal perspective to the day. It was the passion, commitment and voice of these young people that steered the direction of the conference and it is this voice that should steer the direction of our work.

I greatly appreciate the many contributions from children and young people to this edition of the Fostering in Scotland newsletter. The poems, drawings and messages from children as young as 5 give a wee snapshot of their lives. Our goal is to make sure that foster care works well for every child and every foster family.

Deciding on our newsletter front cover is never easy but I am particularly proud of this edition's cover. It is a real treat to see Catherine's warmth and infectious smile, taken at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games. We were honoured to have so many tickets and in this newsletter you can read more about the Games and the magic experienced by so many of our young readers! You may also notice The Fostering Network's rebrand and we hope you like this fresh look (we are still getting used to it!).

This edition lands on your doorstep in November, well known for Remembrance Day. We were delighted to receive 12 year old Ebony's very moving poem *The Poppy* where she highlights the bravery of so many who sacrificed their lives 'so we can keep peace and be free of fear'.

A special thank you to Anne Kunz, a social pedagogue from Germany who is now working at Aberlour in Scotland, as part of The Fostering Network's Head, Heart and Hands programme. We are gaining enormous experience in understanding social pedagogy and how it might work in foster care in the UK. The programme is being thoroughly evaluated by Loughborough University, so stay tuned...

Last winter, the Scottish Government completed their National Review of Foster Care and on page 3 we provide an update on this work.

SCRA (Scottish Children's Reporter Administration) is looking to develop a Customer Charter and we are pleased to be working with them to convene a focus group to hear from foster carers. This is being held on 25 November in Glasgow and we hope a number of our foster carer members will attend. Further details are on page 9.



Congratulations to our Fosterline Scotland worker, Mirren, who got married in August! She is now Mirren Taylor and we wish her and Martin every success. Sarah McEnhill returns from maternity leave in mid-November and it will be lovely to have her back in full swing!

Before we know it, the Christmas holidays will be upon us and to start getting ready, we invite the children and young people in your household to enter our festive e-card competition. Our e-card is sent across the country to everyone we work with, and tweeted and retweeted, too! We would like children and young people from across Scotland to design a picture that shares what the festive season and foster care means to them. We will also be featuring the top three entries in the next edition of our newsletter, *Fostering in Scotland*.

- Your design must be on a piece of paper no larger than A4.
- Entries can be emailed or posted to us in Glasgow (see contact details on back page of this newsletter).
- The winner will receive a £25 high street voucher, and two runners up will each receive a £10 voucher.
- Please remember to include artist's name, age and contact details so that we can get in touch with the winners.

- Closing date is Friday 5 December at 5pm!

And last but not least, I must sing the praises of the people of Scotland. September saw the Scotland independence referendum and no matter how one was voting, there was an amazing interest in politics across the generations, throughout Scotland. Young people aged 16 and above were able to vote and we saw foster families across Scotland ensuring the young people in their households were registered to vote and had opportunities to listen, learn, debate (and argue!) about what they felt would make Scotland a better place for themselves, their families and future generations. The vibrancy was amazing and we look forward to harnessing the energy and commitment shown by such an incredible number of children, young people and foster carers to make Scotland a better place for all children and young people.

Until next time

Sara Lurie

Sara Lurie, Director

The Poppy

The red and the black of the poppies that grow

Remind us of the white crosses...row upon row

The poppy, it helps us to remember those brave men,

They had bullets fly by and family and friends fall by their side,

They watched the towns and buildings fall, groan and sigh with the weight of war.... oh what for?

The church bells will ring

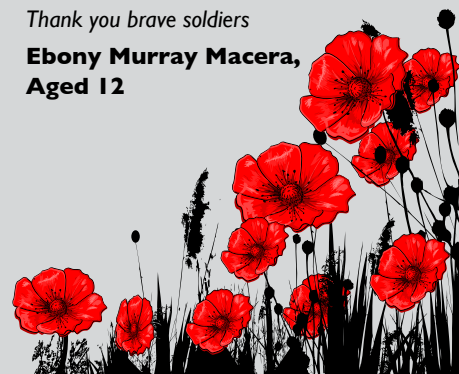
And silence they will bring.

We will bow our heads to show our respect to those who lost and are now dead.

*The poppy, a flower that blooms every year
Glowing red as the blood our soldiers bled,
this flower will stand to remind us of those
who gave so bravely but dear so we can
keep peace and be free of fear.*

Thank you brave soldiers

**Ebony Murray Macera,
Aged 12**



Dear members,

It is a beautiful autumn day as I write, but the trees are rapidly turning yellow and red and soon it will be winter!

We're sorry to announce that in the last few months our chief executive, Robert Tapsfield, has left the charity for pastures new. We will miss his regular visits to Scotland and greatly valued his meetings with carers and young people. We wish him well for the next phase of his career. Richard Drean, who is the interim chief executive, is impressed by the excellent work done by the staff, foster carers and workers across Scotland for looked after children and we hope to soon announce the appointment of a permanent chief executive.

The Government is continuing to work on the issues following the Review of Foster Care and Sara and

others will be contributing to the work. There will be work among other things on learning and development for the foster care service, delegated authority to carers and options for a data base of foster carers. All important topics and we will be looking at how as many foster carers and young people as possible can be involved.

Our recent focus groups - Reach Out - have focused on the realities of being a foster carer for children with disabilities. We are now looking for further funding to take this work forward.

I look forward to the start of the Champions project and seeing how that will fulfil one of The Fostering Network's goals to have carers and young people supporting each other by sharing experiences and support.



Last but not least, in mid November, we will be welcoming back Sarah McEnhill from maternity leave. It will be good to have her back on the team to assist in carrying our work forward.

With best wishes

Anne Black

Chair, Scottish Advisory Committee

Thanks to the Scottish Government for sending us the following update on the Foster Care Review

Background

A National Review of Foster Care was completed during 2013 concluding with a **final report** and six recommendations for improvement on issues relating to placement descriptors, a national foster carer database, placement limits, learning and development and allowances, and fees. The Scottish Government issued its **response** in January 2014 agreeing to take forward work on each of the recommendations.

Progress Update – September 2014

We have set up a Foster Care Review Implementation Reference Group, chaired by Sandra Paterson who also chaired the Foster Care Review, to oversee progress and to advise those involved in taking forward work on each of the recommendations. The reference group first met on 22 August.

Placement Descriptors. We have established a short life working group on Placement Descriptors for Care Planning, chaired by Marjorie Booth of the Care Inspectorate, to take forward work on foster care placement descriptors and

practice guidance. This group met on 18 August and 23 September and have agreed foster placement descriptors which will be published in due course.

Database Alternatives. We have established a short life working group on Alternative Strategies to Database Benefits, chaired by Willie Evans of JMT Fostering and member of The Fostering Network's Independent and Voluntary Providers Forum. This has been established to explore alternative options to a foster carer database and will first meet on 3 October.

Placement Limits. Scottish Government policy officials are liaising with their legal department to amend the *Looked after Children (Scotland) Regulations* to introduce a maximum foster care placement limit of three unrelated children with the exemptions described within the recommendation.

Learning and Development Framework. We have commissioned SSSC to develop a learning and development framework for foster carers who are using consultants to scope

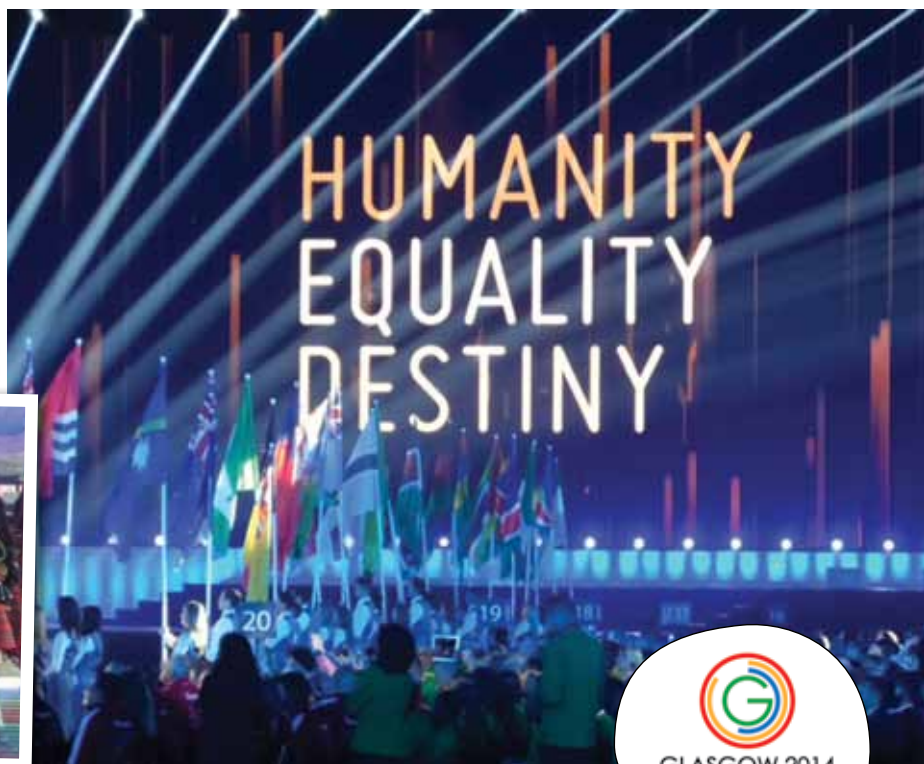
qualifications held by foster carers and are setting up supporting strategic, technical and children and young people's groups to support this work as it moves forward.

Foster Care Allowances. We have undertaken some research on foster care allowances which analyses current methodologies used across the UK on how levels of allowance are reached. However, more robust evidence is required to inform future direction in Scotland and we are considering further research related to minimum standards of income for families in Scotland.

Foster Care Fees. The recommendation related to fees for foster caring is for local authorities to progress and the chair of the reference group has approached Social Work Scotland to establish progress.

We are hopeful that the bulk of work on each of the recommendations will be able to be accomplished by March 2015.

This progress update can be found at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/lac/foster-care-review



Experiencing the Commonwealth Games!

The Fostering Network was delighted to have the opportunity to offer foster families spare tickets to the Commonwealth Games, and is grateful to the Big Lottery Fund for enabling us to do so. One foster carer shared his experience of attending as a result:

The day started in a bit of a whirl, I had to rush into The Fostering Network's offices to pick up tickets for that evening's track and field session at Hampden Park. Would I make it? A family issue meant that I had to stall things for a bit before I could commit, but a few frantic phone calls and things were in place and we were on our way to get the tickets.

I headed up with Roberta, our foster child who has been with us for three and a half years. We called in at The Fostering Network offices in Glasgow to a warm welcome and a friendly chat before they handed over the baton, sorry tickets! We then headed on the next leg of our relay back to Central Station for the train to Mount Florida and on to Hampden.

A smooth transition enabled us to join the queue ready for entry to the stadium. The Clydesiders kept us entertained and informed as we waited for about 40 minutes before being allowed to enter the stadium.

We settled into some great seats just behind where the flags were raised for the winning athletes. Roberta was really enjoying things as the stadium filled and we joined in the Mexican waves. The session had a great line up with Kirani James of Grenada winning the 400m in a new games record and Kim Mickle of Australia winning the Women's javelin also in a new games record. A big roar from the crowd for Eilish McColgan, who missed out on a medal but was first of the home nation runners to cross the line.

A full stadium cheered on all of the athletes as we saw them launch javelins, throw hammers, leap bars and jump huge distances. Roberta snapped away trying to capture all the images on her tablet taking great delight in capturing the women athletes as they hurdled over the water jump and

splashed camera teams placed at the edge of the water.

As the evening's events came to a close we headed back on the return leg, again a smooth transition, home.

A great night was had by us both, a truly memorable time, so a big thanks to The Fostering Network for the tickets and also a big thanks to the athletes and Glasgow for putting on the Commonwealth Games 2014.



To Sara

Thank - you very much for giving us the tickets to the opening ceremony we all loved it. Many people have said we were very lucky to go and we were, we all liked the meal that we had before we went. We have been wearing and using our t-shirts and bags etc

Orkney

We have just had the fostering magazine and seen Catherine in it, ☺

Thank - you very much.
from us all

Gravin



I would like you all to know my foster daughter Katy, who has Down's syndrome and has severe learning difficulties, was chosen to run with the Queen's Baton Relay in Irvine chosen by her school, Haysholm in Irvine. She was a star on 15 July; she has been with me now for 16 yrs. I was the proudest 'mum' on that day.

Sheena Gilmour,
Katy Gibb's foster carer.

What children have told us ...

'I went to kids football training for two weeks.'
Conner (age 8)

'I swam a length in the pool with no tanks on. I felt really good and happy. I am competing in a siblings race.'
Grace (age 5)

'I learnt to play football. It made me feel amazing. I now play all the time.'
Owen (age 6)

'At school I did peer mentoring training over 3 days, and then at home I did some mediation homework. At home I did a role-playing mediation. It made me feel happy and excited to be learning new skills that will help in the playground. I will take this further, my head teacher gave me 10 house points.'
Sophie (age 11.5)



LET'S GO!

Celebrating a Summer of Sport

Our thanks go out to all those who have completed Let's Go! challenges: well done! If anyone else would like to win a gold medal – there's still time! Please get in touch to request a booklet.

We are delighted to share with you some of the pictures and poems included in the booklets we received, as well as some of the challenges which were completed. There are some talented children out there!

Poems

Keeping healthy makes me happy
I like to run and jump and skip
Dancing, swimming, hula-hoping
Pretty soon I'll be quite fit.

Morgan (age 11)



Riding my bike
Happy and proud
Really exercising my legs
My hair blowing
Wind on my face
Going passed horses and flowers.

Grace (age 5)



'I made flapjacks for the flower show and won second prize.'
Nathan (age 7)



'I managed to walk on the high beam at gymnastics. It made me feel dead happy and brave.'

Shane (age 7)

'I played football in the park. It made me feel puffed out and very happy.'

Junior (age 21 months)

'I learnt how to do a handstand and crab. It made me feel proud.'

Morgan (age 11)

'I ran a 1km trail race. It made me feel happy but tired. I now want to do cross country at school.'

Kerys (age 8)

'I floated on my back. It made me feel superdooper.'

Shona (age 4)

'I did a mini commonwealth games in the garden!'

Patrick (age 8)

... and the pictures they've drawn



Kerys



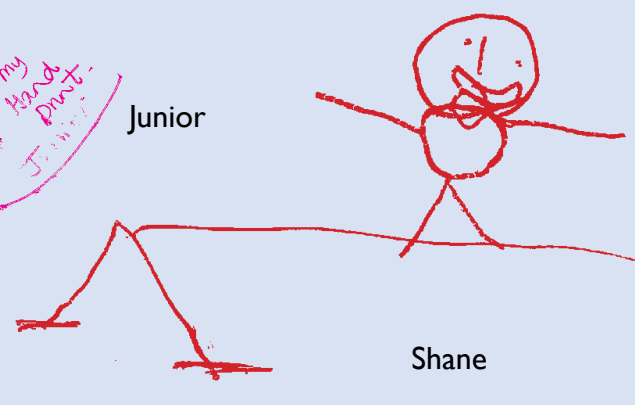
Morgan



Grace



Junior



Shane



Patrick



Shona



Sophie

Welcome to Scotland...

a wee flavour of my social pedagogy journey

A warm hello to everyone! I would like to introduce myself as one of 13 social pedagogues who is fortunate enough to be part of the Fostering Network's nationwide programme: 'Head, Heart, Hands - introducing social pedagogy in foster care.' May I kindly invite you to both my personal and professional journey of coming to Scotland but also living here?

Germany, April 2011: Articles everywhere about the UK being incredibly interested in recruiting social pedagogues from abroad! Outcomes for children in care are described as disastrous, with 53% leaving school without any degree, disproportionately high numbers of children ending up in prisons! Shocking!? Is it really that bad on the island? According to the newspaper 'die ZEIT' the difference between the UK and Germany lies in the approach towards children and young people. Rather than accompanying children in the long term and promoting their development as social pedagogy would aim for, the UK seems to prioritise the children's safety and fulfilling their immediate needs. The way forward is being seen as introducing concepts and methods of social pedagogy in daily working routines. No sooner said than done, my spirit of adventure was quickly awakened!!! I wanted to explore another country, but rather than just travelling, I wanted to do something meaningful that I am passionate about and truly believe in!

Ireland, March 2012: Awesome! Being an au pair in my Irish host family is incredibly fun and as a pleasant side effect my English has improved enormously! After a couple of months I officially can call myself a 'Social Pedagogue.' On top of that, an English recruitment agency is advertising for an exciting programme that introduces social pedagogy in foster care. I am immediately fascinated by the idea of developing, creating and role modelling a new way of working together with an international team! I could burst with curiosity to get to



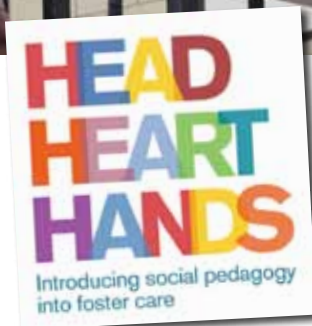
know all the foreign concepts and theories of social pedagogy! At the same time I have to say good bye to my long cherished substitute family.

London, October

2012: She came, she saw and she conquered! The recruitment event in Birmingham was successful and I also survived the job interview in Scotland! Oh my God, I really did it!

Scotland, December 2013:

Beautiful Scotland, here I am! The land of whisky, Braveheart, puffins and almost deserted nature! I felt like a million dollars straight away. I think I am in love. I probably can't explain exactly why, but it must be people's warmth of heart, their openness and ironical jokes. I could not believe how welcoming and positively I was approached by others. Most people seemed really interested in my role and what social pedagogy could offer. As social pedagogy has a 300 year lasting tradition in Continental Europe, a social pedagogue is actually pretty normal back home in Germany. On the other hand, social pedagogues are not highly regarded, which might go back to Germany having changed to a modern meritocracy. The neoliberalism with its effects such as efficiency, rapidness and being outcome focused has crept in everywhere; even the social care sector is



affected. Ranking the process at least equally to outcomes, but also keeping an eye on moral, ethic and human based values is often seen as being too idealistic. Really? Just think about a reality of what would happen if we were not inspired by hopes, dreams,

wishes and ideals! Would we prefer to see our children as machines that have to function in society, or would we rather see their uniqueness? Would we be able to see the richness in each child no matter how hopeless things might feel from time to time? Would we put so much effort in to nurturing the conditions for children to grow and to develop to their full potential? The list of questions to be asked is endless! However, social pedagogues, or professionals with an understanding of social pedagogy, seem to be much more confident in justifying their practice by explaining the purpose and the theory behind everything they do.

Whoops, that turned out longer than expected. All these good intentions of keeping it short and sweet did not work out! At least my stock of coffee is empty now. Are you curious to dive in deeper in cultural differences, social pedagogy in a Scottish context but also challenges when embedding social pedagogy in fostering? This is going to become a regular feature in Fostering in Scotland – watch this space!

Anne Kunz

All About Me

Participation is one of the cornerstones of the Children's Hearings System. The idea is that the more we ensure that the child's voice is heard, the better decisions will be made. This is why if you have been to a hearing with a child, you may have seen a colourful form arrive with their hearing papers. It seeks their views on a range of issues and is called *All About Me* to emphasise that the child is at the centre of the process. It is their hearing and their voice which is the one that panel members most want to hear.

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) regularly conducts research looking at the experiences of children and families within the hearings system. One of the findings of the most recent survey was that children do not always receive the forms or fill them in when they do receive them.

There are two different forms, one for younger children and one for children aged 12 and over. They are sent out with the child's hearing papers and are also available from SCRA's website: www.scra.gov.uk/cms_resources/Children or www.scra.gov.uk/cms_resources/Teenager

Of course, filling in the *All About Me* form is not mandatory. Children and young people may choose to express themselves in many different ways. Some children will be perfectly comfortable speaking directly to the

panel members at the hearing, while others will want their views to be expressed on their behalf by a trusted adult. All those working in the hearings system must be respectful of the child's choice and sufficiently flexible to accommodate their preferred method of expression.

However, we do hope that foster carers will encourage children and young people to consider filling the form in. Panel member Marcus Brown explains: 'The *All About Me* form provides the hearing with an invaluable insight into the child's understanding of the reason for the hearing and the key issues impacting on their life, in essence assisting the child to make their voice heard. The forms also reflect the child's interests and are often personalised by the child or carer to provide a view of the child's character'.

Jennifer Orren, SCRA's Participation Officer, believes that foster carers are in an ideal position to support the child in expressing their views. 'We know that it is a role and responsibility that is taken very seriously. The *All About Me* form is a simple tool that can help to prepare the child for the hearing and ensure panel members know what they think about important matters.'



SCOTTISH
CHILDREN'S REPORTER
ADMINISTRATION

SCRA Focus Group

SCRA is looking to develop a Customer Charter as part of their on-going drive to improve the service they provide to children, families and their partners. The aim is to have a document which states the level of customer service SCRA will strive to provide, making sure there are appropriate measures in place to demonstrate they are improving services for children and young people and helping to ensure the smooth running of the Children's Hearings System.

Are you a foster carer? Would you like to attend a focus group to discuss your expectations of the service SCRA provides, and to give feedback on the content of a draft customer charter? If so please get in touch.

The date has been set for **Tuesday 25 November 2014**, from 10.30am to 12.30pm in Glasgow's Merchant City.

If you would like to take part, please contact: The Fostering Network,
t 0141 204 1400
e scotland@fostering.net

Update from learning and development

We are delighted to announce our new *Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers (Third edition)* open course. We ran it in September and it was not only successful but over-subscribed, so please note the next date! The new materials have

been well received with positive comments such as 'I enjoyed the three days. I feel more confident about the materials and delivering the course' and 'I felt the entire course was very useful'. We have had several enquiries asking when we are running another *Skills to Foster* open course, we now have the dates for this:

The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers New Third Edition

Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25
and Thursday 26 February
2015 Glasgow

Price: members £299.00 + VAT /
non-members £598.00 + VAT
(includes lunch)

Don't forget, we also have places remaining on *Caring for Children Who Have Been Abused: a male perspective* open course on Saturday 7 February 2015. This course is intended (but not essential) for those who have already attended *Men Who Foster* and is for men only and is facilitated by an experienced male foster carer. Please look out for more open course dates coming soon.

To book a place, or find out more about any of our training courses, get in touch with Joy Crawford

t 0141 204 1400

e scotland@fostering.net or
visit: www.fostering.net



Kiltwalk



On Saturday 14 September, Aberdeenshire foster carers Graham Wilson and Jen Burns, their daughter Loren and foster son Ben, along with fellow carers Angie Bestwick & Anny and Mike Davies, took part in the Speyside Kiltwalk, which started in Buckie, Aberdeenshire and finished 26 miles later in

Aberlour. Ryan Robertson, a work colleague of Graham and Jen, completed the team that made up the Haddo Hikers!

Having taken part as an individual in the 2013 Aberdeen Kiltwalk, Graham decided it was more beneficial to enter a team this year. This means that half of the £1,200

raised will be donated to The Fostering Network Scotland. The Kiltwalk brings many of Scotland's children's charities together under one fundraising umbrella to help as many disadvantaged children as possible.

Members of the team were taking part in different parts of the walk with the idea that we would all meet up at the end. However it did not all work out as planned, and to this day we have not all met up yet!

Graham, Angie and Ryan completed the 26 miles. Anny, Mike and Mac the Dog completed the 16 miles and going by the photo look pretty fresh! Jen, Rory the collie and Ben took part in the five mile wee walk.

Angie commented: 'as much as I enjoyed the walk, when I finished, I was quite emotional to realise what we all had just undertaken and completed.' And her emotions had nothing to do with the fact she had lost both her big toe nails!!

Graham, Ryan and Loren, despite experiencing pain like no other, managed to sprint across the finishing line completing the walk in 7hrs 50 mins.

Graham is looking forward to next year and hoping to build a bigger team, taking part in a number of the Kiltwalks throughout 2015.

With tremendous thanks from everyone at The Fostering Network Scotland for the finds you have raised!

After Peru and Nepal, Mr D decided he would like one last challenge so Ben Nevis it was!



'Machu Picchu in Peru and the Annapurnas in Nepal seemed pretty pointless if I didn't add 'the Ben' to my bucket list. So, on the morning of Saturday the 13 September yours truly, Scotland's freedom fighting foster carer, set off up the gentle slopes of Britain's highest mountain. It was into the

afternoon mist before I finally hit the peak and took in the majestic views of more mist! The climb does have incredible moments, but the latter stages are colder and offer little for the panoramic photographer. The descent was, in short, agonising for joints and ligaments which have been round the block and back a few times. But the beer at base camp was delicious!

As ever, the Duncans were hugely successful with their fundraising efforts, as Sharon explains:

'We had already organised race nights in the past so wondered what kind of fundraiser would be successful! I really enjoy baking so with help from the kids thought a coffee morning might be good. Never for a moment did we think 62 of our friends and family would fit into our kitchen and enjoy a morning of coffee and cake. It was such

good fun, lots of chat, kids outside on the trampoline popping in and out for more home baking. I baked around 100 scones and 25 carrot cakes as well as other yummy treats. Good friends too were so supportive baking some treats to add to the table. A friend had made cushion covers in exchange for a small donation and our children had decorated stones from the beach and varnished them with names on them so lots of different things kept the kids busy and helping during the morning. We were overwhelmed by the support and couldn't believe it when we realised we had raised £600 just from a morning of coffee and cake.

Stewart has just returned from Ben Nevis and is full of stories about his adventure; I wonder how long his boots will remain hung up for this time!

Fosterline Scotland update

Have you completed your tax return?

Hello everyone, it's getting to that time of the year when Fosterline Scotland starts to receive a number of calls from foster carers about their Self-Assessment tax return! If you are an approved foster carer then **you must be** registered with HMRC as self-employed – even if you have no tax to pay. The 2013 to 2014 tax year ended 5 April 2014. The deadline for paper tax returns for 2013-2014 is midnight 31 October 2014 and for online tax returns - midnight 31 January 2015. Please look at the **HMRC E-Learning Package** for foster carers for more information – go to <http://www.fostering.net/all-about-fostering/resources/useful-links/hmrcs-e-learning-package-foster-carers>. This e-learning package provides lots of useful information to help you. Please call Fosterline Scotland if you cannot access the internet and/or have any other questions. In addition to this, we are offering another free tax workshop on Tuesday, 2 December in Edinburgh...

Free tax workshop for foster carers

**Tuesday 2 December 2014
in Edinburgh**

**Time: 9.45am – 2.30pm
(including lunch)**

- Are you a foster carer member of the Fostering Network?
- Would you like a reminder of how to make sure your tax (in relation to fostering) is up to date?
- Would you like to find out more about other matters in foster care finance – fostering payments, national insurance, pensions & benefits, savings & pocket money, insurances & member benefits?

If yes then why not come along to our free workshop in Edinburgh in December?

To find out more or to request a booking form, please contact Mirren Taylor;

e scotland@fostering.net

t 0141 204 1400



Remember, Fosterline Scotland is here to assist with all types of queries! Mirren Taylor, our Fosterline worker, is contactable Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have a query you would like help with.



**Would you like to be a Champion?
Are you a foster carer or young person?**

We want to hear from you!

Our ambitious four year Big Lottery Fund project, **Fostering Community Champions**, recently commenced and we want to hear from you! Thanks to those who have already expressed interest in becoming a volunteer champion, offering support and guidance to other foster carers, we will contact you soon. If anyone else would like to be involved – please get in touch.

This project will also recruit care experienced young people as volunteer champions. Their key role will be to deliver training on contact and social media to foster families across Scotland. Do you have a young person in your household, or know of any, who may be interested?

They will receive support, expenses, training, work experience and have the opportunity to make a difference. If you know of someone, please ask them to text their first name and 'Young Champion' to **075909 28476** and we will call them back.

A new project worker will be in place shortly, after which we will announce the date of our official project launch. Watch this space for further details!

If you would like any more information on the project – or if you are interested in becoming a fostering champion – please do get in touch: The Fostering Network,

t 0141 204 1400

e scotland@fostering.net



Dates for your diary ...

Tuesday 25 November 2014
(Page 9)

SCRA Focus Group

Tuesday 2 December 2014
(Page 11)

Tax workshop for foster carers

Tuesday 9 December 2014
(Page 12)

Health Matters Workshop

Saturday 7 February 2015
(Page 9)

Caring for Children Who Have Been Abused: a male perspective open course

Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26 February 2015
(Page 9)

The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers New Third Edition

If you are interested in attending any of these events **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net

Health Matters!

Free workshop for foster carers - a few places remaining!



- Has a foster child been hospitalised in your care?
- Who can stay with a child in hospital?
- Who can give consent to treatment?

Explore the health needs and rights of children and young people in foster care during our workshop, delivered in partnership with **Action for Sick Children**. If these issues seem relevant to you, please join us on:

Tuesday 9 December 2014
Edinburgh
Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm

The workshop is free of charge for foster carer members, including lunch. To request a booking form, please contact: Linda Ogston, **e** scotland@fostering.net **t** 0141 204 1400.



The Fostering Network Scotland...



The Fostering Network Scotland
2nd floor, Ingram House
227 Ingram Street
Glasgow
G1 1DA
t 0141 204 1400
f 0141 204 6588
e scotland@fostering.net
www.fostering.net

Other useful numbers:

The Fostering Network - Head office
For queries relating to membership, or how to access the members' area of the website.
t 020 7620 6400

For help with membership queries
e membership@fostering.net

Legal and stress helpline
24 hours, 365 days a year

Your first point of call if an allegation arises. Queries are answered by fully qualified experts with years of experience helping our members. Members are free to raise any legal query, not just relating to foster care.
t 0845 013 5004

Publications and Resources

t 0844 335 1892
e orders@fosteringresources.co.uk
www.fosteringresources.co.uk

Registered Office:

87 Blackfriars Road London SE1 8HA
Registered Charity Number: 280852
Registered in Scotland SC039338

Fostering in Scotland is produced using recycled paper. When you have finished with this newsletter please share with family and friends, or recycle.



like us on facebook
facebook.com/thefosteringnetwork



follow us on twitter
[@fosteringnet](https://twitter.com/fosteringnet)
[@tfn_sara](https://twitter.com/tfn_sara)