

# Fostering

Promoting foster  
care in Scotland

Issue 22 Summer 2008

# in Scotland

## Foster Care Fortnight launches in Edinburgh

The Fostering Network launched *Foster Care Fortnight* in Holyrood's historic Queensberry House in Edinburgh at an event hosted by Adam Ingram, MSP, Minister for Children and Early Years on Tuesday 13 May.

Fostering colleagues joined with Fostering Network staff in celebrating *Foster Care Fortnight* and highlighting the need for 450 more foster carers for Scotland in 2008.

Speaking at the event, Sarah Crangle, Recruitment project worker said: 'This figure would simply allow us to keep up with the increasing demand for new foster homes. This would not address the need to increase the overall number of foster homes to offer placement choice or reduce the number of children in some foster homes to more acceptable numbers where children would get the support that they require and deserve.

'We remain concerned that current shortages result in

situations where children are moved hundreds of miles from their family, friends, schools and clubs and expected to settle into a new way of life.

'Should we be asking foster carers to provide care for up to seven children, balancing all their needs, and when are they expected to get some time for themselves, or their families?

'Foster carers are doing an incredible job, dedicating their lives to looking after other people's children and encouraging others to recognise the qualities they've got and to think about fostering.'

As well as showcasing *The Difference Fostering Makes*, from the Fostering Networks *Faces of Foster Care* DVD, foster carers from Edinburgh, Falkirk and East Lothian were able to bring to the Minister's attention a range of issues from allowances to educational opportunities.

L-R Tricia Rosa, Edinburgh City, Sandra Moody, the Fostering Network, Christine and Robert Monteith, Falkirk, Alison Boswell, the Fostering Network, Adam Ingram MSP, Stuart Duncan, Edinburgh, Sarah Crangle, the Fostering Network and Charlie Stewart, East Lothian.

## New report asks for voices to be heard

Young people living in foster families in Scotland say that their voices are rarely heard in decision making about their lives, according to a new report from the Fostering Network Scotland.



*Forgotten Voices* is a unique collection of the thoughts, ideas and feelings of young people with direct experience of foster care including sons and daughters of foster carers and children and young people in foster care.

The young people involved in the project are aiming to highlight the difficulties children and young people in care face in terms of education and stability, and met with the Children's Commissioner in July to ask her to add her voice to theirs as they campaign for change.

For more information, contact Alison Boswell, Young People's project worker.



We would welcome your contributions on any news, views, articles or ideas. Please send to Sarah Crangle, The Fostering Network Scotland, Ingram House, 2nd floor, 227 Ingram Street, Glasgow G1 1DA  
t 0141 204 1400 e sarah.crangle@fostering.net

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### National Recruitment project

Sarah Crangle



## Scotland welcome new Director

**Hi, my name is Sara Lurie** and I am delighted to have been appointed to the post of Director for the Fostering Network Scotland.

I grew up in New York City, but first came to Scotland in 1974. I came as an exchange student for one term, but I have hardly left since!

I hold a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Family Counselling and Special Education (Hampshire College, USA) and was awarded a license to practice social work in Massachusetts, USA. In 1988, I completed a post-qualifying

certificate in Social Work Education at Jordanhill College in Glasgow, and in 2006, I completed a Diploma in Management. I am registered with the Scottish Social Services Council.

My experience in fostering, social work and management has been gained in the voluntary, independent and statutory sector, including residential schools, family centres, Barnardo's and Family Care. In 1998, I moved from Edinburgh to London, where I became Head of Fostering and Adoption Services at Norwood. Two years ago, I returned to Scotland, as Service Manager for Fostering Solutions.

I have had extensive opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of policy and practice issues in child care, fostering and adoption, and of relevant legislation both in Scotland and England. I am a firm believer in involving children, young people, parents and carers at every stage of service development and delivery and in sustaining effective joint working to ensure effective outcomes. I have always approached my work by taking a lead role in initiating action and decision making, with the aim of facilitating and empowering others.

On the 18th of August, I will be joining the Fostering Network and look forward to working with all of you, and seeing the Fostering Network go from strength to strength.

## Development of allegations guidance for Scotland

**The Scottish Government** document *Getting it Right for Every Child in Kinship and Foster Care* acknowledged a need for a national protocol to ensure that allegations against foster carers were handled sensitively and efficiently. The Fostering Network was commissioned to develop 'a national protocol, capable of being adapted to fit local circumstances.'

The same policy document indicated that the guidance should 'have as its starting point the importance of protecting the child and ensuring they are not exposed to abuse or neglect of any kind, whether emotional, physical or sexual. It also recognises that foster carers may face

unsubstantiated allegations and that allegations may be a means by which a child draws attention to their underlying needs. Thus, allegations against carers need to be investigated and managed in a way which safeguards children, whilst also treating carers justly.'

A group including foster carers, representatives of local authority fostering services, independent fostering agencies, the Fostering Network, police and child protection workers has been meeting with Dr Moira Walker who will be authoring the Protocol, to undertake this challenging task.

The document will outline a framework and principles which will

assist appropriately skilled and experienced professionals to keep children safe and take them seriously, while also treating carers fairly. It is hoped it will be implemented in the context of local policy and practice in relation to child protection and foster care and key elements should be incorporated into appropriate local authority and fostering agency procedures and guidance.

Further consultation is planned over the summer, with the document being widely disseminated in autumn 2008. For more information about the guidance, contact Sandra Moody or Sue Hardman, Advice and Mediation workers.

# Dear Members,

**Summer holidays** are just around the corner as I am writing this so I hope that it warms up for us all. Scottish beaches can be cold places when the east wind blows! Our main news for this edition is that we have appointed Sara Lurie to be the Director of the Fostering Network in Scotland. We are delighted that Sara is joining us, and I know that she will bring a lot of skills and experience to the post. Sara is working at the moment in an independent fostering agency and has a wide variety of experience with children across the UK and beyond. We are looking forward to her coming and hope that she will enjoy the new challenge. I hope Sara will have the chance to meet many of our members at meetings which we hope to have up and running after the summer.

We have been very fortunate to have Mary McKenna as our Interim Director since Bryan left. Mary has had to cope with new systems, the development of new posts in the Fostering Network and the whole kinship and foster care agenda as well as tendering with BAAF for the training associated with the *Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007*. Mary has been a tower of strength and has certainly not let the grass grow under her feet! I would like to thank Mary for all her work and for taking us forward in so many ways even in the short(ish) time with us. We are not going to let Mary go altogether easily!

The Government is pressing ahead with several reports and strategies about *Getting it right for every child in Scotland*. The Fostering Network is doing a lot of work on the strategy for

foster and kinship care and the Reference Group led by the Fostering Network and BAAF is due to report in September to the Minister for Children and Families.

The Fostering Network's work on Allegations against carers continues with a further consultation day held early in July. We want to see a consistent approach to dealing with allegations across Scotland and agencies taking proportionate action rather than a standard child protection approach.

*The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007* is an exciting piece of legislation as it introduces Permanence Orders which we hope will allow some children more stability in their placements and would give foster carers more rights and responsibilities for their care. Training events are to be set up to let carers and workers know more about the new orders.

The Government in Scotland does not want to introduce a lot of new legislation but is focusing instead on the development of Strategies on Early Years, Residential Child Care, drug misuse and dealing with alcohol misuse particularly the effects of cheap alcohol on young people. We will be responding to consultation papers as they emerge and we would welcome views from any of our members to include in the consultation responses.

These are challenging times for foster care and indeed all Children and Families services. Our colleagues in local authorities are trying to get to

grips with new funding arrangements and new Councils who may have little idea of the skills and value of foster carers and of the staff who support them.

Also in this newsletter we have a contribution from Adrian Clark who is the Scottish foster carer on the Board of the Fostering Network. Adrian will tell you a bit about himself and recent developments at the Board.

We have unfortunately been unsuccessful in securing further funding for the Fostering Links project. We all believe that this work is central to our members, with the newsletter, focus groups and membership meetings key parts of the project. Our fundraiser, Linda Ogston, continues to try to find funds, and if any of you have won the Lottery recently or have contacts with big businesses who might donate money we would love to hear from you! In the meantime, Robert Tapsfield, our Chief Executive has agreed to continue the project at a reduced level until later in the year, which we are really pleased about.

So I foresee a busy summer ahead as we try to get the reports from the Strategy ready for presenting to the Minister. I hope that you will have a happy summer - I know that it will be busy but I hope that you will find a little time to relax once school is finished for the year.

With best wishes,

  
Anne Black

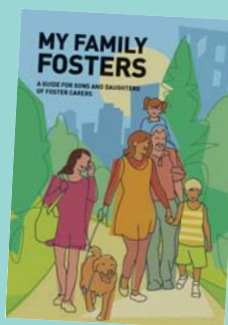
## My Family Fosters: a guide for sons and daughters of foster carers

This brand new guide provides children whose family has chosen to foster with answers to many of the questions they may have:

- What is fostering and what will it mean for me?
- Making changes at home.
- Coping with difficult behaviour.
- School and friends.
- Safer caring.

- Secrets and disclosure.
- Sources of support.

It explores some of the concerns that sons and daughters may have, and suggest practical ways they can deal with them. Beautifully designed and fully illustrated, the handbook has



been developed with input from sons and daughters of foster carers across the UK.

Copies are available from Central Books at £7.50 each or £70 for a pack of 10 copies for members of the Fostering Network. Order copies from Central Books t 0845 458 9910 or e [tfn@centralbooks.com](mailto:tfn@centralbooks.com)

# FORGOTTEN VOICES

'Preparation, planning and support are vital to the work that we do with children and young people, and *Forgotten Voices* has contributed to our knowledge and awareness in each of these areas.

available for purchase

**Featuring actors** and aimed at social workers and trainers, these two films are written and produced by young people involved with the project, and 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. Based on real life experiences, 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.

Our thanks to Heath Crosby, Family Support Worker with Phoenix Fostering in Herefordshire for reviewing these resources:

*'Forgotten Voices* has given us a valuable insight into the way that children think and feel upon entering the care system, and living within it. We now use the *Forgotten Voices* DVD during our Foster Carer Preparation Training, which begins with 'The Child's Journey'.

Our prospective Foster Carers found this DVD very useful. It increased their awareness of issues that are pertinent to looked after children, and they felt this information was delivered in a more meaningful way because it was relayed by the children themselves.

*Forgotten Voices* raises specific practice issues for Phoenix Fostering and other providers, such as ensuring that all children have an appropriate bag or case for their belongings, and a personal 'memory box' for photographs, letters, personal items, etc - particularly those relating to family members and significant others. This highlights the importance of Life Story Work for all children and young people living away from their families of origin.'

Available on DVD, each film costs £25 incl. p&p. For further information and to purchase the films please contact Alison Boswell, Young People's project worker  
e [alison.boswell@fostering.net](mailto:alison.boswell@fostering.net)  
t 0141 204 1400



## Angus House Ex

And what an excellent exp

**I am Linda Rodger**, the social worker, responsible for recruitment and training of foster carers for Angus Council. I and two of my colleagues Margaret Stibbles and Lindsay Laing had the pleasure of the company of 12 birth children of our Angus foster carers for a weekend in April 2008.

It took a fair bit of organising as well as funding to arrange (risk assessments preparation and parent meetings) but I worked closely with Gus Robb who is an experienced coach in Angus in a range of activities and Dawn Meechan (a member of one of our fostering families) and together we came up with an action packed weekend.

All our temporary foster carers children were invited and 12 brave souls took up the invitation. We arrived at Angus House at 7pm on the Friday evening to a warm welcome from the Angus House Staff. All the necessities done, (fire drill, tour of premises) Gus kept the young people aged 10- 18 years occupied with a series of getting to know each other games.

After a late night the young people emerged bleary eyed but keen to tackle Saturday's challenges. A hearty breakfast later and the arrival of Mike our outdoor instructor the group boarded the bus for a hill walk in the lovely Angus Glens.

Saturday evening we had an introduction to Stacking Cups (all the rage in America) and we started our own Angus House Tournament which continued throughout the weekend. Another weekend activity started with them dividing into male and female groups to produce a presentation on being in a family that fosters.

When it got dark we had an optional

## Young people get involved with Foster Care Fortnight

**The Young People's project,** Recruitment project and the big step partnership held an event for young people during *Foster Care Fortnight* to get their views on a variety of media images and advertising campaigns. Young People made great suggestions on what they thought would be helpful to recruit foster carers. In addition, they spent time interviewing their foster carers/ parents to ask them, 'What does fostering mean to you?' Here is what they found out:

*'Giving support to kids who need it'*

*'It means fun, tears and lots of energy. It is a pleasure to see children grow'*

*'A great deal, I get great satisfaction knowing I have helped, even a little'*

*'Something I enjoy doing. It also means I can provide a stable and secure environment for kids who are less fortunate in life'*

*'Lots of hard work and understanding, lots of tears, lots of fun and laughter but most of all a real feeling of satisfaction just knowing you have helped a child move forward with their life'*

**Thank-you to everyone who took part in the interviews during Foster Care Fortnight.**



# experience

experience this was.

ghost walk which was great fun (apologies to residents of Edzell who may have heard our excited group walk by!), finally, supper was followed by a film night (choice of 2 different films).

The young people had a lie in on Sunday having breakfast at 8.30am instead of 8am. Day two had started Mike arrived again and promptly organised the group for our team building activities in the local park. This burned off a lot of energy!

After a substantial lunch we got down to the serious work. The young people produced and presented their power point presentations about fostering from their perspective and each of them did a video diary about their experience of the weekend.

We all had a great time and the young people definitely enjoyed themselves too! We had our follow up evening on 20th June to view some video pictures and photos and relived some of the getting to know you exercises with their parents. They expressed their wish to repeat the experience again soon!

This was a first, but it was so successful if we can secure funding we will definitely do it again. It helped us (workers) really get to know the young people in a way that home visits every 4 weeks can't. Yes, it was a lot of work and responsibility but our young people work hard everyday to help give other young people a different experience of family life.

My thanks to all the staff, Mike from Outdoor Education, Gus our facilitator for the weekend Dawn our adult helper and all of the young people who attended, Euan, Hamish, Isla, Bruce, Harrison, Karlyn, Evan, Reece, Jack, Luke, Miranda, Leya-Jay.

## Newsletter feeds back young people's comments and views on LAC regulations

**The Young People's project** and *the big step* Partnership recently produced a newsletter which shares the responses to the Scottish Government's *Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulation - Consultation on Draft Regulations* from the young people involved in the consultation.

### Why the newsletter?

Firstly, Alison (the Fostering Network) and Kim (*the big step* Partnership) would like to thank all the fantastic young people who contributed to *The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations - Consultation on Draft Regulations* that was carried out in February, it was a privilege to meet everyone!

The Fostering Network and *the big step* wanted to ensure that the 21 young people who took part in the focus groups in Glasgow, Stirling and Dundee got the opportunity to hear everyone's views.

The consultation with young people looked in particular at care plans and care planning. The groups discussed ways children and young people are currently involved in their care planning as well as experience of

placement planning and matching. To find out what young people said in response to the consultation, copies of the newsletter are available from Kim Watson, *the big step*, [e Kim.Watson@gcpl.org.uk](mailto:Kim.Watson@gcpl.org.uk) or Alison Boswell, [alison.boswell@fostering.net](mailto:alison.boswell@fostering.net)

In addition, the Fostering Network submitted a response to the Scottish Government in March, taking into account the views of a range of people including foster carers and last but not least young people. The Fostering Network's response to the consultation can be accessed from [www.fostering.net](http://www.fostering.net)



To find out more about the work of the Young People's project, or to get involved, contact project worker, Alison Boswell [e alison.boswell@fostering.net](mailto:alison.boswell@fostering.net)

## Speaking out about foster care - young people and media training

**On April 15th** I attended Media training with the Young People's project at the Tron Theatre from 10am until 4.30pm. The man who took the class was a media trainer called Ian Peacock from London who has worked with various presenters and reporters such as Jeremy Paxman and the BBC news team as well as interviewing famous people such as Tony Blair and Tony Benn. He taught us how to be interviewed by someone and how to act in front

of the camera. I really enjoyed the day and got to learn lots of new skills on how to change an interview to another subject and how to answer awkward questions. I also enjoyed being able to learn more about *Foster Care Fortnight*.

I am really grateful to Alison Boswell for arranging the event, I am sure she also enjoyed it and I hope more training sessions like this can be arranged in future.

**Kieran Guckian**

# Getting it Right for Every Child in Kinship and Foster Care - how the strategy is moving forward

**Following the launch** of the *Getting it Right for Every Child in Kinship and Foster Care* strategy in December 2007, a reference group chaired by Anne Black has been moving forward many of the strands contained within this strategy. Five task groups have been established to focus on the issues and with the support of the Scottish Government's analytical team will be submitting a joint report and recommendations to the Minister for Children and Families, Adam Ingram in Autumn 2008.

The task group on **organisational arrangements** has been focussing on key features of decision making to help cut down on drift for children. It has identified the value of Independent Reviewing Officers, i.e. those not involved in the line management of workers directly working with the carers or child. A policy consultation event is planned for Directors and Senior Managers in Children and Families on 27 August 2008. Contact Natalia Duncan, [e girfecproject@aol.co.uk](mailto:egirfecproject@aol.co.uk) for further information about this event.

The **assessment of foster carers** task group has been looking at good practice in assessment and in particular, the need for the child to be at the centre of discussion at Children's Hearings and Permanency Panels to ensure that the child is settled and secure, rather than more attention being given to the needs and wishes of the parent.

In addition to the **training of foster**

**carers** task group exploring the current (lack of) training for workers in family placement work, the group is also revisiting the thinking about a Centre of Foster Care excellence to raise the status of foster carers through provision of positive training opportunities.

The task group on the **assessment and approval of kinship carers** has recently submitted a report to the Minister giving guidance on the assessment and approval of kinship carers. Ensuring that the Child's plan is at the centre, the assessment process will work with kinship carers and family members, exploring gaps needing filled and what specialist services are required to fill them, while balancing the responsibilities of the local authority for the safety and security of the child remaining within the family.

The **recruitment of foster carers** task group held a policy consultation event on 22 May in Perth. Bringing together a wide audience of foster carers and fostering workers, both family placement, recruitment and managers from local authority and independent fostering agencies across Scotland.

The presentations and feedback from the day are available from Sarah Crangle

[e sarah.crangle@fostering.net](mailto:sarah.crangle@fostering.net)

Some of the main points discussed during the day include:

- Developing a central point of information for potential foster carers - a website and Freephone number.

- Ensuring recruitment activity is planned, promoted and ongoing throughout the year to encourage a 'drip-drip' of awareness about fostering and the need for foster carers.
- An annual celebration of foster care, recognising and sharing the work and good practice of all those involved in fostering, including foster carers, their families, and fostering workers who are all part of the fostering team.
- Encouraging the sharing of resources, with more collaboration and effective communication between agencies.
- Retention of existing foster carers and valuing their role and expertise is crucial.
- Existing foster carers should be involved at many stages of the recruitment process e.g. open days, training and post approval as 'buddy's'.

With the initial report from the Recruitment project recently being submitted to the Scottish Government, we are hopeful of progressing many of the recommendations surrounding effective recruitment in early Autumn, and will keep you informed of these developments. In the meantime, to find out more, contact Sarah Crangle, Recruitment project worker.

## New website aimed at improving outcomes is launched

**Adam Ingram**, Minister for Children and Early Years, recently launched a new website, developed in partnership with the Looked After Children Education Forum and Learning and Teaching Scotland. The aim of the website is to support improved outcomes for all looked after children, young people and care leavers through the provision of information, useful resources and networking opportunities to those

who support them and others who have an interest in this area - including children and young people as well as parents and carers.

Action 8 in *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better* states that a national network and information website for professionals, foster carers, residential workers, parents and looked after children and young people will be developed.

With sections specifically for parents and carers, and for children and young people, the site also has a discussion forum area for networking, discussing and sharing practice which is open to anyone with an interest in supporting looked after children, young people and care leavers.

Visit the site at [www.LTScotland.org.uk/lookedafterchildren](http://www.LTScotland.org.uk/lookedafterchildren)

# Training course updates

Our training team continue to be really busy, with a packed schedule of training courses. Places are available on the following popular courses.

## Men in Foster Care

**Date:** Saturday 8 November 2008  
**Venue:** Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Glasgow  
**Price:** £90.00 + VAT (including lunch)

### Description:

The role of men in foster care and residential work has been the subject of increased debate. There is concern about how best to work with children who have been sexually abused, worries about abuse by carers, and unsubstantiated allegations of abuse in foster care. The course explores the idea of the 'positive male role model' to identify ways in which men can be more effective carers. This course is for men only and is facilitated by men.

## The Skills to Foster Leaders' Course

**Date:** Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 25, 26 and 27 November 2008  
**Venue:** Premier Travel Inn, Glasgow  
**Price:** £270.00 + VAT (including lunch)

### Description:

For many social workers, training foster carers and foster care applicants is a significant part of their job. Many experienced carers are also involved in delivering training. It is considered good practice by most fostering services for foster carers and social workers to combine their skills and experiences and conduct training together. This course will prepare participants to run the *Skills to Foster* preparation pack for foster carers. It gives participants the chance to work in partnership preparing and presenting material and experience the whole course from an applicant carer's perspective.

## Role of the Supervising Social Worker (or 'family placement supervisor')

**Date:** Wednesday & Thursday 25 & 26 February 2009  
**Venue:** Premier Travel Inn, Glasgow  
**Price:** £180.00 + VAT (including lunch)

### Description:

The relationship between supervising social workers or 'family placement supervisors' and foster carers has a key part to play in ensuring children and young people receive high quality care. However, the role of the supervising social workers is far from straightforward. Workers need to ensure the foster child's interests come first and avoid collusive relationships with carers, yet gain respect in order to help carers develop their skills. This course will enable participants to explore their management role and responsibilities while maintaining good working relationships, effectively managing their time and monitoring and reviewing practice and performance, while responding to concerns about quality of care.

To secure a place on the above courses, book now and avoid disappointment. For any training queries about existing courses, or to discuss bespoke training tailored to your requirements, contact Joy or Sue t 0141 204 1400.

## In brief

### Sons and daughters - draft policy

The Fostering Network knows how important sons and daughters of foster carers are, and value the role that they play within the fostering household and have recently produced a draft policy document, *Fostering Families: supporting sons and daughters of foster carers*, and a consultation paper on the document. The Fostering Network would welcome your comments on the policy paper and also on the consultation questions, and with a version for young people as well as for adults, we hope to hear from fostering services, foster carers and children and young people. The consultation closes on 27 August 2008, to download this or for further information, please contact the Glasgow office.

### Foster Care magazine goes live

We are delighted that our national magazine, *Foster Care*, is now available for you to read online! Containing all our welcome features, including *The Big Issue*, *A Problem Shared*, *My Proudest Moment* and many more, you are now able to catch up on the latest developments in fostering at the click of a mouse! Visit <http://fcm.fostering.net>

### Educational pack for foster carers in Northern Ireland

Our Fostering Achievement scheme in Northern Ireland recently distributed educational packs to foster carers throughout the country. Containing a CD-Rom with a suite of software for encouraging literacy and numeracy skills among primary school age ability, along with a DVD giving fun and interactive ways of learning at home, foster carers in Northern Ireland are being encouraged and supported to help the children and young people in their care gain a sense of achievement and realise their potential.

We would love to be able to develop something similar across the rest of the UK, and if this is something you feel would be valuable in Scotland, please get in touch with us at the Glasgow office, to explore how we can take this forward.

### Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007

The Scottish Government has published two sets of draft secondary legislation on the *Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007* for consultation. *The Adoption Support Services and Allowances Regulations* was published on 9 June and consultation closes on 1 August 2008. The consultation of the draft *Adoption Agencies Procedures Regulations* was published on 7 July and the consultation period runs until 29 August 2008.

The consultations are available on the Scottish Government website,

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current)

## Fundraising challenge in Peru

Hi everyone,

**As you may know** in October I'll be part of a team of people from across the UK including foster carers and staff from the Fostering Network. I'll be heading off from Glasgow on 3 October, meeting the team in London, then on to New York then Lima and finally arriving in the Peruvian town of Cusco, high up in the Andes a few flights, time zones and over 24 hours later.



With just a few hours to adjust to the high altitude (and jet lag!) we'll be preparing for our challenge with a 'gentle' five hour acclimatisation around Cusco before an early morning start and off on our trek following the Inca trail to Macchu Piccu. This is a challenging adventure and all for a good cause as I hope to raise over £4000 to support children and young people through the Fostering Network in Scotland.

The team will walk the Inca Trail, covering 30 miles up and downhill at altitude, and our adventure will take us above the clouds, passing the dubiously named 'Dead Woman's Pass' at a height of 4000metres, (that's about half way up Mount Everest!) and all without toilets or showers! Finally we will arrive in the Lost City of the Inca's, Machu Piccu, four days later before heading back to Cusco and then homewards.

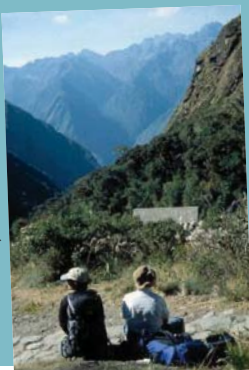
If you have any spare money and want to support me and the team in the challenge, your donations will make a real difference! Visit [www.justgiving.com/sarahcrangle](http://www.justgiving.com/sarahcrangle) to donate online, or by post to the Fostering Network, here at the office.

I'd like to thank everyone who has been so generous and donated to the trek to date, and hope to keep everyone updated with the challenge in our next newsletter, provided I make it back from 'Dead Woman's Pass'! To see how my fundraising is going, visit my justgiving web page, [www.justgiving.com/sarahcrangle](http://www.justgiving.com/sarahcrangle), or why not pop in to the office, phone or drop me an email to speak to me or a colleague and find out more about our work!

Best wishes,

**Sarah Crangle**

Recruitment project worker  
Fostering Links project worker



## Fostering Success

17-18 October 2008

**This year** the Fostering Network's annual UK conference will be held in Cardiff on 17 and 18 October. The programme will focus particularly on the challenges of short term fostering placements and placements aimed at helping children or young people to return home or move on to independence. This event will explore the challenges faced by foster carers, consider research about what works and examine how fostering services can best support and assist foster carers to transform the lives of

the children they foster.

If you are interested in innovative, evidence-based approaches and best practices that have helped transform the lives of young people in care, then book now. Bookings received by 31 August receive a 10% early bird discount. Booking is easy - book online at [www.fostering.net/training\\_events/events/tfn\\_conference2008/index.php](http://www.fostering.net/training_events/events/tfn_conference2008/index.php) or call the conference team on 029 2044 0941



## Your voice on the Board

**My name is Adrian Clark** and I was elected to the Fostering Network Board of Trustees in 2007 (many thanks to all those who voted for me) for three years. I am married with two children and four grandchildren. My wife and I have been fostering since 1976 and we currently have two fostered boys (aged 14 and 10) living with us.

Trustees undertake a very important role for the Fostering Network, ensuring compliance with legal and statutory requirements, setting strategy, overseeing finances and generally supporting the work of the Fostering Network. There is more information about the role of a Trustee on the website, [www.fostering.net/who](http://www.fostering.net/who).

I attend four Board Meetings in London every year (March, June, September and November), two 'Away Days' in January and the AGM, which I fit in with my full time employment within the IT Division of a UK Bank.

As I live in Scotland, a typical Board Meeting day for me starts at 4:30am followed by an early flight to London's City Airport, a train journey on the Docklands Light Railway to Bank, the Underground to Waterloo and

then a short walk to the Board Room for the meeting which starts at 11:30am. The return journey finally gets me home about 11pm. A long day, as I think you will agree! During the year there are also Working Groups or Committees attended by Trustees and these specialise in specific areas such as Governance, Finance, and Policy, with the results being presented to the next Board meeting.

The Board has recently been discussing the Strategic Plan for 2009, reviewing the 2007 Finances and setting budgets for 2008, reviewing risks to the organisation and advising on appropriate actions, discussing the Country reports prepared by the Northern Ireland and Scotland Directors, looking at some clauses within the Articles and advising on some minor changes that are required.

As the Scottish voice on the UK Board I would be happy to hear from our members about any particular issues you would like the Board, or the Scottish Advisory Committee, to consider. You can contact me through the Glasgow office, or email [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net)