

Fostering

Promoting foster
care in Scotland

Issue 13 Spring 2006

in Scotland

Launch of *Forgotten Voices*

On February 20th the Young People's project officially launched *Forgotten Voices* at the macrobert Arts Centre. These are two films, which were written and produced by young people involved with the project and based on their real life experiences. The films contain hard hitting messages about the impact fostering has on the lives of young people and the support that they require now and in the future.

Deputy Education Minister Robert Brown said, 'Every day foster carers make a real difference to the lives of children and young people in Scotland. They provide a fantastic service which means that some of our most vulnerable youngsters have, possibly for the first time, a real focus and some stability in their lives.'

'I was delighted to have been given the opportunity to attend this event and see the very powerful and moving films created by these children and young people. The productions certainly portrayed some very strong messages about what they would like to see improved and developed in the future.'

'It's vitally important that we listen to the views of all those involved in fostering at the heart of the system, and that's why it was great to hear first hand from these youngsters, during the open session and in discussions afterwards, about their experiences, hopes and aspirations.'



L-R Dawn, Christine, Cheryl, Jaclyn. Inset-Robert Brown MSP

The launch audience consisted of young people, foster carers and others who are involved in fostering and they provided a series of lively questions to the panel, made up of Dawn, a young person involved in writing the

scripts, Lynne Isaacs, foster carer, Robert Brown, Deputy Minister for Education and Young People and Robert Tapsfield, Chief Executive of the Fostering Network.

Read more about the launch on page 4.

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Foster Care Fortnight 2006

Foster Care Fortnight 2006 runs from Monday 8 to Sunday 21 May 2006. The theme for this year's campaign is *fostering brighter futures*.

Foster children want the same things in life as other children: success at school, a good job, and a happy family. However, many foster children may face great upheaval and disruption in their lives. They can experience several moves during a year, resulting in a change of foster carers, school and friends. Despite these difficulties, many foster children still go on to fulfil their potential and during *Foster Care Fortnight 2006* their achievements will be celebrated along with ways in which foster carers have supported them to achieve their success. If you have a story you would like to share please email celebrate@fostering.net

During the two weeks fostering services around the UK will be holding events. If you are a fostering service you can receive advice and guidance on how you can be involved in *Foster Care Fortnight*.

For further information contact Claire Dickinson, Media and Communications Officer,

t 020 7620 6441

e media@fostering.net



New child car safety rules planned

The Department of Transport hopes that new regulations governing the use of child car seats will come into force in September 2006, after being passed by Parliament.

By ensuring that children must use an appropriate child restraint, i.e. a baby seat, child seat, booster seat or booster cushion, it is estimated that over 2000 deaths or injuries to children will be prevented. Many children who are restrained with an adult seat belt risk damage to their internal organs in the event of a collision.

The new rules will affect children under 1.35m (4ft 5in) in height. Children under this height will have to wear an appropriate child restraint in both the front and rear of any vehicle. Rear-facing baby seats must not be used in seats with an active air bag. Previously an adult belt could be worn if no appropriate child restraint was available. It will continue to be the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all children under 14 years of age wear a seat belt at all times while travelling.

Certain exceptions will apply

- Children aged 3 to 11 can use an adult seat belt if no child restraint is available when travelling in the rear of a taxi or on a short, occasional journey
- If the child is under three, travelling in the back of a taxi and no child restraint is available then they may travel unrestrained. The child may be at further risk from wearing an adult seat belt due to risk of injury to their forming bone structure and internal organs
- In the rear of a car if two child restraints are used and prevent a third being fitted then an adult belt may be used if the child is over three
- Children travelling in emergency vehicles, such as ambulances and police cars will be exempted

These proposed new rules may have an impact on foster carers. For further information visit the Department of Transport www.dft.gov.uk
t 020 7944 8300

FREE Induction training pack for volunteer mentors

The Fostering Network Scotland has limited copies of this invaluable training pack available at absolutely no cost to those involved in developing mentoring skills.

Produced by the Scottish Care Leavers Mentoring Project with funding from the Robertson Trust, the Lloyd's TSB Foundation for Scotland, Miss Agnes H. Hunter's Trust and the Scottish Executive, this pack is a very useful tool for providing volunteer mentors to support young people making, planning to make, or who have made the transition from being looked after by the local authority back into their community.

The pack contains 30 hours of material divided into 10 sessions, and has an accompanying CD containing Microsoft word and pdf versions of the pack to allow trainers to edit the material to suit their own projects.

To get your free copy, while stocks are available, contact Linda Curran
t 0141 204 1400 e scotland@fostering.net

Dear Members,

If the first two months of 2006 are anything to go by, the year ahead is going to be a very busy one!

The launch of *Forgotten Voices* did allow a lot of people to hear the voices of young people who are looked-after and of the sons and daughters of carers. It was a very well organised launch and the Young People's project did a great job and let no one important off the hook about what they were going to do to follow up the concerns the young people in the videos raised!

We will have had three focus groups by the time the newsletter comes through your letter-box. We have asked representatives in the focus groups to exchange their phone and e-mail addresses so that they can support each other between meetings and share good practice. We also had a membership meeting and again the discussion was lively! It focused on the *Caring for our Children* reports and provided a lot of issues for debate.

We await two important reports from the Scottish Executive, one is an Adoption Bill with some parts relevant to foster care developments. We hope that there will be positive news about support during allegations, allowances and permanency orders. There is also a report about looked-after children which may highlight good practice but some gaps in services too.

I have been at a Board weekend where we were looking at the achievements the Fostering Network wants to see in the next few years. Better handling of allegations, realistic allowances and more foster carers under less pressure were high on our list.

I am always interested in hearing what you want the Fostering Network to do while remembering that we only have eight staff in Scotland to do all the work. I would like to thank them for all that they do and for coping with a lot of issues in a very professional way.

The Annual Conference for the UK is likely to be held in Glasgow in the autumn so I hope that we will see some of you there to welcome carers from across the UK. I am sure there are more similarities than differences in how fostering services are working.

Best wishes and thank you for all the care you give to or arrange for so many children.



Chair, Scottish Committee
Spring 2006

Training updates for Scotland

Our training team have developed a variety of more in depth courses aimed at those involved in working directly with children and young people, expanding on our current range of popular courses being presented throughout Scotland. These courses are ideal for carers and workers who hope to further develop their existing skills and knowledge in these areas.

Attachment, Resilience and Identity is a two day course exploring how foster carers and social workers can help children and young people to be resilient in the face of adversity. Examining behaviour patterns associated with attachment difficulties in children and young people and how this affects their interactions with other people, the course will help you to understand the importance of a child's or young persons need to develop a sense of their own identity and explore opportunities for doing this.

Introduction to Substance Use introduces participants to issues of substance use in relation to looked-after children. In particular, it will clarify the legal position for foster carers and other members of the fostering team. The course will examine parental substance use and the effect on children who have to be looked-after as a result; explore the facts and myths around substance use; provide up-to-date information about substances used by young people and the terminology they use to talk about them; learn how to recognise signs of use and misuse; think about strategies for action and identify sources of support.

Caring for children who have been sexually abused will enable participants to develop their knowledge and their skills to meet the needs of sexually abused children. The course aims to increase the participants understanding of child sexual abuse and to recognise the impact on behaviour, child development and self-esteem. It will suggest ways of developing strategies which help with the healing process and keep their families and foster children safe, and will encourage participants to look at their role in responding and recording a disclosure of abuse and look at the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved. The course will also encourage participants to identify their own support networks and recognise the impact on themselves of working with children who have been sexually abused, and enable participants to feel comfortable discussing sexual issues and behaviours.

Introduction to Substance Use

One-day course
14 June 2006

Men in Foster Care

One-day course
17 June 2006

The Role of the Supervising Social Worker

Two-day course
31 October, 1 November 2006

For further information on these or any other training issues contact Joy Crawford t 0141 204 1400

e joy.crawford@fostering.net who will be happy to discuss your training queries further.

FORGOTTEN VOICES



International Women's Day

The Young People's Project and Families for Children celebrated International Women's Day in March with a successful evening for young women with experience of foster care. This event *Young Women Taking Care of Themselves* highlighted the importance of young women taking care and having time for themselves. A film about young peoples' experience of foster care was screened and everyone had the opportunity to join in the taster sessions of salsa, belly dancing, reiki and facials.

Jackie Roberts

Chief Executive, Care Commission

I was very impressed by the two films put together by the Young People's project. The messages from young people in foster care and the sons and daughters of foster carers are important and should not be forgotten. Many of us have heard these messages before, but they seem 'forgotten' if we do not act on them.

Now that there are National Care Standards for foster care and family placement services, which we are using for our inspections, we sincerely hope that services will improve. There are standards for recruitment, for matching and preparation and for good support to family placements. If agencies meet these standards, there should be far fewer unplanned moves for foster children.

If agencies meet the standards for assessment, practical help and reviews, then sons and daughters are much more likely to receive the support they need as part of the family's fostering experience.

Liz Moran,

Director, macrobert Arts centre, worked with the Young People's project

macrobert is committed to making it's work accessible to all young people living in Scotland and projects such as the Young People's project are vital to ensure they fulfil this commitment. macrobert began working with the Young People's project in November 2005, workshops were held with young people who have been involved in making *Forgotten Voices* about issues relating to the needs of being in foster care or being the sons and daughters of foster carers. These drama workshops aimed to develop self-confidence and media presentation skills in the lead up to the launch in February.

macrobert has also been facilitating drama workshops specifically aimed at young people between the aged of 12 and 15 years old who are currently in foster care within the Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire area. As well as providing a crucial opportunity for the participants to mix with other young people in similar situations to themselves, the programme of six weekly workshops allows the young people to explore topics such as Article 12, rights and responsibilities, peer pressure, bullying, family break-ups and friendships.

Negotiation is under way for macrobert to continue similar work with the Fostering Network in areas such as Kilmarnock, Perth and Dundee. Alongside this is a documentary film project facilitated by D Fie Foe animation company.

Christine

I became involved with the Young People's project five years ago as I felt that it would be a good opportunity to make my voice heard where I felt it was so often ignored or at best, misunderstood. Since then I have seen the project expand and develop; I have worked with many other young people from all fostering backgrounds across Scotland, sharing experiences and identifying issues which we felt needed to be addressed. The project was launched to utilise this collective knowledge, and bring to light the common problems that were identified. The two films created were based on scripts that young people wrote together, trying to give as realistic an insight as possible into the experiences of young people involved in fostering.

I was lucky enough to be one of the young people involved in the launch of the films. It was an amazing experience to be representing so many young people at an event which had a potential to change so many lives. There was a real feeling of excitement and anticipation among those involved, as we had spent so many months preparing for this opportunity. It was encouraging to see so many

representatives of bodies with the ability to make a difference in attendance, notably Robert Brown, Deputy Minister of Education.

I met the minister as he arrived and had the opportunity to speak to him before the start of the films. He appeared to be looking forward to viewing the films and seemed very interested in the issues being addressed.

After the films had been shown, a question panel was held and interviews were held. The majority of questions were aimed at the minister, and the depth with which they were answered was especially encouraging.

Personally, I found the entire project an amazing experience. Judging by the extent of positive feedback we received afterwards, our enthusiasm and dedication must have been recognisable. It was great to watch what was literally years of collective work come together and work so well. The launch was a great opportunity to make our voices heard. The films communicated our passion and enthusiasm but highlighted strongly where we feel we have been let down by the system. We put it to the decision makers to realise the great responsibility they have to change the system for the better. If they decide to implement the changes, to act upon what they heard and saw, so many lives will be changed for the better.



Cheryl

Several months ago I, along with a number of young people who had experience in foster care, began to write a script for a video. At the same time, young people who are the sons and daughters of foster carers got together to make a video highlighting their issues and the issues of sons and daughters of foster carers across Scotland. Our aim was to give an overall view of the issues that affect children and young people in foster care across Scotland and to do it in the most effective way we could.

After hours of work, we had produced the videos. I introduced the video about children and young people in care and then talked through some of the issues that had been highlighted in the video. I felt that both of these videos were well-received and have hopefully made an impression on those who saw them.

I have really enjoyed being involved in making these films and as well as the videos, we have been filming a documentary so that we can look at what changes are going to happen in the future.

The two videos we have produced are both very powerful, and I am confident that everyone who sees them will be left with a very strong impression. I hope that people are not only left with a strong impression of the issues affecting young people, but are provoked into doing whatever they can to improve our experiences for the future.

Dawn

On the day many important bodies attended, all there for the same purpose to stand back and listen to what children and young people had to say, in relation to foster care. After our views were put across to everyone via the films and our individual introductions, it was then the turn of the professionals to explain what they would do to make change in relation to the aims we as children and young people had expressed. This was carried out via a panel, in which I was a part of. The panel discussion went really well with numerous questions being put forward, with all of the questions being answered in depth.

One young person did provide a good statement regarding the sons and daughters aims, which related to the theft and damage of belongings. She rightly stated that its not just sons and daughters who have their possessions stolen, she also had possessions stolen. I would like to just say to her well done for speaking up for herself, and that although nothing was mentioned about this in the film, we do understand this takes place and needs to be dealt with. However, as the film was portraying the main issues in which the kids in care needed dealt, issues such as luggage and number of placements took priority. This is not to say that her issue raised isn't important.

I would also like to say the issues of luggage for myself is a really important area which requires to be changed. To take a child out with their environment is for most children a really daunting experience, albeit for the best interest of the child. When the child looks back on the day they went into care and remembers having to move all their worldly possessions in a black bin liner, what kind of worth is that giving the child? I throw my rubbish out in bin liners; no child should have to move home with their belongings in one. It wouldn't cost much for the local authorities to provide luggage in their departments for children who are about to come into care. All the social worker would require to do is pick up a set of luggage cases and take it with them when they go to move the child. This would solve the problem of the luggage situation. A solution so simple, yet one which has not been put into practice!! At the end of the day how would YOU feel if you had to move this way?

The day went really well, and I look forward to following the progress of change that the films will hopefully bring about. Change that is much needed to better the future of children and young people in care. After all, the children and young people are who professionals are working for, this is why we need professionals to take the views of what young people require to be changed and help enable them to help themselves have a brighter tomorrow.

Stop Wasting My Time!

PACS has produced a booklet aimed at teachers, adoptive families, foster carers and relevant professionals involved in the education of looked-after children. *Stop Wasting My Time!* examines the concept of attachment within schools.

The booklet takes the form of 18 case studies representing various school situations and experiences of pupils in local schools during the last few years. After setting the scene an explanation is given as to how attachment issues may be relevant and practical suggestions are offered as to how the situation could have been helped. The examples of school situations could usefully be used as discussion starters for training purposes. The booklet is useful for professionals involved in education and in particular the person designated with responsibility for looked-after children.

The concept of attachment refers to the emotional relationships we have with other people – when early relationships are damaged, children may develop emotional, behavioural and learning problems. This is particularly relevant to looked-after and adopted children, whose at times confusing and difficult behaviour, can lead to their being criticised and even excluded from school.

This publication follows on from *Adoption, Attachment Issues and your School* and illustrates what sort of behaviours can result from attachment issues, why they occur and suggestions for practical ways to help.

Adoption, Attachment Issues and your School is free, and can be downloaded from the PACS website

To obtain a copy of *Stop Wasting My Time!*, or for further information, contact PACS

Stop Wasting My Time

5 Pullar Avenue

Bridge of Allan

Stirling, Scotland

FK9 4TB

e renaphillips@hotmail.com.

www.postadoptioncentralsupport.org

To help further the work of PACS a suggested donation of £3 for the booklet would be greatly appreciated – bulk copies can be obtained at a reduced price. Cheques should be made out to PACS.



Thanks to Rena Philips for this information.

New Deal for Renfrewshire

Renfrewshire Council held a Fostering and Adoption Service open evening at Paisley Town Hall on Monday 6th February. Since the event, the team have received 40 enquiries, and are hoping to hold two sets of preparation groups.

Local foster carers and adoptive parents were on hand to answer any questions, along with representatives from social work, the Director of Social Work David Crawford, Councillor Tommy Williams, Convener of Renfrewshire Council's Community and Family Care Policy Board and Ronnie Burns, Provost of Renfrewshire Council.

The information evening highlighted the new deal for foster carers introduced by the Council to increase the pool of foster carers available to provide a wide range of family based care for children of all ages. Under the new financial arrangements, foster carers will receive a weekly payment of £345 per child or a pro-rata payment of £50 per child per day for care provided. With an allowance for providing daytime respite care and a number of discretionary payments also available to help with special equipment, furnishings or transport requirements, foster carers will be better rewarded for the commitment they make.

Another attractive aspect of the new financial package is the decision to award a retainer payment to permanent and short-term carers for periods of up to four weeks when they have no children under their care. A retainer of 50 per cent per registered usable place will be paid on such occasions.

The new financial package is designed to reinforce the message that foster caring is not an unpaid vocation but a paid profession. The demands of meeting a child's needs and being part of a larger care team including health and social services make fostering a full-time job. Carers are now required to participate in a professional training and development programme to increase their skills and knowledge and, with financial support to attend training courses and seminars, many foster carers can build a career in this field. There is good training and individual support provided for all foster carers from the dedicated fostering and adoption team at Renfrewshire.

Councillor Tommy Williams, Convener of Renfrewshire Council's Community and Family Care Policy Board, said: 'We rely on foster carers to provide homes for 150 children and young people from Renfrewshire. Speaking to the carers, they all express the great satisfaction they get from their involvement with these children, the sense of making a difference in their lives and also the idea of contributing to the local community'.

For further information, **t** 0141 842 5159
e childcare@renfrewshire.gov.uk



Waiting for you...to change their lives

Dundee City has recently launched their intensive recruitment campaign, funded by monies from the Scottish Executive. A television ad, premiered at the Annual Foster Carers dance at the end of February, will be aired weekly on Grampian TV. Local radio coverage on Radio Tay and Wave 102, press coverage through an advert in the Big Issue as well as adverts within the local papers and ten taxi's adorned with the branding will further encourage prospective foster carers and adopters to come forward and highlight that vulnerable children within Dundee City are Waiting for you...to change their lives. Further advertising during the year will feature throughout the local community with advertising space booked at the ice rink, both Dundee and Dundee United Football Clubs as well as in local supermarkets.

A free phone number is being used 0800 234 6060 and foster carers have volunteered their time and have been given training to answer the enquiry line. The telephone enquiry line is of benefit to all local authorities, as interest so far has come from across Scotland, and the callers are then directed to their relevant local authority.

For further information visit the dedicated website www.changetheirlives.com, or contact a member of the family placement team
t 01382 43 60 60
e reception.claverhouse@dundeecity.gov.uk



Model Letters

Thanks to many of you who have sent in their model letters to Robert Brown, Deputy Minister for Education and Young People, and to you local MSP's.

There has been a great deal of support from our members to this, and the Scottish Executive have received many copies, which they have been busily replying to.

All Fostering Network members in Scotland have received copies of these model letters regarding Allegations and Allowances. With your continued support, we can ensure that the voice of fostering is heard.

Glasgow's Families for Children

The second phase of a high profile marketing and recruitment campaign for foster carers in Glasgow City was launched by Libby McArthur, who plays Gina Rossi in BBC Scotland's hit drama River City, in George Square on Wednesday 8 March.

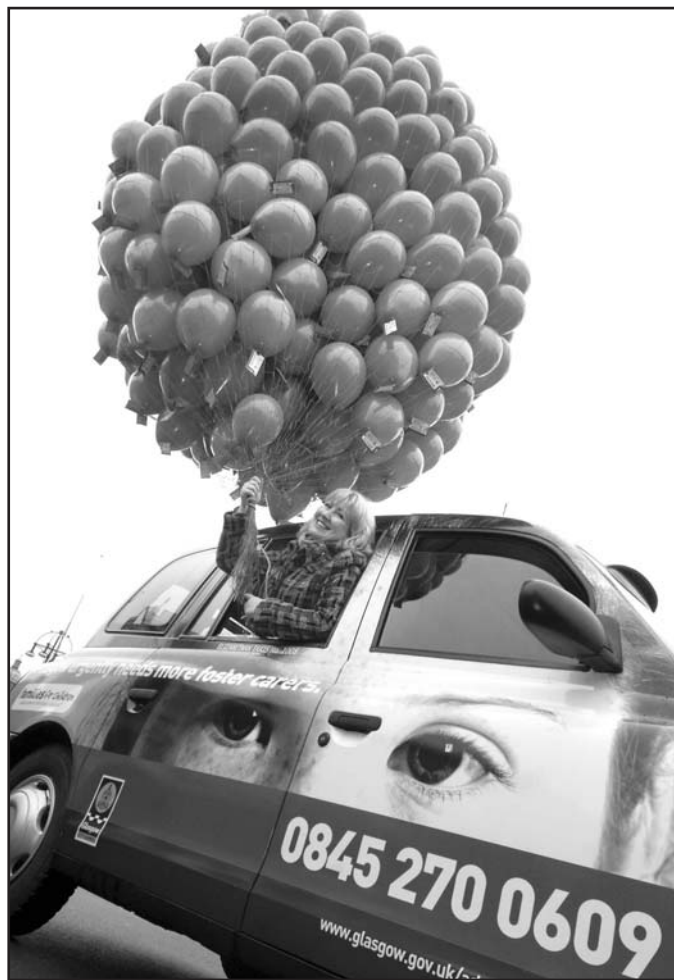
Libby released 800 helium-filled biodegradable balloons to symbolise the number of children currently in foster care - each with a child's statement about the value of fostering.

The hard-hitting campaign includes adverts in newspapers, buses, billboards, radio and two-branded taxi's in the city - also unveiled in George Square.

The main aim is to create an awareness of the need for families in Glasgow and surrounding areas. The first phase began on 28 September last year and has been successful in attracting over 500 responses - but additional carers are still required.

A simplified application process for enquiries has been organised and a single telephone number 0845 270 0609 will appear on all recruitment materials. Full details on what's involved in fostering and the assessments are available in a special information pack.

For further information contact Morag Darnborough, Communications and Recruitment Officer t 0141 420 5823



More Carer's for Edinburgh's Children

The City of Edinburgh Council launched a major recruitment campaign in March to increase the number of carers for children and young people in Edinburgh.

It is hoped the new advertisements will attract the attention of people from all walks of life, adults from 20-50 years of age to apply to be a foster carer. The Council has received a grant from the European Social Fund to attract and help unemployed people to become carers through the Capital City Carer scheme.

Kirstie Maclean, Service Manager - Family Based Care, says: 'Unfortunately, we have had a big rise in the numbers of children looked after by the Council this year. Drug and alcohol misuse by parents means that we are facing some new challenges. We are caring for a number of babies born addicted to methadone, they are hard to look after initially but they really flourish with committed foster carers.'

'We also have a number of young people in our residential units who are orphans. They are longing for

carers who can give them a family life and support them through to adulthood. In between the tots and the teenagers, there are other children, particularly 7-10 year old boys, needing both short-term and long-term foster carers. We would like to recruit at least 25 more full time foster carers.'



Councillor Rev Ewan Aitken, Executive Member for Children and Families, said: 'Edinburgh's children deserve the best care possible. Where they need extra support or cannot live with their own family, the opportunity to be cared for in another family is often the best option.'

The new campaign aims to raise awareness of the wide range of options that exist for potential carers, from a few hours a week through befriending to permanent fostering and adoption. In what has become a national problem recruiting carers has never been so important, just ask the 60 children currently waiting to find a home in Edinburgh.'

The advertisements will appear throughout the year on buses, taxis in the press and on the radio. To find out more about being a carer ring the recruitment line on 0800 174 833 or e foster.children@edinburgh.gov.uk - website - www.edinburgh.gov.uk/fostering

Focus Group feedback

The latest round of focus groups took place in March in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Workers and foster carers were once more able to come together to discuss, both formally and informally, issues and developments in foster care. There was again a great deal of lively and positive discussion taking place. In particular the groups discussed the issues outlined in *Steps forward* and the forthcoming developments in the Scottish Executive, including the Adoption Bill and the Vetting and Barring Consultation as well as successful recruitment, support groups, and passport & consent issues, among many other topics.

All local authorities and fostering agencies across Scotland are invited to nominate representative foster carers and family placement team workers to contribute to the groups. These representatives are keen to get in touch with others in their area to find out what the local issues are, and to feedback to you what is happening at a national level.

To find out who your local representative is, contact your regional adviser – Marjorie Ruddick for the North t 01975 562 163, Katrina Weldon for the West t 01360 313 236 or Kay Jackson for the East t 01383 851 659, or contact Sarah Crangle, the Fostering Network t 0141 204 1400 who are happy to get you in touch with someone in your area!

Safer Caring

NEW from the Fostering Network, *Safer Caring* has been extensively revised and updated, with this second edition including new or extended guidance on:

- How to spot signs of past abuse
- Caring for a child who has been abused
- Developing safer care policies
- Protecting other children in the home
- Preparing for a new placement
- Effective record keeping



PLUS a whole new chapter devoted to the challenges and concerns raised by modern technology, with advice on internet and mobile phone usage.

Safer Caring costs £12 to members of the Fostering Network.

To order, contact Central Books,
t 0845 458 9910

e tfn@centralbooks.cowwww.fostering.net/publications

Help your young people to have their say...

Viewpoint is a secure online questionnaire for young people to complete their part of the Have Your Say review, and one which will replace the paper version where possible.

No knowledge of computers is required. All you need is a Login ID and Password to enter the system – it's as easy as that.

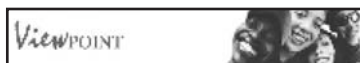
The program caters for children aged 5 and upward and includes Pathway Plan. It talks them through the whole questionnaire, making it fun and assisting those with reading and writing difficulties. Different backgrounds, a jungle, a disco, a street, for example, appear on the screen and different animated assistants who speak the questions are available to help the young person. There are opportunities for the young person to play simple computer games (time limited to 2 minutes) as they work their way through the questions, so that their interest is retained. Young people using Viewpoint will answer 50 to 60 questions without difficulty. There are game breaks and it doesn't need to be completed in one go! View a demo at www.vpt.org.uk

Several Scottish authorities are now using the Viewpoint approach. Typically a young person will complete a questionnaire online in advance of their review, and their responses are immediately available to the person chairing the review. Prior to the review the chairperson and the young person can discuss the responses and agree what issues need to be discussed. In this way the young person's views can be much more central to the review. Managers chairing reviews say that they experience young people as being better prepared for reviews. The questionnaire has provided the young person with an opportunity to work out or rehearse what they want to say.

'Using a computer can be easier than talking to a social worker or carer ... you can say what you mean without having to explain yourself ... you don't have to bend the story all the time', said a young person describing their experience of completing a questionnaire. 'It was much better than I expected when I got on. I thought it was a good idea to have the game breaks because it makes it a lot less serious and a lot more fun', said another young person

Further information is available from www.vpt.org.uk or email Murray Davies at the Viewpoint Organisation murray@vptorg.co.uk

City of Edinburgh is one of the authorities in Scotland already using Viewpoint. Edinburgh carers can contact Marion Boyle, IT Development Officer LAC, e marion.boyle@edinburgh.gov.uk or t 0131 469 3346



Thanks to Marion Boyle and Murray Davies for providing this information

Fostering Network Scotland membership meeting

Our next membership meeting will be held in Edinburgh on Thursday 1 June 2006. The day will focus on the impact and effects of parental drug misuse on looked-after children. It will examine the impact of drug misuse on child welfare and development, and explore how services can work with children and families, particularly in terms of statutory responsibilities. The day will be of interest to foster carers, social workers, family placement workers, teachers and others wishing to expand and develop their knowledge in this area.

Booking is essential as places are limited. To book a place, or for further information, please contact Sarah t 0141 204 1400 e sarah.crangle@fostering.net www.fostering.net/scotland

Membership meetings are free, and of interest to anyone with an involvement in fostering. A buffet lunch will be provided. Please advise at time of booking of any dietary or other requirements.