

Fostering

Promoting foster
care in Scotland

Issue 17 Spring 2007

in Scotland

Can't Afford to Foster report launched

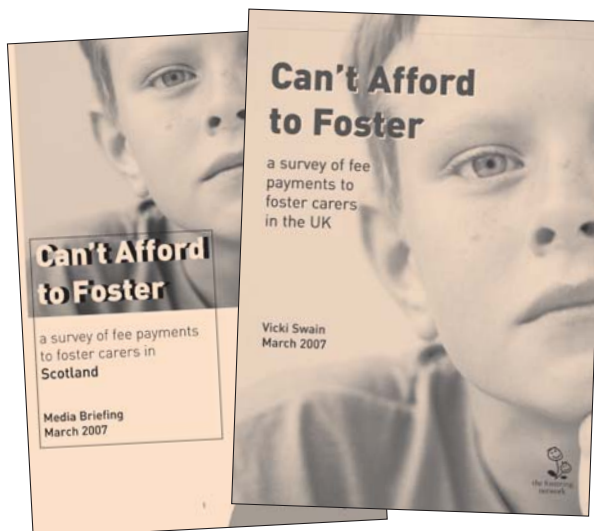
The majority of foster carers are very poorly paid and many receive no income from fostering damaged and vulnerable young people, according to leading charity the Fostering Network.

The claim is made in a new report published in March 2007, which examines levels of pay and income among foster carers in Scotland and finds that, despite making a vital contribution to society, many foster carers are poorly paid and receive only token payments while others are paid nothing at all. The report argues that fostering is often a full-time job due to the needs of children being cared for but warns that a lack of adequate pay is pushing too many foster families into poverty.

The report, *Can't Afford to Foster*, found that:

- 37 per cent of foster carers receive no payment at all
- 67 per cent of foster carers are paid less than the minimum wage
- 82 per cent of foster carers do not have a full-time job outside the home and must rely on the fee from fostering to meet living costs, even if this amount is inadequate.

Many fostered children have experienced difficulties in the past and need foster carers who can stay



at home in order to be available during the daytime. Some fostering services stipulate that the main foster carer cannot have a second job. With limited opportunities for foster carers to earn extra income, the report calls for levels of pay to be increased substantially if financial hardship is to be avoided and children are not to be further disadvantaged.

Despite the full-time nature of fostering, the report found that many foster carers have to supplement income from fostering:

- 35 per cent of foster carers take on additional part or full-time work outside the home
- 64 per cent have to rely on a partner's salary
- 21 per cent of foster carers claim key benefits*

Even those who are paid face periods of financial instability when children move in and out of their care - one third of foster carers report they are not paid for 52 weeks a year. The Fostering Network believes this is unacceptable given that all families need to manage ordinary household expenses and foster carers in particular may take on additional expense.

The Fostering Network insists that levels of pay must rise, particularly given the high expectations now placed on foster carers. While in the past foster carers were considered as volunteers, who received an allowance to cover the expense incurred from looking after an extra child, today foster carers are expected to work as part of a professional team, alongside social workers and teachers.

The Fostering Network Scotland's Director, Bryan Ritchie, said: 'Foster carers are increasingly required to work full-time and take on complex duties and responsibilities but often they are treated as volunteers when it comes to pay. Foster carers do not and should not foster because of the money but neither should society expect them to do it for love alone.'

We would not expect social workers or teachers to work for nothing and be forced to claim benefits in order to make ends meet.'

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continues

The report, launched as part of a wider campaign, calls on the government to address inadequacies in pay by introducing fees to reflect the requirements of individual fostering placements. This would mean paying foster carers on the basis of their time commitment, level of skills, training and the number of children placed with them. In addition, the report makes the case for foster carers to be paid a fee for 52 weeks of the year to provide the opportunity for a break between placements.

There is currently a shortage of 1,700 foster carers in Scotland and the report stresses that if levels of pay fail to increase, additional numbers will not be recruited and many existing foster carers will feel they can't afford to continue.

**Benefits such as: Jobseeker's Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Income Support and National Insurance Credits. This figure does not include universal benefits such as Child Benefit*

The Fostering Network in Stornoway

Sue Robertson and Sarah Crangle recently ventured westwards to Stornoway to meet up with foster carers and the Children and Families Team in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, (the Western Isles Council).

The two day trip in February was a fantastic opportunity for the Fostering Network to share recent developments in fostering from across Scotland. This included feedback from the recent consultation on the National Fostering and Kinship Care Strategy. Also, presenting a workshop on *Safer Caring* and viewing of the *Forgotten Voices* DVD's to a range of foster carers from across Lewis and Harris, as well as Child and Families team leader, Jack Libby, all of whom brought their own range of experiences of foster care.

18 miles off the north-west coast of Scotland, this unspoilt chain of islands, including Lewis, Harris, Benbecula, Barra and Vatersay form the Outer Hebrides. With a landscape which is rugged, remote, and stunningly unique, the islands are a three-hour ferry ride from the mainland at Ullapool, landing at the main town of Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis.

In spite of geography, many of the issues in foster care remain the same, whether on the mainland or the islands, and it's important that foster carers are provided with opportunities to be kept aware of developments in foster care, as well as offered the opportunity to support each other.

Training from the Fostering Network

The Fostering Network has organised further dates for our popular open courses up until November 2007.

In August, we will be running a new course for 2007 – **Sons and daughters of foster carers** – aimed at young people, and providing them with the opportunity to share experiences of being part of a family who fosters; identify the issues which most concern them; clarify what kind of support is helpful and what is unhelpful and develop a number of recommendations to discuss with foster carers and fostering services staff.

To book a place or for further information on any of these open courses or any other training offered by the Fostering Network, contact Joy Crawford t 0141 204 1400, or visit our website www.fostering.net

Open course program June – November 2007

Sons and daughters of foster carers

New course**

1-day course
8 August 2007
Stirling

Competency based assessment of foster carers

1-day course
2 October 2007
Glasgow

Skills to foster leaders' course

3-day course
9, 10 & 11 October 2007
Glasgow

Role of the Supervising Social Worker

2-day course
31 October & 1 November 2007
Glasgow

Men in foster care

1-day course
2 June 2007, also
24 November 2007
Glasgow

Dear Members,

Since the beginning of January, the Fostering Network in Scotland has been exceptionally busy with consultation meetings about the National Fostering and Kinship Care Strategy. We were asked by the Scottish Executive to set up seminars for foster carers, kinship carers, family placement and Children and Families workers. They also asked us to collaborate with the Through Care and After Care forum and with Glasgow's *Families for Children* to find out the views of young people about foster care. The young people involved included some who were living, or who had lived, in foster care and the sons and daughters of carers.

Sarah and Alison have done a great job in getting all the comments and discussions collated into reports for the Scottish Executive. Now we hope that the Executive will take on many of the issues from those meetings and agree investment to allow more carers to be recruited so that the experiences of children in foster care can be enhanced. For kinship carers the issues were about the task they do with little or no reliable financial or emotional support.

The staff at Ingram House have all done an amazing job in getting all the meetings and feedback coordinated and I would want to say thank you to them for all their time and dedication to making a difference for children in foster care.

We held the second meeting of the new Scottish Advisory Committee recently. We are still finding our feet and confirming our role. There are so many interesting topics to discuss. We are all enthusiastic so the discussion ranges far and wide and can make taking the minutes a nightmare for Linda! The members of the Advisory Committee need to support staff to take key issues forward as well as bringing their views about what are important issues from across Scotland.

The latest policy paper from the Fostering Network called *Can't Afford to Foster* argues for much improved pay and conditions for carers. Some carers do not feel comfortable with being paid to provide care yet the task carers do is one of the most challenging there is and you never get

away from it apart from the occasional holiday. All the carers I have met recently want to be valued, respected and recompensed for the job they do and the mortgage and the food bills need to be paid too.

The Advisory Committee will look for opportunities to talk about the paper with other interested parties so that the issues remain on the public and the political agendas.

I hope that when the next round of membership and focus groups are confirmed you will put the appropriate dates in your diary. The meetings will be focusing on how to take forward ideas from the consultation meetings and from the paper on payments. I will look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months at these meetings.

The UK Board is re-starting their debate about the best way for the Fostering Network to be governed for the future. A major concern has been the very low number of members who use their vote to elect the Board.

This year I have to retire as I have served six years on the Board. I will be sad to lose the link with the other nations but I hope to continue to have some part in working with the issues for the Fostering Network in Scotland.

It is very important that there is a Scottish perspective in the Board debates so please consider putting your name forward as a Board member when the papers asking for nominations come in August. (I will remind you again nearer the time!) Bryan and I will be happy to meet anyone who is interested to talk a bit more about what being on the UK Board entails.

Not every member of the Fostering Network would want to be on the Board of Management, but you can make sure that you use your vote to have a Scottish voice on the Board to express the needs of Scotland and to share our developments with the rest of the UK.



Vice-chair, UK Board
Chair, Advisory Committee

Makeover for the Fostering Network's website

Our popular website

www.fostering.net now has a completely new look designed to make it easier for our members to access the services available to them. The members' area of the site is constantly growing and members can now access publications online, as well as lists of key resources, in the **Foster Care Resource Centre**. If you haven't used your login details to explore this part of the site yet, now is the time to do so.

The site is also regularly updated with all the latest news and developments in the fostering world, as well as details of our campaigns and how you can get involved. It is a one-stop shop for everything you need to know about fostering.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience over the past few months, as we have experienced some technical difficulties. Thankfully, this is all behind us now and we hope you will like the new, fresh design and find the information on the site useful. We always welcome member feedback, please email any comments or suggestions regarding the website to web@fostering.net

Call for volunteers

Once again, the Fostering Network is calling on foster carers, friends and families to run for funds in September's Great Scottish Run, taking place this year in Glasgow on Sunday 2 September 2007.

On any given day, almost 50,000 children find themselves in need of foster care. The Fostering Network helps children to thrive by campaigning for higher standards, helping to recruit new carers and providing practical help to foster families.

If you fancy taking part in this event, or if you are taking part in an event near you and would like to raise money to support the Fostering Network, contact us at the Glasgow office.



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The voice of foster care - our responsibilities and our

Anne Black

Some conversations with several carers over the past few years have made me think how far our many members understand the role and responsibilities of the Fostering Network.

The Fostering Network is a membership based charity and our overall purpose is:

- To ensure that the voices and concerns of our members the majority of whom are foster carers are heard,
- To bring together foster carers and others who work in partnership to secure improvements in foster care and
- To support and provide resources for our members.

In Scotland, our main contacts day-to-day are with carers and agencies through our Advice, Mediation and Information worker, Sandra Moody. Sandra provides carers facing difficult issues, particularly allegations, with a sounding board and then an advice and support service when necessary. She cannot direct agencies about how they should operate, but tries to encourage them to deal with allegations in a sensitive and consistent way. Agencies approach Sandra for a range of information sometimes to check out whether there are guidelines in place about difficult topics or on a point of law.

Unlike the rest of the UK, this service is provided free in Scotland, and is outwith membership of the Fostering Network. In September 2006, staff from Ingram House, carers and young people ran the Glasgow 10K to raise funds to support the costs of this service, and we are continuing to look for ways of gaining funding for this work with foster carers.

In terms of securing improvements in foster care the Fostering Network works with central government and local councils to try to ensure that fees and allowance are fair and consistent. The Director in Scotland, Bryan Ritchie, leads these discussions

and is regularly approached by the Scottish Executive and others for the views of carers and of the organisations with whom we work. We publish papers highlighting the need for carers to be properly recompensed for the work that they do, but setting the level of allowances remains the responsibility of each agency and Council.

The Fostering Network takes every opportunity to stress to the media the very challenging tasks that foster carers do and to argue that they need to be valued and respected as well as paid for that work. In terms of allowances the Fostering Network each year calculates the weekly amount that we believe carers need to look after a child. This is sent to all fostering providers, but again the agencies and Councils decide what level of allowances they pay. Some do use the Fostering Network calculations, a few pay more and some pay less.

Through our Fostering Links project which is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and due to end in December 2007, Sarah Crangle brings together, through the focus group structure, carers and others who are partners in foster care and again we listen to the issues and share the good practice from many agencies. We use the information we get about the good things some agencies and Councils do as well as talking about poor practice that does exist to alert the Scottish Executive and the Association of Directors of Social Work to problems and good practice. Other benefits of the Fostering Links project include free membership meetings, media training and the quarterly *Fostering in Scotland newsletter*.

Some of the benefits of membership of the Fostering Network are the regular national *Foster Care*

magazine, *Signposts* about current topics and legal insurance in the event of allegations or other claims.

Recently some carers told us that they were unhappy with the solicitors the insurance company was using. This was discussed with the Membership Officer in London and on the advice of some Scottish carers other solicitors were approached and they are now offering their services to Fostering Network members through the legal insurance scheme.

The Fostering Network provides training courses throughout the year across Scotland, sometimes to carers and workers from a local area, sometimes they are courses that are accessible to anyone across Scotland. Our Training Manager Sue Robertson is happy to talk to agencies about the particular needs of their carers and workers and to create a course to meet those needs.

The scope of our work would not be complete without mention of the Young Person's project. This project is currently part-funded by Children in Need and is due to end in October 2007. Alison Boswell plans and manages meetings across Scotland for young people who are looked-after and for the sons and daughters of foster carers. Alison takes every opportunity to ensure that politicians, social work students and social workers hear directly from young people about their issues, their skills and their concerns.

The office at Ingram House would not run smoothly without the skills and hard work of Linda Curran, Deborah Cook and Joy Crawford who manage all the administrative work to enable the other staff to go out and meet carers and agencies.

I hope that this lets you see what some of our activities have been.

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We do not make the decisions about fees and allowances nor can we tell agencies how they should provide support to carers. We try to let them know about what works well and what we assess to be the correct levels of allowances to cover the costs of looking after children.

We are a charity, and are continually looking for ways to ensure that our work can continue to benefit children and young people in foster care. Volunteers took part in the Great Scottish Run in 2006, and we are hoping more will come forward for the 2007 event in September.

We want to hear your views about what else you think the Fostering Network should be doing in Scotland so that we can say that we are the voice of foster care.



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Foster Care Fortnight 2007, 14 to 27 May

Faces of foster care

This year the Fostering Network has sought out the faces of foster care for a photographic exhibition during *Foster Care Fortnight*.

Fostering service members of the Fostering Network can download a Toolkit and Press Pack to help make the most of the recruitment opportunities offered by *Foster Care Fortnight* from the member's area of www.fostering.net

Foster Care Fortnight is an annual campaign which raises the profile of fostering and highlights the need for more foster carers, co-ordinated by the Fostering Network.

Each year *Foster Care Fortnight* helps raise awareness of fostering,

and in particular encourages people to consider becoming foster carers. During the two weeks fostering services around the UK hold events and promote their need for more foster carers in their communities and through their local media.

For more information contact Helen Clarke, recruitment campaign co-ordinator on t 020 7620 6407 or e helen.clarke@fostering.net

Event for young people

Working with Glasgow's *Families for Children* and the Big Step, the Young People's project is organising a creative workshop for young people on Tuesday 15 May.

Publications update

The Fostering Network's 2007 Publications and Resources Catalogue is now available. These new resources include exciting additions to our range of materials.

We have completely revised, updated and redesigned our introductory leaflets.

The new *Gateways to Fostering* series boasts a modern, fresh design and clear, accessible information, informing readers of both the

challenges and rewards that fostering offers.

In conjunction with the faces of foster care exhibition taking place in *Foster Care Fortnight*, we have also produced the *Faces of Foster Care* DVD featuring inspirational and informative interviews with carers. Perfect for recruitment events, or to open pre-approval training.

Building on our work with care-experienced young people, the Fostering Network has developed *Living in Foster Care*; guides to living in foster care for children and young people. They answer common questions in clear, straightforward terms, and are professionally

illustrated throughout. Sample copies are available to view on the members only area of our website, and the leaflets can be purchased in packs of ten from Central Books on 0845 458 9910.

For more information about these recruitment tools, or to order a copy of the Publications and Resources Catalogue, visit the website, email us at publications@fostering.net, or call the publications department on 020 7620 6445.

Contact with families and friends

The Fostering Network is working on a new publication for foster carers about Contact.

It will be an easy-to-read guide to best practice and it

is very important to us that we ground the publication in the experience and advice of foster carers themselves.

To gather your experiences of supporting children and young people's contact, a questionnaire is available to download from our website www.fostering.net/resources/documents/contact_questionnaire.doc.

This can be filled in electronically, or you can post a copy to Jacky Slade, Regional Consultant (South West), The Fostering Network, PO Box 1229, Cheddar, BS27 3DW.

If you don't have access to the website, but would like to contribute, contact us at the Glasgow office t 0141 204 1400



Young people attend media training

Christine Tait

On the 22nd of March, three young people; Dawn, Jemma and I, along with Alison Boswell attended media training. Joining us were a group of foster carers who were actively campaigning for change, and some had experience of talking to journalists previously. The training aimed to give us some experience of communicating to the media effectively, and to make us comfortable whilst doing so. Dawn and I had some experience as we had presented the *Forgotten Voices* films at their launch a year previously, although the relevant training for *Forgotten Voices* was much more focussed on live speaking and being behind a camera conducting interviews, rather than on the other side.

Our trainers were Bryan Christie – a former journalist with The Scotsman and Anne Brown, a producer with BBC radio. We worked through a variety of issues and detailed the positive and negative aspects of talking to various forms of media. As both trainers were intimately involved in radio and press, we gained an interesting insight into how the media works, and the best ways to interact with it in its various forms. For me, the most interesting feature of this was the debate and anecdotes that arose, especially from the other foster carers who gave us new angles on issues which we had been working with in the Young People's project.

After lunch, we prepared for two interview sessions; one radio and one press. Despite being very familiar with the issues we were asked to discuss, talking to a stranger who recorded everything that was said was slightly unnerving – especially in the case of radio where a giant microphone was thrust between you and the interviewer. However, practice and encouragement made the interview easier, and playing back the interviews picked up any points which needed to be improved upon. Personally, I found this part of the day the most useful as public speaking generally terrifies me!

All agreed that the training helped our confidence in dealing with the media. I would like to extend many thanks to our trainers Bryan and Anne, who have made it easier to advocate on behalf of the Young Peoples' project in the future.

'I feel we all done really well, making our points clear, showing little nerves. Anne said that she would gladly work with myself and the other two members of the Young People's project, as we came across very confident in our interviews and provided some really good real life experiences that make for good interviews.'

Overall the day went well and I feel we all gained something from it, and all went away feeling confident at the end.' Dawn.



Forgotten Voices DVD's

These two films are written and produced by young people involved with the project and are based on their real-life experiences. Featuring actors and aimed at social workers and trainers, the films contain hard-hitting messages about the impact fostering has on the lives of young people involved in foster care, and the support they require now and in the future. One film highlights the needs and issues for young people in foster care and the other highlights the needs and issues of the sons and daughters of foster carers.

Available on DVD, each film costs £25 incl. p&p. These DVD's are a great resource for recruitment and training.

For further information and to purchase the films please contact Alison Boswell, Young People's project worker
e alison.boswell@fostering.net
t 0141 204 1400

Meeting with Robert Brown, MSP

Dawn and Christine from the Young People's project met with Robert Brown, Deputy Minister for Education and Young People at the Scottish Parliament to discuss foster care.

The issues which Dawn and Christine discussed with the Minister included:

- The practice of children and young people in foster care having to move placements with their belongings in bin bags as they have not been provided with proper luggage.
- The impact on young people's

social relationships as they are denied overnight visits due to lengthy checks and how this practice is embarrassing for young people.

- Sons and daughters of foster carers. It was positive that the sons and daughters were included in the strategy.

This was a positive meeting with Mr Brown and the Young People's project is looking forward to the forthcoming strategy.



Creative workshop for young people

To celebrate *Foster Care Fortnight 2007* the Young People's project, *the Big Step* and Glasgow's *Families for Children* are hosting a fun creative workshop on Tuesday 15 May, 6pm-8pm.

Issues and themes relating to fostering will be explored through drama, movement and dance. Why not come along and take part in sketches and simple dance routines, whilst sharing your thought and inspirations with others?

For further information and to book a place please contact Alison Boswell, Young People's project
t 0141 204 1400.

National Fostering and Kinship Care Strategy

The Young People's project organised a series of meetings across Scotland to collect the views of young people who have experience of foster care either as a young person in foster care or as a son and daughter of foster carers. Two of the meetings were in partnership with the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum and Glasgow's Families for Children.

All the young people who participated were very honest about their experience and provided positive solutions for a fostering service which would meet young people's needs.

Contact us

For further information on any part of the Young People's project, contact Alison Boswell, Young People's project worker
t 0141 204 1400
e alison.boswell@fostering.net

Super focus group

Marjorie Ruddick

On Thursday 9 November 2006, carers and workers from as far North as Orkney to the South of Scotland travelled to Dewar's Ice rink in Perth to attend a meeting of all the combined focus groups - a 'super focus group'.

On arrival we received our packs, designating which of the six groups we had been selected to attend, either workers or foster carers, of which there were an equal number.

In the morning there were speakers, the first was Marjory Booth regarding her role with the Care Commission. Her input was well received, as it greatly clarified the task and increased confidence in the process of inspections. The second speaker was foster carer Robert Monteith who gave feedback on his presentation to MSP's at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The third speaker was Jackie Brock from the Scottish Executive who explained the background of the *National Fostering Strategy*, the consultation process and preparing the attendees before we split into the various groups.

The task of the workgroups was to

allow us the opportunity to discuss essentials to be contained within the *National Fostering Strategy* of the seven issues currently facing foster care service in Scotland. Allowances, fees, education, recruitment, retention - workers & carers, allegations, training and placement limits. As you can imagine, there was a great deal of sharing of views, expressing personal, local and national implications. Of course, not surprisingly, many acknowledged not enough time but appreciated the opportunities for consultation, the feedback and the motivation resulting from the discussion.

It was a very full but very worthwhile day. The evaluations were very positive. Everyone had the opportunity to have their say and to feel included in the consultation. Thanks to Sarah and the other staff of the Fostering Network for facilitating such a successful day.

The next round of focus groups will take place in November 2007.

For further information about these, contact Sarah t 0141 204 1400

Child protection information line launched

Recently launched by the Scottish Executive, the Child Protection Line 0800 022 3222 is a national, 24-hour child protection information line, where members of the public can phone and speak to a trained operator regarding any child protection concerns they may have.

Callers will be directed or transferred by the operator to the



most relevant agency to speak to, depending on the nature of the concern.

This 'one-stop-shop' will give easy access to child protection services, ensuring a single, Scotland wide point of contact for callers, reducing confusion about who to call or how to get

help. Further information can be found on-line at

www.infoscotland.com/childprotection

Speaking out for foster care

Foster carers recently took part in free media training sessions organised by the Fostering Links project in Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

Joining up with young people from the Fostering Network's Young People's project at the Edinburgh session, once again, the training days proved a success in ensuring foster carers felt more confident, (and willing!), to share their experience of foster care positively with the media.

Participants were able to discuss the various parts of the media and the many different ways that the media can be used to increase awareness of foster care, challenge the public's misconceptions of fostering and be used to recruit more foster carers.

Here's what foster carers have said about sessions they have attended:

'Have more scope of what is likely to be expected of me'
(Carer, Edinburgh session).

'Removing the mystique behind the practice. The day gave me confidence to give it a go.'
(Carer, Falkirk session).

'General discussion with other carers and tutors about the positives and negatives of fostering and focussing on promoting fostering.'
(Carer, Dundee session).

'The size of the group leant itself to stimulating discussion and the opportunity for everyone to participate.'
(Carer, Dundee session).

Further training will be held later in the year. To register your interest in this, please contact Sarah Crangle, Fostering Links project worker, t 0141 204 1400

The Fostering Network Scotland membership meetings 2007



These events are open to anyone interested in the foster care service in Scotland, in particular foster carers, social workers, and others wishing to expand and develop their knowledge in this area.

They are a great way to chat and share ideas, and best of all – the meetings and lunch are free! Please note spaces are limited, so hurry and register your interest - contact Sarah t 0141 204 1400

5 September 2007, Dundee

11 September 2007, Glasgow

The future of foster care in Scotland: exploring allowances, fees and training

A recent report from the Fostering Network, *Can't Afford to Foster*, based on a survey of foster carers throughout the UK, found that many foster carers are out of pocket as a result of fostering. The report examines levels of pay and income among foster carers in the UK and finds that, despite making a vital contribution to society, many foster carers are poorly paid and receive only token payments while others are paid nothing at all. The report argues that fostering is often a full-time job due to the needs of children being cared for but warns that a lack of adequate pay is pushing too many foster families into poverty.

This one-day event will allow delegates the opportunity to discuss the recommendations of the Fostering Network to introduce a structure for foster carers that will

- examine the national minimum fostering allowances set by the Fostering Network
- support the recruitment and retention of foster carers
- tie in with the skills and experience necessary to work as members of the

professional child care team

- be resourced centrally to enable payment of fees that equate with comparable employment in the children's workforce
- provide continuity of payment for foster carers 52 weeks of the year
- examine the rights, roles and responsibilities of carers and agencies in working within this structure

8 November 2007, Edinburgh

Education: are we doing better?

In January 2007, the Scottish Executive published a document called *Looked-after children and young people: we can and must do better*. This document reflects the findings of a working group, which was established specifically to consider the educational outcomes of looked-after children and young people. What it found was that, for many young people leaving the care system, the prospect of having had a fulfilling, positive and successful experience of education was, definitely not A+.

This one-day event will allow delegates to hear from a range of speakers and explore how, almost one year on from the report, the educational opportunities and outcomes for looked-after children and young people in Scotland have been affected.