

Fostering

Promoting foster
care in Scotland

Issue 23 Autumn 2008

in Scotland

Peru trekkers follow in Inca footsteps and raise funds for charity!

Project worker and Peru trekker Sarah Crangle tells us about the trip. In October a team of seventeen brave individuals from across the UK met up for the first time in London's Heathrow airport and headed off to Peru for the challenge of a lifetime!

Finally! After months of waiting and all the fundraising we were finally able to put faces to the names on the emails and were meeting up to set off on our journey! The invitation to do the trek had gone out to over 50,000 individuals but just a handful had taken up the challenge set by the Fostering Network to walk in the footsteps of the Inca's and visit sites and scenery dating back 3,000 years! Fostering Network's Sarah Crangle and Edinburgh foster carer Stewart Duncan were part of the team made up of eleven foster carers, two social workers and four Fostering Network staff and we were supported by our guides, local porters and a doctor.

The four days of the trek were an amazing experience including visiting incredible sites, seeing stunning scenery, forging new friendships as well as the physical challenge of camping out in the Andes, rising at 5am, walking for 12 hours a day and climbing over mountains! (I won't mention not showering for four days!!) I feel really fortunate to have been able to undertake the first challenge of this



type organised by the Fostering Network and would strongly urge others to think about doing similar!

It has been really moving to have had so much support from friends and colleagues from across the country. Thanks to this support the Fostering Network has managed to raise over £50,000 for our work across the UK.

It's not too late to donate - visit

www.justgiving.com/sarahcrangle or contact me at the office!

If you have been inspired to undertake a challenge like this, why not get in touch with us while we get plans underway for the next adventure. A huge thanks you all my to all my supporters who have helped me exceed my target and I have now raised over £4,600!

We would welcome your contributions on any news, views, articles or ideas.
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Allegations against foster carers - we need your views

Previously in *Fostering in Scotland*, we advised of the development of guidance or a protocol which would be a national tool for ensuring the sensitive and efficient handling of allegations against foster carers. The Fostering Network, led by Dr Moira Walker, was commissioned to develop this guidance, which would be 'capable of being adapted to fit local circumstances.'

A working group made up of foster carers, representatives of local authority fostering services, independent fostering agencies, the Fostering Network, police and child protection workers have been meeting over the past months, to undertake this challenging task, and are now looking for your support in responding to a consultation on this document.

The consultation has a few questions needing your views, in particular: terminology, timescales, responsibilities and reviews. The document and consultation paper is available online at www.fostering.net or you can contact us at the office in Glasgow for more information. Your expertise and views on this are really important as this will help shape the handling of allegations against foster carers in the future.

The consultation will close on 30 November, so please, get in touch now!

Hearing the *Forgotten*

Often the voices of the sons and daughters of foster carers are not heard. Here, we hear about inclusion work going on around the country...

...Lisa Shine, Consumer Involvement Officer for East Lothian tells us about the way they have involved young people in the tender process for the council's children and young people's rights and advocacy service.

Earlier this year **East Lothian Council** ran an event for staff across the council and for other agencies to look at how we might take forward corporate parenting in a meaningful way. Looked After young people were involved in giving presentations at this conference and in running some of the workshops. This was a high profile event with senior national and local figures taking part, including Adam Ingram (Minister for Children and Early Years). Participants were very impressed by the quality of input by the young people, and were affected by their accounts of being looked after. At the conference young people told us that '*All young people should have a say over what happens to them and have a chance to give feedback on the services they get. We are experts in knowing what works and doesn't work so our views matter a lot.*' Involving young people in the planning and developing of services is an ongoing priority for East Lothian. One way we have done this is to involve young people in the tender process for the council's children and young people's rights and advocacy service, with the support of our Consumer Involvement Officer.

Young people contributed to the selection process by forming a young person's interview panel, designing the questions and interviewing and scoring the candidates. During the interview, candidates had to answer six questions. Feedback from the young people about the candidates was passed on to the adult interview panel and this information was used to inform the overall selection. A lot of time and effort went into supporting the young people to understand the role they would play and ensure that their participation was meaningful.

Involving children and young people in the selection process brought about a number of benefits. It demonstrated

that ideas and views of young people are valued and respected. It provided an insight into children and young people's views on what kind of Children's Rights and Advocacy Service they would like to access. It also gave a clear message that children and young people are at the heart of what we do and can have a direct influence on services we provide. The process resulted in the selection of a service that we all feel very confident about.

Feedback from the young people who took part was really positive. In spite of the nerves before the interview, the young people involved gradually gained in confidence towards the end of the process. One young person commented '*We know what kind of a service we would like to get so it's good to get our opinion on who should help us.*'

This summer Support Workers from the **Moray Fostering and Adoption Team** had their second successful outing with eleven of the Young People who foster in Moray with a visit to Landmark Adventure Park. Everyone enjoyed themselves but most of all the greatest benefit was the time the group had together: sharing their experiences of living with children and young people in care.



Alison Boswell pictured with Moray support workers

Support Workers, Gail McNaught, Alison Simpson, Margaret Howie and Fiona Fettes tell us: 'It drew our attention to the need for more sessions on a regular basis. We are developing a

Voices of sons and daughters

questionnaire to gather information from the young people, on how often they would like to meet and what activities interest them. We would also hope to incorporate their views on how fostering affects them and their family. The aim would then be to develop both an activity programme, and the opportunity for the young people to come together and consider common issues.'

'We recently benefited from a very informative visit from the Fostering Network's Alison Boswell, who has left us with lots of inspiration. We really do have to say a big 'Thank You' to Alison for making the journey to Elgin. We thought it also highlighted our rural bubble: however, this makes us all the more determined to take things forward. Watch this space!'

Fostering Solutions (Scotland) have been organising drama / workshop sessions for the children of foster



carers from Fostering Solutions (Scotland). John McGowan, Independent Worker with Fostering Solutions says: 'This has been fairly successful and popular with another one planned for November. I am also from a family who fostered so this topic is one I feel strongly about and I often feel that the sons and daughters of foster carers are overlooked when supports are required.'

'The model I promote is a partnership model. We have devised a range of group games for each session - the next one is linked to dealing with aggression. However, like most work with children you need to be adaptable if a 'hot' topic appears and interests the group. The first group was for about nine children aged 8 - 14 and the theatre space created a good environment for the work.'

'I found that children spoke about their

own experiences very openly - related to being angry when a foster child was abusive in the home and how this impacted on them. What was interesting was that some children felt left out of the process. The foster child had their own social worker and a social worker would often visit their home but they would only talk to their parents - this view was clear and consistent.'

FCA Scotland have been extremely busy across the country with a wide range of activities. Saara Watkins, Children's Support Work Service Manager shares with us some of what has been going on...

'The group have recently elected and involved a Young Peoples' representative who will be a link in the voice of children and young people into the organisation. The chosen young person has been for dinner with one of the senior support workers in order to start mapping the role and appropriate level of involvement, as well as attending a meeting with the Operational Director for FCA Scotland to look at how she can be involved in participation and consultation about the service we provide. One of the ideas in the pipeline is a leaflet introducing the representative and offering a way for young people to contact her through the office to discuss anything that they feel is relevant to her role or the organisation, or their care experience. It has been suggested that the representatives from Glasgow and Prestwick (as well as other areas if possible) also meet to share ideas and opinions, as well as offer support for each other.'

FCA are holding a second residential permanency training workshop for carers in conjunction with BAAF, which has been scheduled for mid-November at Crieff. The Children's Support service facilitate three separate workshops for the children (both birth and looked after children) touching on topics of family and belonging with the aid of a drama worker.'

NCH have recently re-branded as 'Action For Children'. Young People's worker, Denise Elliot shares with us ongoing work within the organisation.

'Currently, **Action for Children** Fostering are working with a group of



children who foster to develop a form to record their thoughts about being part of a fostering family to ensure their views become integral in the assessment processes. They are also planning a practice exchange workshop for carers and staff in December where participation will be a key theme of the event giving everyone an opportunity to develop ways in which Action for Children Fostering can ensure participation of young people is central to the development of their services.

Already young people have been involved in writing and designing a handbook for new young people coming into the fostering projects. They designed this to include lots of information they felt was important for young people to know and they also designed a form so that the project can record the thoughts of those who find it difficult to speak out.

In addition two young people from Action for Children Fostering are set to be on a radio advert on Real Radio in the beginning of November. The advert will be aimed at recruiting carers for the CAPS and North Lanarkshire Youth Justice fostering projects, as well as the new under 12's service, Close Care. It will feature the voice of an actor as well as those of the young people who will benefit from a genuine insight into the internal workings of radio. So listen up.'

Thanks to everyone for contributing their news. If you have something to share, we would be happy to hear from you -email or phone Sarah Crangle, **e** sarah.crangle@fostering.net, **t** 0141 204 1400

Dear Members,

When this newsletter drops through your letterbox a lot of significant events will be in the past. Sara Lurie has settled in as our new Director and we are all enjoying working with her and discussing her ideas and using her experience.

The results of the Election to the Board of Fostering Network will be known and I hope that we get the strong Board needed by Fostering Network to drive forward its future work and keep their focus on carers and children.

I hope that some of you will have attended the Annual Conference in Cardiff and we will look forward to feedback at a later date.

Sarah Crangle will have been to Peru as will Stewart Duncan, an Edinburgh foster carer, and will have taken on the challenge of Machu Pichu. We look forward to lots of photographic evidence of the trip. I think that they are both very courageous doing the trek and I hope that you have already considered sponsoring one or both for the Fostering Network.

It has been an eventful summer in terms of work on the National Kinship and Foster Care strategy and staff and members of the Fostering Network have played significant parts in getting the report finalised. I hope that when the report is published you will take the opportunity to read it, despite its length and let Fostering Network know what you think should be done to take things forward and what you can do in your areas and groups. The contribution of carers has been invaluable and also operational managers from Children and Families Services- they all know the practicalities of foster care not just the

theories!

The reports were sent to the Scottish Government on 30 September who are now considering the report and there will be a ministerial response in time. We are keen to ensure that the issues raised and the recommendations made are considered very carefully. What does come across in the report is the key importance of carers and the work they do to make children safer and more able to hold their own in the future. In talking to the team from the Scottish Government I know that they will be keen to hear the views of foster carers in response to the report and your ideas for making things happen. Fostering Network may be asked to arrange some meetings about the report so watch this space!

Work on the good practice document about responding to allegations against carers has also been moving forward but it is very hard to get a protocol agreed for 32 local councils and their partners!

Moirra Walker, the lead on the protocol, has been asking different people involved with children and foster care for their views about what needs to change and what is likely to work. Being on the Reference Group for the Allegations work has underlined again for me the need for an agreed way of responding to allegations so that carers are treated with respect and the young people are listened to with care. These two things should not be in any way incompatible. You can respond to this at www.fostering.net.

The work of the Young People's project, *Forgotten Voices* has been well received

and I was lucky to be invited by the group to go with some of them to let the Children's Commissioner know about the work. The Young People's project presented their ideas and their stories so well and Kathleen Marshall was very impressed and keen to look at how her office can continue to support young people living in foster care.

It is very sad that with all the good work being done by Alison Boswell and the young people that we have not been able to find funding to continue the Project in its current form. We are looking carefully at what we can do to continue some of the work but finances are very tight and the voluntary sector is feeling the credit crunch like the rest of the country. We will keep you advised of progress.

We are in negotiation about the recruitment post and initiatives with the Scottish Government to do further work including looking at what helps to retain carers. We want to have some focus group and membership meetings as I know that you value getting together and sharing ideas and solutions! We need your views!

Once we are clearer on a number of fronts we will make sure that you get information about developments and I hope that I will get the chance to meet some of you in the not too distant future.

With best wishes,



Anne Black
Chair, Scottish Advisory Committee

Caring For the Complex Child

Falkirk Council is holding a conference for their foster carers in November 2008. Kate Cairns (AKAMAS) will be delivering the course over two days. The conference has been funded by money from the Scottish Government and will cover issues associated with attachment and sexual abuse. Foster Carers from Falkirk council are looking forward to this event and will provide feedback on the course in their next newsletter.

Many thanks to the following for supporting the Peru trek:
A Webster
Alan Muir
Alison Boswell
Andy Williams
Anne Black
Anne Brown
Anne Hampton
Anne MacDonald
Auchenback
Primary School - staff and pupils
Barbara Allan
Betty Stuart
Bryan Ritchie
Café Andaluz - West End
Carole Ann
Alford
Caroline Cusick
Celtic Football Club
Chalmers
Construction

Christine Alison
Christine Fairfull
Craig McEnhill
Creative
Promotions
David Kay
Deborah Cook
Donald
Chalmers
Douglas Yates
Ed Crangle
Elaine Bower
Fostering
Solutions
Fosterplus
Garron Crangle
Gary McEnhill
Gill Seth
Ian Storrrie
Janice Colvan
Jean Colvan
Jeanette &
Charlie Crangle
Jean MacKay
Jean Menhinick
Jill Crangle
Jim White

Jo Watt
Joanne
O'Donnell
Johannah
John Leach
Joy Crawford
June Blair
Justine Young
Karen Colvan
Kate
Kirsty Allan
Kirsty MacIntosh
Fosterplus
Laurence Magee
Linda Curran
Linda Ogston
Linda
Mulholland
Linda Rodger
Lynn & Alan
Pincock
Lynne Isaacs
Marie O'Brien
Marjorie
Ruddick
Mark Phillips
Martin Ferguson

Mary Deward
Mary McKenna
Meg McKenzie
Michael Browne
Morgan Crangle
Morven
Campbell
Mrs Haggerty
Nicola Pringle
One O One
Offsales
P Gaffney
Pam Bennett
Paul Brady
Peter & Joan
Humphries
Petrena Mitchell
R Caldwell
Rangers Charity
Foundation
Rhonda
Richardson
Richard Barnes
Robert Tapsfield
Robin Crangle
Roddan
Chalmers

Renfrewshire
Carers
Sandra Moody
Sandra Smith
Sara Lurie
Sarah Magee
Sarah Ridley
Shetland Carers
Steve Conway
Sue Hardman
Sue Robertson
SWIIS fostercare
T Nibloe
Thelma
Georgeson
Tim Crangle
Tom Allan
Vanessa Orr
Vicki McCracken
Willie Evans,
Jane Moore
Trust
Yola Thomson

Government aims for better start for children in care by declaring: *They're all our bairns*

Guidance aimed at giving Scotland's 14,000 looked after children the same chances in life as those outside the care system was published in September by the Scottish Government.

The new 'corporate parenting' advice will lay the foundations to give children in the care of local authorities; health services, the independent sector and the police the support they need to go on to lead fulfilling lives.

Adam Ingram, Minister for Children and Early Years, said: 'Over the years, despite good intentions and investment, we have collectively failed the children and young people who have been entrusted to us. We have a social and moral obligation to do our very best for those most vulnerable members of our communities and to show that we can and will do better as corporate parents.'

'We are particularly grateful to all of those people who told us their stories

to illustrate this guidance. Their words inspire all of us to make a positive and enduring difference to the children and young people in our care.'

Corporate parenting means the formal and local partnerships needed between all local authority departments and services, and associated agencies, who are responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children and young people, and care leavers.

Its aim is to ensure that all the needs of looked after children are carefully considered; e.g. where they are housed when they leave care; do social workers encourage young people to stay on in education?; and do anti-bullying programmes take looked after children into account?

Mr Ingram said: 'Corporate parenting is not only a responsibility but a real opportunity to improve the futures of looked after children and young people; recognising that all parts of

the system have a contribution to make is critical to success.'

'The aim of this guidance is to support councils and their community planning partners in closing the gap which has existed for decades between people who have experienced the care system and people who have not.'

The guidance outlines:

- the statutory duty on all parts of a local authority to co-operate in promoting the welfare of children and young people who are looked after by them, and the duty on other agencies to co-operate with councils in fulfilling that duty;
- the importance of joining up the activities of the many different professionals and carers who are involved in a child or young person's life, and taking a strategic, child-centred approach to service delivery.
- the need to think like a parent and constantly challenge by asking the question "is this good enough for my child?"



Scottish Councillors challenged to take responsibility for children in care

Local councillors across Scotland are being encouraged to take on the responsibility they hold as legal parents for children in care, as part of a new campaign from the Fostering Network Scotland.

In September the Fostering Network contacted all councillors to make them aware that the ultimate responsibility for the safety, well-being and development of children in care rests with elected members, regardless of whether they are directly involved in children's services.

E-postcards, written in English and Gaelic, were sent out asking councillors if they know how many children are in their corporate care. They will also be asked if those children are getting the help they need at school and if foster carers have enough support.

The aim is for councillors to recognise they should treat children and young people in care as they would their own

children, and that councils need to work more effectively across the range of issues that impact on their development.

So that councillors can better understand their responsibilities, the Fostering Network is offering the opportunity to meet with local foster carers to hear some of the challenges they face and how local councils can help. An information pack, including a guide for councillors on how to be a good 'corporate parent', is also available.

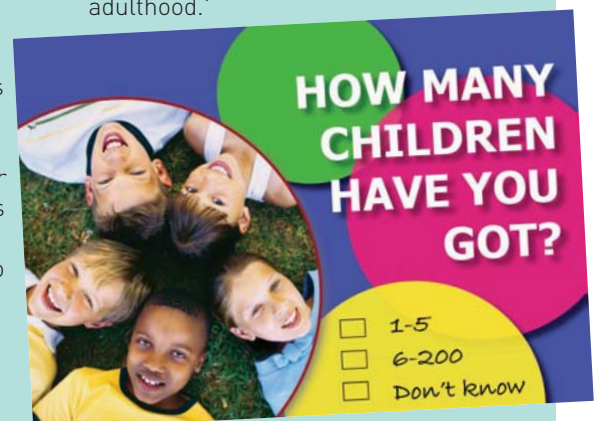
The launch of the campaign follows the Scottish Government announcement of new guidance on corporate parenting, *These Are Our Bairns* - a concept that emphasises the joint responsibility and accountability of local authorities to meet the needs of looked after children and young people.

There are over 14,000 children and

young people looked after by local councils in Scotland.

Sara Lurie, Director of Fostering Network Scotland, said: 'We believe that every councillor in Scotland has an important role to play in helping children in care to thrive, particularly by supporting the work of foster carers, social workers and others who help to turn their lives around.'

'With this campaign we are encouraging councillors to accept responsibility for the development of children in care, to prioritise the needs of children in all decision making, and to support their growth until a successful transition to adulthood.'



Extracts from *Forgotten Voices*

The Fostering Network's Young People's project recently launched their unique collection of the thoughts, views and feelings of young people with direct care experience of foster care including the sons and daughters of foster carers and children and young people in foster care. The collection is available in a report and the Young People's project and the big step partnership have been working with young people in recording all the material from *Forgotten Voices*. This will soon be available as pod-cast to download.

We are also really excited that *Forgotten Voices* has been short listed for an award at the Cardiff Design Festival! Here are some extracts and feedback on the report:



Don't Call Me 'Darlin'

Don't call me 'Darlin'
Don't you dare call me yours
I'm not your 'wee pal' either
I'm nothing to you at all
My mother loves me, you do not
My loyalty lies with her
It's not that I'm afraid I'll ever like you
It's not that I'll ever be loyal to you-
Why you and not my mother?
Why I was even brought here?
To this place I'll never call home
To call it that, I'd rather die
Than desert my mother for you
Than acknowledge you as close to me
Just please don't call me 'Darlin'
Just leave me well alone

The project has been amazing, I wish it would continue. I've learnt so much about myself and has made me gain more confidence! (Jaqui)

Young People also discussed their experiences of education

'My experience of education has been a particularly good one throughout my experience I have received tuition throughout which has benefited me.'

'The new class could be half way through a project or you might get different work until they finish the project.'

It was good that we go out and meet other friends
I wish it could continue I loved it so much
(Jade)

Practitioner's comments

Forgotten Voices - congratulations to all the young people who have been involved in the Project and in the making of the report, it has been a real eye-opener to the thoughts and feelings of both the young people who have been looked after away from home and the children and young people of foster carers. How do we know if we are getting it right, or not, unless we listen to their experiences and try harder to meet their needs? Well done to those young people who have 'told it like it is' and made their voices heard.

All our foster carers in Dundee have received *Forgotten Voices*, so that it can be read by the young people in their care and by their own children. One comment from one of our relatively new carers was 'my daughter couldn't put it down'.

Pam Leslie

Resource Co-ordinator,
Dundee City Council

Forgotten Voices is an excellent document which provides real insight into the thoughts and feelings of young people who have experience of fostering. It is essential reading for everyone involved with fostering services whether foster caring, managing or inspecting and challenges all of us to hear and address young people's concerns.

Bryan Livingston

Development Manager,
Children's Services
Care Commission

It has been an amazing experience and helped me with a lot
It has helped me to understand fostering so much
Alison and Kim have helped us so much
(Kieran)

Voices in the Skills to Foster to compliment session two on young people talking. The poem 'Don't Call Me Darlin' I think is so powerful and this was read out. The foster carer who was facilitating the course with me had cared for a girl who had a similar view to the writer of the poem and so was able to explore this from both angles in a discussion afterwards

Sally Frost,

Fostering Recruitment and Assessment
Team, Suffolk

The messages are so powerful

Jennifer Lockhart

Training Assistant, Fosterplus

It was an amazing opportunity to make friends and get our points across!
I will miss it!
Not only did we do the booklet but we received invaluable skills and training
Alison did a fantastic job with us
(Megan)

Janice West, senior lecturer at Glasgow Caledonian University explains how this resource will help raise the issues which face young people who experience foster carers with social work students:

Forgotten Voices is a uniquely powerful collection of young people's thoughts and feelings about the impact upon them and others of the fostering process. One of the most powerful messages it conveys is that the difference between a good and bad experience of social work practice seems often to rest on the attention to detail - remembering a birthday, packing clothes into a suitcase rather than a bin liner, taking note of the young person's views.

It was good gets the point across (Niki)



You have made such a difference we will all miss you sooo much Young People's project w

This group has given me confidence (Natz)

For the social work students with whom I work, I think it is important for them to appreciate how much can be achieved even in times of financial constraint by being alert to the needs of those for whom we have some responsibility and to actively listen to the messages being conveyed.

I wish Fostering Network every success with this venture.

I am very sorry to hear that the Young People's project ends at the end of October 2008.

As a foster carer and parent this project enabled my son to understand and bond quicker with a teenager who is in placement with us. They have made friends with the young adults who also attend the various meetings and outings.

This will now be severed which is a great pity as they share a common factor around issues of being 'looked after'.

I would particularly like to thank Alison Boswell and Kim Watson (from the big step) for their time and effort put into helping the children connect with each other. I only wish they could be given a financial reprieve as my family are very disappointed that this project has been terminated.

I wish Alison Boswell all the very best in the future - she will be sadly missed.

Marie Guckian

Foster Carer

I've made friends, had great experiences doing things I may never have done, but most of all the Young People's Project has given me a chance to be heard, and for us to use our voices to make a difference. (Christine)

New training materials support education of children and young people

Three new measures to improve the educational experience of some of Scotland's most vulnerable children and young people have been launched.

Commenting that the status quo is not good enough for Scotland's looked after children, Children's Minister Adam Ingram, said these new measures go some way to making sure Scotland's looked after children get access to the very best services and support to help them have the positive futures they deserve.

The launch follows publication of *These Are Our Bairns* - the first document in Scotland to set out the role and responsibilities of everyone who are responsible for our looked after children earlier this month.

The measures launched are:

- Innovative new training materials to support everyone who works with and cares for looked after children. These include a hard-hitting and sometimes disturbing DVD which portrays one young person's journey through the system
- An outline of the core tasks for designated managers in educational and residential child care establishments in Scotland to make sure that each establishment has a key individual to champion the needs of looked after children and young people and see that services meet their needs

- The final report from national research into the Scottish Government's programme of local authority pilots which have developed new ways to improve the educational attainment and achievement of looked after children and young people. These included flexible teaching, homework, and exam support, transition support and training, and the research provides valuable evidence of what works from which we can all learn

The training DVD, *We Can and Must Do Better* revises the previous *Learning with Care* materials and is a useful tool for foster carers, social workers, teachers and others involved in the care and education of looked after children and young people. For more information, contact the Fostering Network.

Training dates for your diary

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)

Men in Foster Care

Date: Saturday 28 February 2009
Venue: Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Glasgow
Price: £90.00 + VAT (including lunch)

training has just become a whole lot easier



The Fostering Network is launching its new *Pathways Through Fostering* online training courses, run in partnership with Akamas. These essential post-approval courses are linked to the *Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care*.



Online courses available:

August 2008 **Safer Caring Contact**

November 2008 **Attachment Education**

Spring 2009 **Health Managing Behaviour**

To find out more about these exciting new courses please contact:

Northern Ireland e ni@fostering.net t 028 9070 5056

Scotland e scotland@fostering.net t 0141 204 1400

England e training@fostering.net t 020 7620 6429

Wales e wales@fostering.net t 029 2044 0940

or visit our website www.fostering.net



Glasgow City host reception to recognise contribution of foster carers

The Lord Provost, The Rt. Hon. Bob Winter hosted a civic reception in June to present long service awards to foster carers, supported carers and respite carers in Glasgow City Council.

The Lord Provost presented long service awards to nine carers who have amassed over 300 years of caring experience among them. This is the first time awards have been staged as a way to recognise the incredible contribution that foster carers, supported and respite carers have made to Glasgow and its young people.

Lord Provost, Councillor Bob Winter said: 'Glasgow owes these carers enormous debt of gratitude. The way they have dedicated themselves to looking after some of the city's most disadvantaged children deserves nothing but high praise.'

'Staging an awards dinner represents a small token of our appreciation, and to be honest I don't what we would have done with out you all.'

At the event there was an audience of over 150. The nine carers who received their specially commissioned vases on the day have looked after over 1,050 young people during their time.

Annie and Duncan Mansell, from Milngavie have been fostering for more than 30 years. Annie said: 'Fostering is really challenging but very rewarding too. We've had a wonderful time here today.'

Christine Clark from East Kilbride has looked after over 140 children. Admitting to being caught unaware by the award, she said: 'It all came as a big surprise. I thought I was just going for a meal and to enjoy myself with the other carers. To get the award was a big shock, but it was a beautiful vase that we all received.'



Pictured with the Rt. Hon. The Lord Provost, and Councillor Elaine McDougall are foster Carers: Christine Clark , Annie and Duncan Mansell, Betty & Joe Middleton, Margaret and John Stafford, May and Gerry Taggart, Ruth and Robert Wilson. Supported Carers Madga McKee, Helen Brogan and Respite Carer Amelia Murphy

The foster carers who received long service awards were:
Christine Clark - East Kilbride
Annie and Duncan Mansell - Milngavie
Betty and Joe Middleton - Bathgate
Margaret and John Stafford - East Kilbride
Ruth and Robert Wilson - Johnstone
May and Gerry Taggart - Cardwadric

Dundee City Council and Barnardos launch their joint initiative

Mascots from Dundee's two senior football clubs helped Barnardos and Dundee City Council kick off a new Fostering Service on 19 September. The service, which will run alongside the charity's Side by Side Scheme, will provide a range of full-time foster placements for children and young people with additional support needs. These children and young people make up around one fifth of those in need of foster homes.

Barnardos believes there is a clearly identified need for this new service. Gail Aboim, Senior officer for Fostering and Adoption for Dundee City Council, said: 'Children with

additional support needs are among the most vulnerable members of society and finding families able to offer them the individual care and support they need is not an easy task.'

Dee Wok the bear, Dundee Football Club's mascot with Tiny and Terry the Terror, Dundee United's mascots help to distribute leaflets in the city centre in a bid to recruit more foster carers. Anyone willing to become a foster carer will be given full support, plus a fee and allowance for each child. Further details are available by phoning Side by Side on 01382 228834 or by emailing sidebyside@barnardos.org.uk



Dundee United and Dundee Football Club mascots with Barnardos Children's Services Manager Cath Hardman, Lord Provost John Letford, (back from left) Barnardos (Scotland) Director Martin Crewe and Dundee City Council's Children's Services Manager Fred McBride in the City Square Dundee.