

# Fostering

*in Scotland*

Issue 39

Autumn 2012

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**Income Tax - are you registered?**

**Fostering Links - project meets with foster carers across the country**

**Design our festive e-card**

**...and more!**



the fostering network  
the voice of foster care





# Hello and welcome...



Hello and welcome to the latest October edition of our quarterly *Fostering in Scotland* newsletter. This is brought to you by the Fostering Links project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund

and is circulated to all our members in Scotland, including all foster carer members and fostering social workers.

As you read this edition you will see that there has been a lot happening over the past few months. Over the summer the Scottish Government consulted on the *Children and Young People Bill* and the Fostering Network held events in Dunfermline, Glasgow and Orkney to hear from foster carers on what their views are of the wider Bill and in particular the areas relating to foster care.

We also ran meetings on foster care finance, and in particular income tax. The sessions in Glasgow and Perth were oversubscribed and attendees welcomed the input from Jim Briggs,

foster carer, accountant and former inspector with the Inland Revenue who also helped some individuals get back on track with their tax matters. More about foster care finance later in the newsletter.

With events held across the country it was great to meet up with many of you and we look forward to seeing some of again in the future.

As always, we hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and welcome your news, views and ideas for the next edition.

Until then, happy reading!

**Sarah McEnhill**  
Fostering Links project manager

## New online tax tool to help foster carers

A new online tool, *Tax for Foster Carers*, has been launched to help foster carers register with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as self-employed. Foster carers are classed as self-employed, and as such must complete their own tax returns. This new tool will help foster carers avoid potential penalties for wrong or late tax declarations, and it also has an introduction to the 'qualifying care relief' tax scheme for foster carers. You can access the guide and e-learning course on the HMRC website [www.hmrc.gov.uk/courses/syob/fc/HTML/fc\\_menu.html](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/courses/syob/fc/HTML/fc_menu.html) or link to it through the Fostering Network's website: [www.fostering.net](http://www.fostering.net)

**Remember!** All foster carers must register as self employed. Tax returns must be with HMRC by 31 October 2012 if you submit paper copies, and must be submitted by 31 January 2013 if you are registered for online returns.

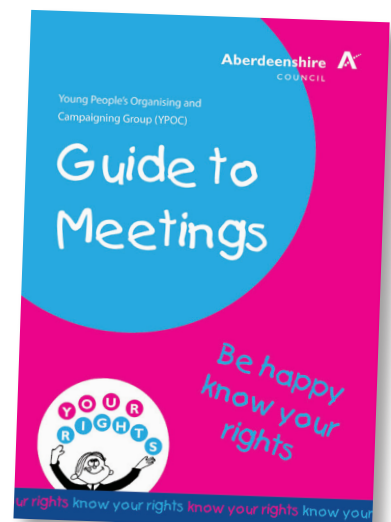


## Guide makes meetings easier for young people

Aberdeenshire's *Young Peoples Organising and Campaigning* (YPOC) Group recently produced a guide to meetings and an accompanying DVD. The guide and DVD are aimed at the adults who are involved in the various meetings young people are involved in to help and support young people more fully when they attend meetings.

Created by and for young people the Guide addresses areas to be considered to support young people before, during and after meetings and includes some helpful Do's and Don'ts. The DVD uses role play scenarios to highlight to all those involved how young people experience meetings.

Kieran Guckian, Young Person and



Volunteer with the Fostering Network says: "The DVD is very powerful and sheds light on a very difficult situation of being in a meeting and not been listened to, something we often overlook with young people. It was really moving to see how young people feel when they are under the pressure of being in a room with people they might hardly know, like review chairs and social workers, talking about their future."

Copies of the guide can be downloaded from Aberdeenshire Council's website: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/children/rights/MakingMeetingsBetter.asp](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/children/rights/MakingMeetingsBetter.asp)

# Dear Members,

**The past few months** have been a time of great activity for both our members and staff as we responded to the consultation paper from the Scottish Government on the *Children and Young People Bill*. I have been very pleased to see the responses to these proposals by so many carers and young people in foster care and the sons and daughters of foster carers. Your voices are very important in shaping the future of foster care. We have also been grateful to our Advisory Committee members who have shared their thoughts with the Fostering Network on the new Bill. As our 'strapline' says, we are the organisation for all involved in foster care.

One of the areas for consultation has been about young people being able to ask for help from their Council up to the age of 25 rather than 21. Most of us would support that extension as it is very hard for young people to find their own accommodation and maintain themselves as job opportunities decrease. There will need to be a lot of planning and an increase in placement resources if asking for support is to be followed by getting it. Foster carers are well placed to go on supporting young people well beyond 21 as the age is at present and many carers have been doing this over the years and making a real difference to young people's lives.

We understand that it is unlikely that foster care will be included in early legislation but have been advised that there is due to be a Review of foster care. This wide ranging review will examine how foster care services are working and what shape of services we need for the future to achieve best outcomes for looked after children. We are hoping you will contribute to that review too and we will keep you advised of timescales.

The meetings about foster care finance have been very well attended and were indeed over-subscribed. They reminded me of all the different aspects of fostering that foster carers and supervising social workers need to master but it is good to share the issues together and many people were helping others to find their way through the financial complexities.

Funding for the work of the Fostering Network continues to be difficult and as a charity the field is competitive. All ideas are always welcome and Linda Ogston, our fundraiser, would be happy to talk through any ideas for raising funds that you may have.

By the time this newsletter reaches you we will be approaching the festive period with all the extra preparations foster carers have to make for the children in their care. It can be a hard time for children recently come into care but I know that foster carers and their families will ensure that each child feels special and part of the magic and fun of Christmas and the holiday season.

We are delighted that Sara Lurie's wedding is going to be in New York in December. We wish her and Matthew well and hope that all the arrangements go smoothly. We hope to have some photos for the next newsletter and hot off the press, as if a wedding were not enough, Sara has just become a Grandma! Congratulations to Sara and her family.

With best wishes to you all



**Anne Black**  
Chair, Scottish Advisory Committee

## Learning and Development update

**We are pleased** to present a new course, *Caring for Children who have been abused: a male perspective*. This course is intended for those who have already attended the hugely popular Men in Foster Care course and will take place in Glasgow in March 2013. This one-day session is for men only, facilitated by a male foster carer. The course will help male foster carers to develop ways of responding to the behaviours and feelings that can result when children experience abuse and ensure that they can help provide a safe and caring home, protecting children from further abuse.

We are also running the following highly regarded training courses from the Fostering Network:

### **Men in Foster Care**

Saturday 3 November 2012, Glasgow

### **The Skills to Foster Leaders Course**

Tuesday 13 – Thursday 15 November 2012, Glasgow

### **The Role of the Supervising Social Worker**

Tuesday 29 & Wednesday 30 January 2013, Glasgow

### **The Skills to Foster Assessment Materials**

Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 February 2013, Glasgow

### **\*\*New Course\*\***

### **Caring for Children who have been abused: a male perspective**

Saturday 9 March 2013, Glasgow

Places for these courses are going fast – to make sure you don't miss out on attending contact Joy Crawford, **t** 0141 204 1400 **e** joy.crawford@fostering.net

These training courses are also available to purchase as in house training courses, delivered locally within your fostering service.



## A word from Sara Lurie, our Director...

**If you are** a foster carer in England, you will receive at least £114 per week to spend on each child you look after. The same applies if you foster in Northern Ireland, while in Wales it is over £140. But if you are a foster carer in Scotland this so-called fostering allowance varies widely, with one in five local authorities providing under £100 per week for the youngest children.

That's because in the rest of the UK, the governments recommend a minimum allowance and expect this rate to be given by fostering services to all foster carers and spent on fostered children. In Scotland the Government

plays no such role, leaving local authorities and independent fostering providers to set their own rates. The absence of a national allowance in Scotland has led to foster carers receiving hugely differing amounts depending on where they live, and hundreds being out of pocket as a result of fostering.

Meanwhile, those fostering in England, Northern Ireland and Wales will, by law, be looking after a maximum of three unrelated fostered children at once (the exception being larger sibling groups). North of the border, foster carers might be caring for five, six or seven unrelated fostered children, as well as any of their own, and struggling to give them the attention they require, meet their needs, support their education and work with possibly five, six or seven separate social workers.

Scotland so often sets the standard for social care issues in the UK, but on fostering has taken a back seat for too long. As the leading charity working to make foster care better across the UK, we have lobbied on the lack of minimum allowances and limits on the number of fostered children – known as placement limits – over the past decade. And now this work is bearing fruit.

In early July the Scottish Government published a consultation on its proposed *Children and Young People Bill*. From a fostering perspective, this legislation could not only bring Scotland in line with the rest of the UK, but actually mean that we are taking a lead. In addition to minimum allowances and placement limits, the consultation talks about pay for foster carers,

something that has yet to be considered seriously by governments elsewhere. Across the UK only half of foster carers receive any form of fee, with many of these being paid below minimum wage equivalent.

No other profession that works with children is expected to do so without pay. The Fostering Network believes that levels of pay must be set that are comparable with children's residential social workers. And in our survey of children living with foster families in Scotland, released today, the overwhelming majority (nine out of 10) said they are in favour of foster carers getting a wage or fee like staff in children's homes, challenging the commonly held view that children and young people in care do not think foster carers should be paid.

Not only do we know these changes would improve the lives of fostered children and the families that care for them – thereby encouraging foster carers to stay fostering for longer – we believe that they would help fostering services recruit the 1,000 new foster carers needed across Scotland.

The consultation period is now closed, and we await the publication of the bill itself. Throughout its passage through the Scottish Parliament we'll be lobbying ministers and MSPs, and will be urging all those involved or interested in fostering to do the same. This is a once in a decade chance to shape fostering for the next generation, this is the time to make foster care fair in Scotland.

**This text was first published in the Guardian online on 28 September 2012.**

## Head, Heart and Hands

**The Fostering Network** has launched *Head, Heart and Hands*, a demonstration/ pilot programme looking at the use of social pedagogy in foster care. Our previous edition of *Fostering in Scotland* shared Sara Lurie's recent trip to Denmark where she learned more about social pedagogy. This is an approach to bringing up children which combines education in the broadest sense and care. It is an established approach

that shapes child care practice across many countries in Europe, but is not well known within the UK.

The Head, Heart and Hands programme aims to demonstrate the impact a social pedagogic approach could have within UK foster care. We are working with six demonstration sites in England and Scotland. In England they are Hackney, Staffordshire, Surrey and Capstone Foster Care. In Scotland

we are delighted that Edinburgh City Council will be one of the demonstration sites along with the joint site of Orkney Islands Council and Aberlour Fostering - Sycamore.

The four-year programme has attracted investment from a range of funders including Comic Relief and the KPMG Foundation. Watch this space for further updates on key learning and achievements.



# Scottish children in care say foster carers should be paid



Mercy and Sara being interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland.

**The overwhelming** majority of children living with foster families in Scotland are in favour of foster carers being paid, a new survey from the Fostering Network has revealed.

Nine out of ten children in care and sons and daughters of foster carers surveyed said that foster carers should get a wage or fee like staff in children's homes. Currently only around half of foster carers are paid anything at all.

Around eight out of 10 also said all foster carers should receive an allowance that covers all the costs of looking after a fostered child, and the rates paid should be the same across Scotland.

Scotland is currently the only country in the UK that does not have a national minimum fostering allowance, with seven local authorities paying below the rates set in England. There are also stark differences between neighbouring Scottish authorities, with some foster carers getting nearly £3,000 a year less than others to provide fostered children with the essentials they need.

Mercy Morrison was in care as a teenager and lived with a foster family. She now works with fostering services to help them approve new foster carers. Mercy said: "Looking after children has to be the main motivation for any foster carer, but getting paid a fee can make it possible for many who otherwise wouldn't be able to foster.

"My foster carers got a fee, and this made a difference for them, but they were passionate about fostering and were always totally committed to the children they looked after."

Sara Lurie, director of the Fostering Network Scotland, said: "These findings are fascinating and challenge the typically held view that children and young people in care do not think foster carers should be paid.

"Fostering is a job, and foster carers are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Not only do they need a fair allowance that covers all the costs of looking after a fostered child, but they should be properly paid for their skills, experience and commitment to each child."

The survey also showed that half of the children responding think there should be a limit on the number of fostered children living with a foster carer. Others said there should be a limit, except where it made it more difficult for brothers and sisters to live together or to find homes in an emergency.

Sara Lurie said: "Currently there is no limit on the number of children in care living with foster carers, which means some are looking after up to seven children. This can make it very difficult for foster carers to provide all the attention, care and support each child needs."

As part of the *Children and Young People Bill* currently being developed, the Fostering Network is calling on the Scottish Government to introduce pay for all foster carers, a national minimum fostering allowance and a limit of three children in care living in any foster home, with exceptions for larger sibling groups.

## Join the conversation

**The Fostering Network's** online community is going from strength to strength with more users getting involved every month. If you are a member of the Fostering Network and haven't signed up to the community, then visit our website.

*"I find myself dipping into this forum very often at my own leisure just to read new posts and the opportunity to get support and advice from child-centred, experienced foster carers is priceless."*

Sign up and get involved today: [www.fostering.net/community](http://www.fostering.net/community)



## Thank you

to our members  
for helping us plan  
for the future

**Over 1,200 members** responded to our survey to tell us what they think about us and what we do. The results were overwhelmingly positive, with members describing us as useful, informative, supportive and professional. Special thanks to the foster carers who met us in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aviemore and who helped us to understand how we look 'from the outside in'. In common with many charities, we face difficult financial times and we know that people and companies will only support us if they understand and believe in what we do. Thanks to our members we have a better understanding about how we look - just 20 per cent described us as 'a charity' and few were aware that we need to raise money to support our work. The Fostering Network has a challenge: we need to get better at telling people that we are a charity and that, like all our members, we are committed to making a difference for children in foster care.

All your feedback has really helped us look to the future for our charity. We will let you know more about our plans through this newsletter.

## Choose your own adventure



**People take on charity** challenges for all kinds of reasons. It is a unique way to celebrate a big birthday year or an anniversary, to motivate you to get fit, or just to prove you can do it.

*"In 2004 I slipped a disc in my back. It was so bad the doctors thought I might be paralysed for the rest of my life. I made a promise to myself that if all went well after my surgery I would do something big for a charity... I'm determined to prove to myself and the world that ANYONE can do this!"* Kim, intrepid supporter of the Fostering Network.

Kim is limbering up to take on the Great Wall of China in 2013, a challenge she has chosen and taken on in her own time. Joining an 'open challenge' gives you a huge choice of destinations and dates, from events on your doorstep to the slopes of Kilimanjaro.

The Fostering Network works with Discover Adventure, which provides brilliant and inventive trips, and was rated universally 'excellent' by those who took part in our 2012 Nepal Trek. The company also provide the best deal for charities, with 60 per cent of the cash going as pure donation. There are several departure dates for each destination, and if you want to bring friends or family along you can build your own team.

To find out more have a look at [www.discoveradventure.com](http://www.discoveradventure.com) or contact [laura.hocking@fostering.net](mailto:laura.hocking@fostering.net) 020 7620 8403



## Top of the World

**With all the support** now in we are proud to announce that our Nepal trekkers raised an amazing £72,016. Laura, fundraiser at the Fostering Network, said: "It was inspiring to see so many people who care about fostering working together to raise these vital funds."

**Some of our previous fundraisers!**



# Busy summer for Barnardo's



Young people and families involved with Barnardo's Scotland Fostering Service have enjoyed a variety of activities over the summer including trips to Benmore, Blair Drummond, Glasgow Science centre, Riverside Museum, Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Calderglen Country Park and the Apple store. All young people fed back that they enjoyed all of these activities. The Apple store was a popular trip as the young people had the opportunity to get up to date with the latest Apple technology and were able to make

their own short movie clip which they got to take home on a USB wrist band as well as goody bags.

A five day residential camp in August, in part thanks to funding from KPMG, was designed to increase confidence and the self-esteem of the young people, to meet and socialise with other young people, as well as participating in challenging activities. A variety of activities including mountain biking, kayaking, high ropes course, gorge walking, sailing, night walks and climbing and abseiling involved team building, trusting each other and staff with your safety, and also supporting and encouraging each other throughout. It was great to see all the young people socialising and making new friends as well as overcoming fears in a safe and friendly environment.

The summer picnic took place at Blair Drummond Safari Park where Barnardo's Scotland Fostering invited all carers, extended family members, young people and staff to the safari park for a fun filled day. Blair Drummond allowed Barnardo's

to use a marquee for the duration of the day free of charge. This meant that all families had a base to come and go as they pleased throughout the day. There was a lot of mingling with carers and young people during the picnic. The tug of war went down well a number of volunteers took part on the day. Feedback from this day has been positive and everyone did have a brilliant day.

KPMG sponsored 24 young people to have 'one amazing day'. The families took part in ten pin bowling with pizza for lunch followed by the animated film "Brave". This was a great end to the summer holidays. It was great to see young people, carers and staff having fun together. All in all a successful and great day thanks to KPMG.

**Thanks to staff at Barnardo's Scotland Fostering Service for sharing their summer fun and photos with us.**



**A five day residential camp in August, in part thanks to funding from KPMG, was held at Benmore and was designed to increase confidence and the self-esteem of the young people**



## Fostering Links project update



# Meetings bring together foster carers from across the country

Over the past few months the Fostering Links project has been to Dunfermline, Glasgow, Kirkwall, Edinburgh, Perth and Aviemore to meet with our foster carer members. With additional meetings planned as this newsletter goes to print in Inverary, Glasgow and Edinburgh we hope to have met with over 150 foster carers since the summer. In addition to providing an opportunity for our members to network with other foster carers from a range of fostering services these events also provided an opportunity to share experiences, both challenging and successful, and focussed on a number of topics. People who attended said:

*"I was very nervous as I was the only person from my agency but felt more than welcome within the group session."*

*"I really enjoyed today. Found it very informative and helpful."*

*"It is so important to have these meetings for support and gaining knowledge."*

*"As a new foster carer (I gained) advice and knowledge."*

*"Topics and discussion (were) spot on."*



*"Really enjoyed the training and meeting everyone from different agencies."*

Our discussions on contact and working with families highlighted the central role foster carers have in supporting children and their families to maintain contact where it is in place. In addition to the practical day to day supports foster carers provide, such as transporting or hosting visits, foster carers also shared examples of where they have encouraged parenting skills and aided parents to put in place routines for their children. A need to ensure that contact remains in the best interests of the child, rather than for the benefit of parents underpinned the events and pointed out that there is a need for further discussions to take place and a lot of experience to be tapped into from foster carers to inform this area.



# Consultation on the *Children and Young People Bill*

The **Fostering Network** held three events were held to encourage foster carers to respond to the consultation on the *Children and Young People Bill* and to inform the Fostering Network's response to the consultation. Overall 30 foster carers from across 11 fostering services contributed to the events in Glasgow, Perth and Kirkwall. In addition an online survey was open to young people, including children and young people with experience of foster care and the sons and daughters of foster carers and 76 responses were received to this.

The discussions focussed specifically on the fostering elements addressed in the Bill. Placement limits within the fostering household, training for foster carers, payments to foster carers and a national register of foster

carers were all included with wide ranging opinion, and overall support for ensuring that foster carers receive appropriate and relevant training and allowances to ensure they are not out of pocket and payments to reflect their skills and expertise. There was debate among members on placement limits and the discussions on a national register for foster carers identified some of the benefits it could bring for both foster carers, fostering services and most importantly children and young people.

Sara Lurie says: "Foster carers from across Scotland were overwhelmingly positive to see foster care issues included in the consultation on the *Children and Young People Bill*. We were delighted by the response to our

online survey from children and young people in foster care and from the sons and daughters of foster carers. We look forward to working with the Scottish Government to ensure these views are taken account of as part of the Government's programme to reform and improve foster care".



## Foster care finance

**Over the past** two months the Fostering Links project held dedicated workshops in Glasgow and Perth and also shortened sessions in Kirkwall and Aviemore on foster care finance. The sessions highlighted that many foster carers, supervising social workers and wider members of the fostering team are unaware of the need for foster carers to be registered as self employed with HMRC for tax and national insurance purposes. Many foster carers will not need to pay income tax as the payments they receive through fostering may be below the 'Qualifying Care Relief' available to them. However they must still register with HMRC and complete their tax returns for tax year 2011-12 by 31 October if submitting paper returns, or 31 January if using the online system.

If you would like further information or guidance on keeping your tax on track, please refer to the Fostering Network's signpost booklet, *Income Tax and National Insurance* (available on our website [www.fostering.net](http://www.fostering.net)) or contact us at the Glasgow office on 0141 204 1400.



## Evaluation of the Fostering Links project

**Thanks to funding** from the Big Lottery Fund over the past three years the Fostering Network has been able to deliver the Fostering Links project. The project enabled meetings, events and training to be provided, free of charge, to foster carers across Scotland. It has also produced this quarterly *Fostering in Scotland* newsletter. The funding will come to an end on 31 January 2013 and to support the Fostering Network in feeding back to the Big Lottery Fund we are looking for your help in supporting our evaluation.

Letters will soon be mailed out to foster carers who have been involved with the project and who we have addresses for. If you haven't been directly involved with meetings and events we would also welcome any comments or views you may have on how the Fostering Links project has contributed to fostering in Scotland. Please get in touch with us to share your thoughts, or to request a copy of the evaluation survey.

The Fostering Network are committed to ensuring we can continue to reach out to our members across the country but as a charity are reliant on future funding to support this work.

Your views are invaluable – please contact Sarah McEnhill with your comments (before 19 December 2012) to let us know your views.

## Like Everyone Else

**Like Everyone Else**, a new campaign on delegating more authority to foster carers, has been launched this autumn by the Fostering Network. The campaign aims to ensure that foster carers will be empowered to make common sense decisions about the welfare of the children in their care.

To help inform the campaign, the Fostering Network carried out a survey of foster carers across the UK, and was delighted that over 1,000 responded. Three out of five (59 per cent) of those who responded said that the level of authority delegated to them was the same or worse than two years ago. Problem areas highlighted included having to seek permissions for haircuts, overnight stays and school trips.

Most worryingly, only 24 per cent of foster carers said that a discussion on what decisions they were entitled to make always took place when a child was placed with them. A staggering 17 per cent said this discussion never took place.

To support our *Like Everyone Else* campaign, join our rapid response group at <http://www.fostering.net/policy-and-campaigns/campaigns>

# Fosterline UPDATE



**Is there a challenge you are currently facing?**

**Do you have a question you would like to share in our next newsletter?**

**During the past** few months, Fosterline Scotland has received an increasing number of calls from foster carers looking after children with severe and complex disabilities. Our regular communication with foster carers and social workers has highlighted a number of challenges being experienced. These have included:

- Difficulties in accessing specialised equipment where a child is placed with foster carers outwith their 'home' authority.
- Transport to an identified special school no longer being provided.
- Leaving care plans that are not realistic.
- Medical treatment and major surgery requiring lengthy hospital stays.

In each incident Fosterline Scotland has been able to provide bespoke advice to individuals and has welcomed the positive feedback from our members.

Remember, Fosterline Scotland is here to assist with these and many other types of queries! Katie Alibone, our Fosterline worker, is contactable Tuesday to Friday, 10am til 4pm. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have a query you would like help with.



## Farewell to John

John Syme became a freelance trainer with the Fostering Network in 2001 and has been a committed, reliable and valuable member of our learning and development team. John has always been extremely approachable putting people at their ease allowing participants to feel they can share their experiences.

John is best known for facilitating the Men in Foster Care training. He has delivered this course all over Scotland from Aberdeen to the Western Isles and has even gone as far afield as Northern Ireland. The numerous open courses he has delivered have been exceptionally well evaluated, comments include:

*"Very worthwhile get together – excellent interaction."*

*"A good opportunity to speak to other carers. John puts the course over very well and (makes it) easy to understand."*

*"This is an excellent course for any male carer who is feeling 'why am I doing this?' i.e. my wife does it all. I now realise that I do have an impact on what we are doing as a couple."*

We are sorry that John will no longer be delivering training for us, but wish him and his family all the very best in the future.



John's departure creates a vacancy in our team of associate trainers. We would welcome hearing from other foster carers, specifically men, who may wish to join our team to deliver a range of training courses including the Men in Foster Care course. To find out more please contact Joy Crawford,  
e [joy.crawford@fostering.net](mailto:joy.crawford@fostering.net)  
t 0141 204 1400



# Safer Caring: A new approach

**Safer Caring: A new approach** has been launched by the Fostering Network this autumn. This new book, written by Jacky Slade and based on consultation with foster carers and fostering services throughout the UK, is grounded in real practice and experience and is essential reading for new and experienced foster carers.

You can find out more information and order your copy of *Safer Caring: A new approach* from the Fostering Network's online bookshop: [www.fosteringresources.co.uk](http://www.fosteringresources.co.uk)

**Safer Caring: A new approach** is also the theme for this year's annual conference, taking place on 13 November. It is an essential event for everyone involved in foster care. Delegates will come together to explore best practice and discuss the issues that matter.

This year's event will take place at the America Square Conference Centre in London and information on attending is available on the Fostering Network's website.



## Safer Caring membership meeting

**Monday 28 January**

10am til 1.40pm followed by lunch  
Glasgow

Aimed at foster carer members of the Fostering Network in Scotland this free session, delivered by the Fostering Links project, will allow discussions on safer caring and how it impacts upon the fostering role. The session will also introduce the Fostering Network's new book, *Safer Caring: a new approach*.

Places are limited and must be booked in advance. Please advise when booking if you would like lunch provided for you.

To express your interest, please contact Sarah McEnhill,  
e [sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net](mailto:sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net)  
t 0141 204 1400



## Calling all budding artists!

**Are you aged between 5 and 15?**

**We need you to design our festive e-card!**

The Fostering Network Scotland are looking for a picture to use in our festive e-card this year, sending our season's greetings by email to all those involved in our work across the country.

We would like children and young people from across Scotland to design a picture that shares what the festive season and foster care means to them. We will also be featuring the top three entries in the next edition of our *Fostering in Scotland* newsletter.

- Remember to use lots of colour.
- Your design must be on a piece of paper no larger than A4 sized.
- Entries can be emailed or posted to us in Glasgow.
- The winner will receive a £25 high street voucher, and two runners up will each receive a £10 voucher.
- Please remember to include artist's name, age and contact details so that we can get in touch with the winners.
- Closing date is Friday 7 December at 5pm!

## Membership of the Fostering Network – better than ever for foster carers

A new financial advice service, exclusively for foster carers who are members of the Fostering Network, has been launched in partnership with Endsleigh.

Endsleigh will provide expert advice on mortgages specifically tailored for foster carers, in addition to discounts and easy to use financial guides covering a variety of issues.

Go to [www.fostering.net/membership/foster-carer/new-offers-for-members](http://www.fostering.net/membership/foster-carer/new-offers-for-members) to find out more!

In addition to our new partnership with Endsleigh, foster carers can also get great deals from Towergate Insurance, which provides competitive, comprehensive and flexible household insurance specifically developed for foster carers.

The Fostering Network has also negotiated a discount at Merlin theme parks including the Dungeons, Alton Towers and Sea Life centres throughout the UK for member foster carers and their families.

# The Fostering Network Scotland...

Meet  
the  
team



Sara Lurie,  
**Director**

sara.lurie@fostering.net



@tfn\_sara



Sarah McEnhill,  
**Fostering Links project manager**

sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net



Linda Curran,  
**Office Manager**

linda.curran@fostering.net



Katie Alibone is our **Fosterline Scotland worker** who works Tuesday to Friday, 10am til 4pm. Katie can be contacted on 0141 204 1400. You can also email Katie e [katie.alibone@fostering.net](mailto:katie.alibone@fostering.net) or e [fosterlinescotland@fostering.net](mailto:fosterlinescotland@fostering.net). Katie is happy to answer a range of queries from members. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Katie if you have a fostering related question.



Deborah Cook,  
**Administrator**


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Joy Crawford,  
**Learning & Development Co-ordinator**

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**www.fostering.net**

 /thefosteringnetwork

#### Other useful numbers:

##### The Fostering Network - Head office

For queries relating to membership, or how to access the members' area of the website.

t 020 7620 6400

**Infoline** - For everyday fostering enquiries

t 020 7261 1884

#### Legal, medical & stress helpline

24 hours, 365 days a year

Your first point of call if an allegation arises. Queries are answered by fully qualified and registered lawyers and nurses with years of experience helping our members. Foster carers are free to discuss any subject, not just issues relating to foster care.

t 0844 581 0404

#### Publications & Resources

t 0844 335 1892

e [orders@fosteringresources.co.uk](mailto:orders@fosteringresources.co.uk)

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