



February 2001

Dear Member



National Foster Care
Association

Welcome to the first membership mailing of 2001 - from NFCA in Scotland!

Here at the Scottish arm of NFCA, we are absolutely committed to ensuring that our quarterly mailings keep you informed about any issues and developments concerning foster care in Scotland - as well as keeping you in touch with what's going on in other parts of the UK. So, over the next twelve months, you can look forward to seeing much more news and information about local initiatives, projects and events.

We have plenty in store for members this year, but before we tell you more about that, let us re-cap on just some of the events of the year 2000 - an incredibly busy and exciting year for NFCA in Scotland. In October, our *Stepping Out and Moving On* project for young people leaving care won the prestigious John Chant/Community Care award. We are now ploughing the funds awarded into running more training in Scotland to help young people who are leaving care and their foster carers.

In November, NFCA's Biennial Conference came north to Glasgow, for the first time. The day, which explored contemporary and effective approaches to recruiting and retaining carers, was a huge success - bringing together foster carers, fostering agency staff and children and young people from across the UK.

We are working hard to build on these achievements - which brings us onto the year ahead. There is a wide range of new projects in the pipeline for 2001, including a website for NFCA in Scotland, which will allow you to tap into up-to-the-minute details of all our activities. The site is due to be launched very soon so watch this space.

Our *Membership Project* is a new initiative that has been designed to ensure that NFCA and member agencies and carers from across Scotland come together regularly to exchange practice developments, experiences and concerns. As part of this, three 'Reference Groups' have just recently been set up, with your help, to represent agencies throughout the country. The Groups will meet for the first time this month. Our new quarterly Newsletters will bring you up to speed on the latest feedback from your Groups throughout the year, plus news and information on many other developments, events and activities concerning foster care in Scotland - so look out for these.

We will also be running an extensive and diverse range of training courses over the year, to suit a wide range of needs.

The many aspects of our work have just one clear goal - to help anyone involved in the fostering service with providing the highest standards of care for children and young people. If there is anything else we can bring you via our membership mailing that could benefit your work - please do get in touch with us here at the NFCA's Glasgow office, and let us know.

We look forward to working alongside you over the course of the year.

With best wishes

Anne Black, Chair of the Scottish Steering Committee

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