

Fostering

in Scotland

Issue 42

Summer 2013

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and more!

the fostering network
the voice of foster care



Hello and welcome...



To the summer 2013 edition of our quarterly *Fostering in Scotland* newsletter. After a slow start we did manage to enjoy some summer sunshine! I hope you have all been able to get out and about whether home or abroad.

If you still have to plan some days out remember that foster carer members of the Fostering Network can access exclusive discounts on days out and holidays across the UK through Hoseasons, Cottages4you and the Merlin group (which includes Alton Towers, Edinburgh Dungeons and Sea Life centres). Visit www.fostering.net/membership for more details on how to make the most of these.

I was pleased to graduate in April and proudly collected my BA Social Work (Hons), achieved through studying with the Open University. Sara Lurie and Anne Black (pictured) joined me in Edinburgh (along with my family) to celebrate. If readers are thinking about developing your skills through study such as this I'd certainly encourage you to embrace learning.

The excitement of Wimbledon at the beginning of July will have inspired many across the country to get active. If you have young people who are sporting stars (whatever their level) or just love sports we would love to hear from you, particularly as we build up to the Commonwealth games in Glasgow next year.

Andy Murray's win at the tennis also

prompted much debate about whether he should be knighted. The honours system recognises people who have made achievements in public life or committed themselves to serving and helping Britain. They'll usually have made life better for other people or be outstanding at what they do, for example foster carers and those working in the fostering field. If you know someone who is deserving of an honour, visit www.gov.uk/honours for more detail.

The ongoing demolition works outside our office have continued to disrupt our work. We would like to apologise for the noise levels and difficulty we

may have in hearing some of our callers. Please bear with us while this is ongoing. We all look forward to the pneumatic air hammers, diggers and other construction vehicles concluding their work!

There has been a lot happening with the Foster Care Review Group progressing with meetings, the *Children and Young Peoples Bill* being introduced into Scottish Parliament, funding for some of our work being secured and the celebration of our Head Heart Hands social pedagogy program in Scotland. You can read more about these elsewhere in the newsletter.

Sadly, the biggest change we have experienced is the loss of our Fosterline Scotland worker Katie who passed away in June following her battle with cancer. Katie had reached out to and supported so many people across Scotland, helping many to overcome the challenges they faced and easing their anxieties. We are all deeply saddened to have lost her as a colleague and a friend. Thank you all for your comfort and support during the past months and we will respect Katie's wishes by remembering and celebrating the good and happy times.

Until next time,

Sarah McEnhill
Operations manager

The Fostering Network annual conference 2013

Putting the Child at the Heart of Foster Care

The Fostering Network annual conference is an essential event for everyone involved in foster care, bringing together foster carers, fostering services and young people to explore the issues that matter in fostering today.

This year's annual conference will focus on child-centred fostering – putting the child at the heart of foster care.

Wednesday 16 October 2013
BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP

Don't miss out!
Register your interest by emailing conference@fostering.net or visit www.fostering.net/conference-2013 to find out about our call for workshop proposals.

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Dear Members,

I hope everyone has been busy with activities during the holidays, enjoying some of the sunshine we enjoyed in July and making the most of the last few weeks before the school goes back. Perhaps by the time this newsletter drops through your letter box you will be looking forward to getting back to normal routines.

We have had a very sad few months in the Fostering Network once it became clear that our much loved Fosterline Scotland worker, Katie Alibone, was losing her battle with cancer. Katie died peacefully on 15 June but her spirit all through her illness has humbled me. We have all been touched by the generosity and concern from many members of the Fostering Network, from people working within Ingram House and from the Fostering Network staff from across the UK.

Our own staff in Scotland have already raised an amazing £4,327 for Katie's family – Tom and the boys, Archie and Ted, who meant so much to Katie. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible. Sarah deserves a special mention along with her husband Gary for climbing Ben Nevis in dreadful weather –

snow, mist and cold rain but they made it and had the aching limbs to prove it!

It is still strange to see Katie's empty desk but we are looking forward to welcoming new workers to carry on the service. The service will be an increased one because of the two year funding from the BIG Fund. We are sure that foster carers and agencies will soon get to know the new staff and contact them with the variety of queries and advice requests that make Fosterline Scotland work.

Funding applications continue to take a lot of energy and we are glad to have Linda Ogston working with us a few days a month to progress the applications as well as helping with the complex monitoring processes.

The passage of the *Children and Young People Bill* continues in Parliament and there is a chance for comment on all aspects of the Bill. The Fostering Network will be responding and trying to ensure that although foster care is not specifically mentioned in the Bill there will be positive changes through the Review of Foster Care.

I have now been chairing the Fostering Network Scotland's Advisory Committee for about 12 years and I believe that the time is right for a new Chair who will bring fresh thinking and perspectives to the Fostering Network. If you have experience in fostering and can bring leadership, influence and a commitment to foster care Sara Lurie and I would be happy to speak to you.

I have really enjoyed meeting so many foster carers, fostering staff and young people over the years and having the opportunity to lead and shape fostering practice. I will miss that and the staff team at Ingram House but look forward to handing over to someone who has the energy and experience to work with our excellent staff to support the best foster care services possible.

With best wishes



Anne Black
Chair, Scottish Advisory Committee

Children and Young People Bill - the progress to date

The Bill was introduced to Scottish Parliament on 17 April 2013 and makes provisions over a wide range of children's services policy including four major themes: children's rights; Getting it Right for Every Child; early learning and childcare; and looked after children and young people.

The Fostering Network welcomed the support from many of our members. Foster carers, their sons, daughters and children in foster care all contributed to the consultation process which ran from July – September 2012. We would like once again to extend our

thanks to everyone who participated in this.

While the consultation sought views on proposals for reforms to foster care, it was noted by the Scottish Government that any changes could be taken forward under existing legislative powers, and would therefore not be included in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill*. As such, the issues around foster care are informing the work of the Foster Care Review Group which is due to conclude at the end of 2013.

The Bill is now continuing its journey through Parliament with the Education and Culture Committee leading on this. To find out more please visit: www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx

We are hopeful of further opportunities for our members to participate in the process and provide your views to the Foster Care Review Group. To be kept directly involved with how you can do this, please email Fostercarereview@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

What's happening in our Online Community...



Frequent visitors to our online community will know that there are many varied topics being debated by our members from across the UK. Discussions include: finances, caring for children, foster care policies, the emotions of fostering, and much more.

If you have yet to go online and have a browse here's a taste of some of the current conversations:

- Troubles with respite - from the perspective of carers trying to offer it!
- Is it possible to appeal an adoption decision?
- 'LA-Sal's' 16 year old looked after child spends increasing time in contact with her mother - what would you suggest?
- A question about National Insurance credits, and an answer about where to find more information.
- Specific rooming arrangements required for a holiday in Wales - any ideas?
- Soiling: it may be a fairly common occurrence in this field, but how can you really help?
- Carers who rent privately and are entitled to housing benefit may be eligible to claim for a spare room - a reminder from 'wotsit', who is happily awaiting £480 in back-pay!
- What would you do if your young looked after child was excluded from going on a school trip unless you were with them?

To explore the online community for yourself visit www.fostering.net/community and log in to have a browse!

Tell us about...

Fostering Healthy Finance

**Are you a foster carer member of the Fostering Network?
If so, we want to hear your views.**

To help us with our Fostering Healthy Finance project we are holding two events:

Thursday 3 October

10am til 1pm (followed by lunch) Glasgow

Wednesday 9 October

10am til 1pm (followed by lunch) Edinburgh

Bank accounts, income tax, mortgages, pocket money...

We want to hear directly from you about some of the key challenges in relation to fostering finances you experience day to day; for foster carers and for young people. We also want to hear some creative solutions and good practice that could be shared with others. Please note, at this event we won't be focussing on allowances or fees which are part of our wider campaigning issues.

If you would like to contribute to these discussions and have the chance to meet up with other foster carers please get in touch to book your place. Contact Sarah McEnhill, [e sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net](mailto:e.sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net) t 0141 204 1400

Wellbeing

The GIRFEC team at the Scottish Government launched the first edition of their wellbeing magazine, *Wellbeing* earlier this year. It tells you what the Scottish Government and others are doing to promote children's rights and support their wellbeing – and how they're encouraging everyone to look out for our children and young people so that they grow up to be responsible citizens, confident individuals and effective contributors.



You can download the magazine, and other useful resources at:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/wellbeingwk

HMRC tax webinars helpful support for foster carers

Foster carers, and prospective foster carers, took part in a series of free webinars (web seminars) being offered by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to find out more about tax issues.

Entitled 'Foster Carers and HMRC', the webinars are a basic guide to key tax and National Insurance issues affecting foster carers, such as what is Qualifying Care Relief and how it works, how to keep records, and what to put on your tax return. Plus, they also provided the opportunity to ask questions.

Jackie Sanders, head of media and campaigns at the Fostering Network, said: "We know that lots of foster carers took part in the tax webinars in June and July.

"It is vital that foster carers, and prospective foster carers, know the tax implications of fostering. The webinars have been a great opportunity to stay up to date and to help keep organising finances as hassle-free as possible."
If you missed out on the webinars, there is also the online training tool from HMRC available online: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/courses/syob2/fc/>

Remember, all foster carers are expected to register as self-employed with HMRC whether you have tax to pay or not. For further information or advice contact Fosterline Scotland.

Funding news for the Fostering Network

As the last edition of *Fostering in Scotland* went to print we were delighted to hear that the Fostering Network Scotland had been successful in securing funding for our core office costs and also for our Fosterline Scotland service until end March 2015. Thanks to two year funding from the Scottish Government's Third Sector Early Intervention Fund, administered by the Big Fund, we are able to increase our Fosterline Scotland service and are currently recruiting for a full time worker to join our team.

We have also been successful in securing a development grant from the Big Lottery Fund. Over the next four months this grant will allow us to develop our proposal for a larger, four year project. This will allow us to develop links across the country harnessing local fostering expertise. We'd love you to help with this – please contact Sarah McEnhill if you would like to be part of the process.



Getting in the Frame for Foster Care Fortnight

Scotland's children's minister Aileen Campbell was among many of our supporters to put herself into the frame in support of this year's *Foster Care Fortnight* (13-26 May).

The minister's picture in a frame was added to the Fostering Network's online gallery of campaign stars from across the UK.

Aileen Campbell MSP said: "Every year for *Foster Care Fortnight*, the Fostering Network showcases just how many extraordinary people like this there are across the country - but there is always a need for more. I am delighted to lend my support to the *Get in the Frame* campaign and hope that it encourages more families to come forward."

With rising numbers of children coming into care, the Fostering Network estimates that 850 new foster families are needed in Scotland in the next 12 months alone.

Sara Lurie, director of the Fostering Network Scotland, said: "There are thousands of wonderful foster families right across Scotland but the challenge for fostering services is to find the right foster carers with the right skills in the right place for each child.

"We need a wider pool of foster families to ensure that this happens for all children, and that's why we're urging people to consider fostering this *Foster Care Fortnight*."

*Foster Care Fortnight*TM is the Fostering Network's annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering and highlight the need for more foster carers. To view our gallery of campaign stars visit <http://pinterest.com/fosteringnet/get-in-the-frame-fcf-2013/> - you may recognise some familiar faces in there!





Katie Alibone

Katie Alibone, our Fosterline Scotland worker, has sadly lost her battle with cancer. On 15 June Katie died peacefully surrounded by her mum, her husband Tom and their two young boys Archie and Ted.

Katie joined the Fostering Network in January 2010 and quickly became well known to foster carers and fostering services throughout Scotland. Her very first day was spent with foster carers in Inverness. In the weeks and months ahead she travelled to membership meetings, focus groups and training events for foster carers, social workers and managers across the country.

Katie became a well known voice to over 500 callers to Fosterline Scotland; highly respected and valued for her warm, engaging and vibrant personality, coupled with her insight, knowledge and enviable ability to support foster carers and the children they care for through extremely challenging times. To all of us at the Fostering Network Katie was a much loved and cherished colleague and friend and we miss her terribly.

Tom has shared: "I would like to thank everybody involved within the Fostering Network including Katie's co-workers, foster carers as well as all the other individuals attached to agencies Katie worked alongside. The support and encouragement we received during and after Katie's battle with cancer was a great comfort to us all.

Many of the heartfelt letters and cards sent to Katie during this time will become part of the memory boxes Katie and I planned together to help give our children a wider sense of Katie's working life and the values behind what motivated Katie, along with all the people Katie touched. Katie was proud of the Fostering Network and all the families Katie was able to support. Myself and our boys will be able reflect and celebrate the positive impact Katie had on others due to your help and I would like to thank you."

Climb for Katie



Around the same time our Spring newsletter was published I visited with Katie Alibone, our Fosterline Scotland worker. Katie had been off work for a number of months, battling with cancer, and we had all remained optimistic and hopeful that through treatment she would soon return to work. When I met with Katie I was inspired to relook at my own life. I was used to spending my free time relaxing with more sedentary activities and Katie motivated me to take advantage of the opportunities available to me. Supported by my husband Gary, I set myself (and Gary) the challenge of climbing Ben Nevis on 21 June, and to ensure I did it I pledged to raise funds for Katie and her family to support them at this difficult time.

The whole team in Glasgow got together and through our collective fundraising we were able to generate support from across the country, from staff within the Fostering Network, from our members, friends and family. We were also supported by our neighbours within the offices at Ingram Street, many of whom we had little contact with previously. We are indebted to everyone who has helped us with this challenge and have been overwhelmed by the support we have received.

Well, my legs took just under a week to recover after climbing the highest mountain in Britain on the longest day of the year. It was tough going and the weeks of walking in preparation in advance still didn't quite prepare me for the constant uphill climb to the summit, and then back down again.



Gary and I had awoken that morning to a stunning view of Ben Nevis shrouded in clouds. It was difficult to tell where the summit was but we were looking forward to the challenge ahead and laden with supplies we began our ascent. While it was quite warm and muggy at the foot of the mountain the cloud prevented it from getting too hot. Around half an hour into the walk, as our heart rate, increased the layers had been stripped back to t-shirts. These were very quickly put back on again as we climbed the Ben, through the clouds, with the temperatures continuing to drop until we reached the snowfields at the summit.

The trip downhill was incredibly tough for me, particularly on my knees, and was nothing like the aching muscles I was to wake up to on Sunday morning (two days later). However, I knew how much it meant to Katie and her family.

Sadly, Katie passed away a week before we climbed Ben Nevis. Seeing her family at her funeral and hearing how overwhelmed, supported and grateful they are for all the support from throughout the Fostering Network, and beyond, made every ache and pain well worth it.

We are pleased to share that we have now raised over £4,327. This is an amazing amount of money and we have passed it onto Katie's husband, Tom. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone for your support with this. From cake sales to donations we are so grateful to you all. The fund will continue and if you would like to donate please contact Linda Curran, office manager. [e linda.curran@fostering.net](mailto:linda.curran@fostering.net)

Could you be a fostering panel member?

- Do you have experience of foster care?
- Are you committed to supporting good fostering practice?
- If yes, then why not sign up to our database of fostering panel members?

Fostering panels have a crucial role to play. They ensure that the approval and review of foster carers by fostering services is informed by an objective, independent group; a group which understands and reflects the diversity of the community within which the fostering service is delivered.

To support our members in Scotland the Fostering Network holds a database for potential fostering panel members and we would like you to sign up to this. We are regularly approached by fostering services looking to develop their existing panel membership, including panel chairs, and we need your expertise. If you are aged over 18 and are:

- care experienced,
- a foster carer,
- the son or daughter of a foster carer,
- the parent of a looked after child,

Or have a social work, education, legal, health or other relevant background then you may have the experience and skills needed to sit on a fostering panel.

If this is something which interests you please contact Sarah McEnhill, 0141 204 1400 or [e sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net](mailto:sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net)

Sharing good practice in foster carer recruitment and retention

The Scottish Government hosted a one-day seminar, supported by Glasgow City Council, on 14 May in Glasgow. The Fostering Network, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, Aberlour Sycamore and Core Assets all contributed to the event which was attended by fostering practitioners from across the country.

In addition to sharing good practice on the day an action emerging from discussions was to develop a Recruitment and Retention forum. The Forum will enable colleagues from across Scotland to share what works for them and develop better links to enable joint working.

To find out more [e sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net](mailto:sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net)



HEAD HEART HANDS

launches in Scotland



Our groundbreaking new programme that promises to transform the lives of children in foster care in Scotland was celebrated through a parliamentary reception in Holyrood in June. The event, hosted by Liam McArthur MSP, was attended by over 140 colleagues from across the country including the Minister for Children and Young People, social pedagogues, foster carers, social workers, and also young people.

Over the next three years, the Head, Heart, Hands programme will establish an innovative approach to fostering using social pedagogy. Social pedagogy shapes social care in many countries in Europe, but is relatively unknown in the UK.

Through Head, Heart, Hands foster carers and social workers at the City of Edinburgh Council, Orkney Islands Council and Aberlour Fostering will be supported to use social pedagogy to strengthen the relationship they have with the young people they look after.

In the current system, processes and procedures typically determine how children in foster care should be looked after, which too often holds

children back and prevents those who work with them from providing the best possible care. In contrast, social pedagogy puts more emphasis on encouraging and supporting children to explore the world around them in their own individual way and to build positive relationships that lead to a more stable and fulfilling experience of life.

By exploring a social pedagogic approach foster carers and social workers will work more closely together to help children overcome the difficulties they face and go on to become happier and more confident individuals.

The three organisations involved will

make cultural changes to support the new approach, with a learning and development programme for the foster carers and social workers, and continuing support from trained social pedagogues and a team of social pedagogy experts who will work with the organisation as a whole to help them develop a social pedagogic framework for their service.

Sara Lurie, director of the Fostering Network Scotland, said: "Social pedagogy is already proven and successful throughout much of Europe and we believe it has a huge amount to offer children in foster care. It is an approach that is already being explored in small pockets of Scotland, and Head Heart Hands will take our understanding of its potential even further. We look forward to what we will learn over the next three years and how this will shape the future of fostering in Scotland."



For further information on the program visit www.fostering.net/head-heart-hands

Update from Learning and Development

The learning & development team have had a great response to our new learning and development flyer which we launched in April.

We're really looking forward to continuing with some of our established training courses across the country as well as delivering some new topics including *Fostering in a Digital World*. We know from speaking with our members that the use of online technologies and social media are increasingly an area where further supports and ongoing training is needed, for young people, foster carers and fostering services.

We also enjoyed welcoming foster carers, family placement and resource workers and social work assistants along to another presentation of the *Skills to Foster: leaders' course* in Glasgow in June. Participants fed back:

"[I] really enjoyed this training. A lovely safe group enabling us to share openly and honestly."

"Excellent! Good mix of activities and listening. Thank you very much."

"I was really apprehensive about delivering a course. Now I can't wait to get out there."



Following on from the success of the date we are keen to run another session of the three day course in November 2013 – please get in touch to find out more!

Our hugely popular *Men who Foster* course taking place at the end of August is now full. We will be getting a further date in the diary for this, but male colleagues may be interested in our *Caring for Children who have been Abused: a male perspective* course taking place in Glasgow in October.

For further information on any of our learning and development please get in touch with Joy Crawford, t 0141 204 1400 e joy.crawford@fostering.net

Don't forget, we also have the following popular courses taking place:

The Role of the Supervising Social Worker

Wednesday 18 & Thursday 19 September 2013
Glasgow
Price: members £210.00 + VAT/
non-members £420.00 + VAT
(includes lunch)

Caring for Children who have been Abused: a male perspective

Saturday 5 October 2013
Glasgow
Price: members £98.00 + VAT/
non-members £196.00 + VAT
(includes lunch)

The Skills to Foster: using the Skills to Foster assessment materials

Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 November 2013
Glasgow
Price: members £210.00 + VAT/
non-Members £420.00 + VAT (includes lunch)
As well as our open course dates we also deliver a range of training within your local fostering services.

Conference: Service Provision to Disabled Children and Young People and their families in Scotland

On 10 September Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (SCCYP) and the University of Strathclyde are holding a one-day conference in Glasgow. The purpose of the conference is to examine service provision to disabled children and young people and their families in Scotland from the diverse perspectives of local authorities, service providers from the NGO sector, disabled

children and young people and their families. The conference speakers will offer an overview of these different perspectives, reflected in research carried out for SCCYP in 2012 and 2013.

The forthcoming new report by Professor Kirsten Stalker (et al) on the accessibility and availability of services for disabled children and young people

across the country will be launched at the conference.

Participants will have an opportunity to discuss in more detail different aspects of the new report's findings. Ways of addressing the issues raised in the reports will be explored by key stakeholders. The conference is free of charge for participants and lunch will be offered. If you are interested in attending the conference please contact administration@sccyp.org.uk



Meeting with the Minister

On 8 May the Fostering Network met with the Minister, Aileen Campbell MSP, at her office in Scottish Parliament.

Jo and Graham (members of our Advisory Committee) along with Sara and Sarah were delighted to have the opportunity to have some discussions with Ms Campbell around some of the areas raised by our members in response to the *Consultation on the Children and Young People Bill* last August/September. These areas included placement limits, allowances and fees, a national register of foster carers, qualifications for foster carers and care leavers remaining with their foster carers beyond 18.

The timing of the meeting, in advance of *Foster Care Fortnight*, also allowed us to discuss plans for this year's campaign and invite the Minister to *Get in the Frame*.



Letter from Minister to all foster carers in Scotland

The Fostering Network Scotland welcomes the ongoing communication between the Scottish Government and foster carers and in May a letter

was sent to foster carers, (via their fostering services), outlining the provisions being made to modernise foster care in Scotland, including the *Children and Young People Bill*.

You can read the full letter www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00422984.pdf on the Scottish Government website.

Within the letter the minister says: "I am keen for you to remain updated on the work of the National Foster Care Review and we are setting up a communications network. As part of that network we are

keen to establish a database of foster carers that we can contact directly for further insights on issues relating to foster care."

Sara Lurie, director of the Fostering Network Scotland, said: "We are delighted that Aileen Campbell, Minister for Children and Young People, has taken the time to write to foster carers and to recognise their contribution to Scottish society. She is a minister who has shown a continuing commitment to keeping dialogue around foster care open."

The minister has asked foster carers to contact her directly to get involved in shaping the future of foster care. The Fostering Network urge Scotland's foster carers to take this unique opportunity. It will allow for more active involvement of foster carers, their sons and daughters and children and young people in foster care.

You can email the minister to express your interest on providing insights into foster care by emailing fostercarereview@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Stella comes to stay... a story of sharing and caring

We still have free* copies of our first ever picture storybook, complete with activity cards, to guide foster carers when exploring fostering issues with their own sons and daughters (or grandsons and granddaughters) in a relaxed and engaging way.

Stella is the story of a young girl arriving at her new home, and was created and managed by young people involved with the Fostering Network's Young People's project in 2010. The project worked with foster carers' own children to capture their experiences of being part of a family that fosters, and brought these to life through drama

workshops, and worked with a writer and illustrator to get it all down on paper.

Aimed at children aged 3-5 years, Stella helps younger children to understand the fun and challenges when a child comes to stay.

* If you are a foster carer in Scotland and a member of the Fostering Network call 0141 204 1400 or e.scotland@fostering.net to claim your free copy. The book is also available to purchase across the UK. Visit www.fosteringresources.co.uk to purchase.



Foster Care Review Group – Update on progress

As readers may be aware a National Review of Foster Care has been ongoing over the past months. The Fostering Network are keen to ensure our members are kept aware of how this is developing. We asked Ben Farrugia from CELCIS to update us on the progress so far...

As Scotland's National Foster Care Review enters its third (and final) stage, details of the proposals agreed so far are being made available for your comments. In a Progress Update (to be released in late July), the Review's interim conclusions around placement limits, a national database and foster carers' learning and development are explained. It also suggests that Scottish Government and fostering services develop new definitions for the types of foster care placements provided in Scotland, with a view to helping children, carers and strategic planners to better understand the purpose of particular placements.

Exciting job opportunity with the Fostering Network

Thanks to two year funding from the Scottish Government's Third Sector Early Intervention Fund, administered by the Big Fund, the Fostering Network are currently re-advertising to recruit to the post of Fosterline Scotland worker. This is a new, full time post which will complement the existing team within Scotland.

This exciting project provides early intervention through advice, advocacy and mediation, primarily by telephone support, to the fostering community throughout Scotland.

We welcome applications from skilled, engaging individuals with a sound knowledge of current foster care practice and legislation.

The post will be based in our office in Glasgow (includes occasional evening work) fixed term to 31 March 2015.

For an informal discussion ring Sara Lurie (director) or Sarah McEnhill (operations manager), t 0141 204 1400.

Visit www.fostering.net/jobs for the job description and people specification.

Closing date for applications is Monday 9 September at 12 noon.

The Fostering Network is committed to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



The Review has been set up to assess the benefits and viability of various changes to the fostering sector in Scotland, and in August it turns its attention to fees, allowances and the practical support made available to carers. Its final proposals will be available for comment in September, and a comprehensive engagement plan is in place to ensure that looked after children, carers and other family members have an opportunity to share their thoughts. But before then the Review would welcome feedback on its conclusions to date.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Review's Progress Update please write to celcis.lacsig@strath.ac.uk, or look out for its release on the CELCIS website – www.celcis.org.uk



Have you met Sid?

...He's from out of town. Actually he's from the heads of some young people who all agree that living in care can be like living on another planet. No planet's perfect and being a teenager is never easy wherever you live but we all have the right to a happy life.

The Meet Sid website is about the *National Care Standards for Young People in Care* – in other words stuff to help you feel like you're actually on planet earth. If you've never read the standards then this is the place to start. Check out the quick read version by visiting:

www.meetsid.co.uk/care-standards/

The Care Standards are simply about protecting your right to Dignity, Privacy, Choice, keeping you Safe, helping you to reach your Potential and respecting Equality & Diversity.

Visit www.meetsid.co.uk to find out more.



MEET SID...

Calling all children and young people

The Scottish Government say they want Scotland to be the best place in the world for children to grow up. "A place where rights are respected and where children can access all the opportunities and support they need, when they need it,"

(Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell).

The Fostering Network want to hear what you think:

- Why is Scotland the best place to grow up?
- What would make (or what makes) Scotland the best place to be in foster care?

Send in your thoughts. These can be a drawing, story, letter, poem, or whatever you like.

There may also be a prize for entries! Send in your entries to us as the Glasgow office or e scotland@fostering.net

**What are you waiting for...
get thinking and creating now!**

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 & Resources

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

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