

Fostering

in Scotland

Issue 43

Autumn 2013

In this issue...

**Relevant person status
– recent changes**

**Online safety
– keeping everyone protected**

**Design our festive e-card
competition**

and more!

the fostering network
the voice of foster care



Hello and welcome...



...to the autumn 2013 edition of our quarterly *Fostering in Scotland* newsletter. I don't know about you, but after a glorious summer of sunshine my heating at home is now switched back on again as I look forward to the winter ahead!

If you are looking for an activity to do with the children and young people in your homes we have our annual festive e-card design competition and are also looking for young people's views on foster care – more elsewhere in this newsletter.

Remember, if you are going out and about across the country the Fostering Network have a number of discounts for our members at attractions such as Sea Life centres, Alton Towers and the Dungeons. Discount codes and how to book are available in the members'

area of our website, www.fostering.net/members

It's been great to get of the office and meet with our members across the country. In addition to the events and training sessions run by the Fostering Network, I have also enjoyed attending various support groups and development days. In September I met with foster carers (and staff) from South Ayrshire at their Ayr support group as well spending the day with Quarriers' carers and staff in Dumfries. If you have a support group coming up and would welcome input from the Fostering Network, please get in touch.

We are also looking forward to welcoming some newly qualified workers and student social workers to our Glasgow office to find out more about the Fostering Network, and fostering in Scotland. We have a meeting planned for 5 November, but will hope to get future dates in the diary for 2014. If you would like to find out more, or know of team members who would welcome an induction to the office, please contact me.

As always, we hope you enjoy reading your *Fostering in Scotland*. We are always keen to hear your ideas so please get in touch with your news and views.

Sarah McEnhill
Operations manager

Symposium focusses on children with disabilities

In Scotland, CELCIS, the School of Applied Social Science at Strathclyde University, Quarriers and the Fostering Network have been carrying out a successful knowledge exchange programme, funded jointly by Strathclyde University, CELCIS, Quarriers and the Fostering Network in order to improve the outcomes for looked after children with disabilities.

To date, one of two symposium events has been held with the next scheduled for early December 2013. The first symposium event in June involved a two day workshop that brought together foster carers, senior practitioners, social work trainers, policy-makers, and researchers to discuss both the challenges and the good practice that already exists. The aim is to identify what actions can be taken to raise the aspirations of all professionals working with looked after disabled children, including through social work training and developing research to address current gaps in knowledge. There is a particular focus on ensuring permanency remains a viable option for disabled children in foster care.

To find out more, contact **sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net**

Celebrating sons and daughters

Sons & Daughters: Celebrating the foster family is the Fostering Network's campaign to celebrate the phenomenal contribution which the children of foster carers make to foster care.

Every year in October, fostering services across the UK run events and activities in their local areas to show their appreciation for everything that these children and young people do.

The Fostering Network provides support to all our fostering service members including:

- a toolkit packed with information about the campaign and ideas for how to get involved (members only)
- downloadable thank you cards (members only)
- event promotion.

We would love to hear how you celebrated Sons and Daughters in 2013. Please contact sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net to share your news.

Sons & Daughters
Celebrating the foster family

Dear Members,

Autumn is definitely here as I am writing this letter judging by the carpet of leaves on my garden path. Getting young people settled into school at the beginning of the new school year is always a busy time and no sooner are the young people settled but along come the autumn breaks and preparations for the festive season.

I am always impressed and humbled when I meet carers and workers and hear of all the challenges you face in fostering and the way in which you seem to manage to surmount the most difficult situations and keep cheerful. The newspapers at the moment are full of very worrying stories of children who have slipped through the protective services net with tragic consequences.

Recently the Fostering Network published a report asking the question about why support care arrangements, i.e. where carers provide some shared care for a child and their family, seems to be given little priority. I would like to see that debate in Scotland as the vital help

and support that a foster care family can give to a child and to his or her family through a period of shared care can mean a haven for the child in the midst of a life filled with turmoil.

At a recent event to mark the retirement of Romy Langeland as the Chair of CELCIS, Sally Wassell reminded those present of the essential ingredients for looked after children to grow and thrive. Her key points were that children needed competent and committed carers and workers working together to meet the needs of the child. She sees every child needing a place where they feel safe and where care, both practical and emotional, is reliably provided. They need a continuing relationship with significant adults who care about them and stick with them through tough times to build solid and loving attachments.

Sally also stressed that they need people who can communicate with children; listening and responding to help the child make sense of past and current life events.

Carers and workers also need time to reflect on the tasks they are asked to do and to share doubts, solutions and learning. For me the Fostering Network plays a significant part in helping to make such collaboration work.

The Review of Foster Care is continuing and by the time this letter reaches you we hope that many carer voices will have been heard by the Review team. It is important that the support carers feel is necessary should be set out as part of the review's recommendations. I believe that a well resourced foster care service can make a significant contribution to children's wellbeing, happiness and emotional and physical development.

Thank you all for giving children the chance to thrive.

Anne Black
Chair, Scottish Advisory Committee

Barnardo's conference

Following on from the very successful joint conference Barnardo's Scotland held with Human Development Scotland earlier this year, Barnardo's Scotland Fostering and Adoption are holding a conference for carers and staff on Tuesday 5 November in Perth. The theme is *Contact with Birth Parents*.

Lorne Loxterkamp will give a keynote address on this topic called *Truth and Meaning*; there will be a further keynote address by Katherine Green called *Turning chronologies into*

narratives, coming to terms with early trauma and neglect. Marie Cooney, Families Coordinator from Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP), will give a presentation and launch to Barnardo's, the new CEOP online resources for foster carers and adoptive parents. There will also be information from the Barnardo's 16+ service, Safer Choices/sexual exploitation project and the Fostering Network.

Kay Jackson, Training Coordinator for Barnardo's Scotland Fostering Edinburgh Service, who is the conference organiser, said: 'We are very excited about this conference, it will be an opportunity for our carers and staff from across Scotland to come together and debate these important



issues. Foster care today deals with very diverse issues and it is vital we have these learning opportunities to equip our organisation with the skills and knowledge to support the vulnerable children and young people we care for in the best possible way'.

Believe in children
 **Barnardo's**

Latest news from our Online Community

The Fostering Network's Online Community continues to be a fantastic way of sharing questions, issues or queries our members may have in relation to the fostering task.

Here are some of the recent topics:

- 'Foster carers' or 'foster parents'?
- If you are claiming benefits, what happens if the child's allowance pushes you over the income threshold?
- Do you feel carers should be allowed contact with children who have moved on to adoption?
- 29 month old refusing food - any advice?
- Phones, tablets, laptops... communication is evolving faster and simpler. Most of the time, this is good; but how do you handle this issue when it comes to additional contact between a child in your care and their parents?
- 'Rozydozy' asks for ideas regarding calming a child without resorting to a 'time out'.
- 'Only Me' tells us about a recent incident of stealing and asks for help.
- Do you have additional employment besides foster care? Share your experience!
- Can you offer any advice regarding a teenage girl with challenging behaviour and a dislike for her new location?

As always, older questions and ideas are being updated regularly by other users of this community, so don't just stop with this list. This is just the tip of the iceberg!

If you haven't yet navigated your way the Fostering Network's online community what are you waiting for! Visit www.fostering.net/community to log in and have a browse.



Some of last year's entries

Are you feeling festive?

Once again it's time for the Fostering Network to invite you to take part in our festive e-card competition! We want to see great pictures sent in from children and young people up to the age of 15.

Our festive e-card is sent out by email across the country to everyone we work with and we would love to see one of your images sending some festive cheer!

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 newsletter, *Fostering in Scotland*.

- 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 (see contact details on back page of this newsletter).
- 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!

Learn more about social pedagogy, for free!

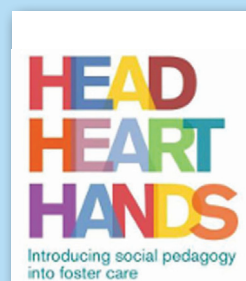
Free places are on offer for the next Social Pedagogy Development Network (SPDN) event hosted by Aberlour Child Care Trust in Kirkcaldy on 28-29 November.

The event will look at the theory and practice of how social pedagogy can promote well-being, and the event programme has been designed for children and young people as well as adults.

Through our work leading the *Head,*

Heart, Hands programme, which is introducing social pedagogy into foster care in the UK, the Fostering Network is actively engaged in the SPDN.

For further information and to register your free place, visit www.spdn-aberlour.eventbrite.co.uk



New relevant person provisions in the Children's Hearings System

Nick Hobbs, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Alyson Evans, Practice and Policy Officer, Children's Hearings Scotland

The implementation of the *Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act* in June of this year has brought with it some changes for foster carers. Perhaps the most significant of these is the change to the law relating to relevant person status.

Relevant persons have particular rights and duties under the law. For example, they have a right and a duty to attend hearings, as well as having a right to receive the papers and to appeal decisions made by children's hearings.

Under the new Act, foster carers are not *automatically* considered to be relevant persons, even if they were relevant persons under the old law. Instead, the Act provides a route for foster carers to be *deemed* as relevant persons by a Pre-Hearing Panel or a Children's Hearing. The test for being deemed a relevant person is that the person has, or recently has had, significant involvement in the upbringing of the child. The Hearing will consider factors including:

- the nature of the involvement in the child's life, for example is the person fulfilling a parental role in relation to the child – this could be involvement in key decisions in relation to the child, such as education or medical treatment, without necessarily having care of the child,
- the length of time the person has been involved in the child's life,
- living arrangements, for example do the child and person live in the same house,
- where the person and the child do not live in the same house, the level and quality of contact the person has with the child,
- the child's view, if they are old enough to provide it, of the significance of their relationship with the person.



Pre-Hearing Panels are a new type of meeting introduced by the 2011 Act. They involve three panel members meeting in advance of the Children's Hearing to consider one or more matter/s referred to it. Information to enable the Pre-Hearing Panel to make its decision can be provided in writing (via the Reporter). There is no requirement for foster carers, or for the child, to attend the Pre Hearing Panel in person, though they have the right to do so.

Where a foster carer has been treated as a relevant person under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the local authority recommendation is that the child continue to reside with them, the Reporter will write to inform the foster carer of their right to seek to be deemed relevant. Alternatively, a foster carer can ask the Reporter to arrange a Pre-Hearing Panel if they believe that they meet the significant involvement test. Once relevant person status has been granted, it can only be removed by a Hearing if the person ceases to have, or recently have had, significant involvement in the upbringing of the child.

Please note that foster carers who are not deemed to be relevant persons may still be able to attend the Hearing, either as a representative of the child, or at the discretion of the Panel Members.

This change is not intended to diminish or downplay in any way the important role that foster carers play in the lives of the children in their care. Instead, it seeks to strike a balance between ensuring that foster carers can be involved in proceedings and contribute to decisions about the child, with the recognition that not all foster carers wish to take on the responsibilities and legal duties that come with relevant person status. It also recognises that it may not be appropriate to grant that legal status if a foster carer's involvement in the child's life is on a temporary or very short-term basis.

If you have any questions or concerns about your status under the new Act, please speak to your Social Worker or Reporter, who will be able to discuss it with you. A one-page information leaflet on relevant person status is also available from www.scra.gov.uk.

cl@n
childlaw

cl@n childlaw offers free legal advice and representation to children and young people up to the age of 18, or 21 if the child or young person has been in care. They have been representing children and young people in Edinburgh and the Lothians for over five years and have recently expanded their representation service to Glasgow.

They will also provide information about the law to children and young people (or anyone working with children and young people) across Scotland by telephone or email. All advice and representation which they provide to children and young people is completely free of charge. They also operate an outreach service, meeting the child or young person at a place that suits them.

Most of the children and young people that they help are, or have been, looked after children and cl@n childlaw can provide advice in relation to children's hearings, permanence orders, contact or residence disputes, parental rights and responsibilities and contact with siblings, amongst many other issues.

Their aim is to ensure that every child and young person in Scotland has access to the law whatever their background. To this end, they use their experience and knowledge of representing children and young people to contribute to policy developments in relation to children's rights. They also provide training for professionals and those working with children and young people to increase their knowledge of the law as it relates to children. For more information about what cl@n childlaw do, please visit the website www.clanchildlaw.org or call them 0131 475 2567.

Vital support from Fosterline Scotland



Over the past few months our much valued Fosterline Scotland service has continued to respond to a range of fostering queries, giving information, advice and support and a listening ear to foster carers from across Scotland.

We recently recruited for a new Fosterline Scotland worker and were pleased to get some really strong applications. As this newsletter goes to print we are in the final stages of welcoming our new applicant to the Glasgow office and look forward to introducing them to you in a future edition, as well as face to face at some of our future meetings and events.

One issue which has generated a great deal of queries has been the changes to the *Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011*, which came into force in June and in particular the 'Relevant Person' status. We do have some

further information on this from SCRA and Children's Hearings Scotland elsewhere in the newsletter.

We know from one foster carer that previously she had been deemed a relevant person and as such received notification of hearing dates and copies of papers. However, the changes to the Act mean that foster carers need to attend a pre-hearing panel to be deemed relevant, receiving notifications and papers etc...

We would be keen to hear from our members if you, or the young people you care for, have been affected by these changes.

We are also happy to respond to a range of queries. To get in touch, please call Fosterline Scotland **t 0141 204 1400** or **e fosterlinescotland@fostering.net**



I do. We do. Could you foster for Fife?

Fife Council's family placement team has recently launched a new recruitment campaign - *I do. We do. Could you foster for Fife?*

From the 26 September new materials designed to encourage more people to come forward to become a foster carer will be rolled out. A launch event will be used to invite the media along to see the materials and to meet some of the carers involved in the campaign.

By using existing carers and their families to talk about their experiences the team hope that more people will enquire about fostering.

Service manager Rae Ormiston said: 'We are hopeful that the campaign will raise awareness of the need for more foster carers in Fife. Our existing carers have been hugely supportive of the campaign and several have been involved at all stages of its development. This is really important as they are our strongest ambassadors and we want to attract more people like them.'

For more information www.fifedirect.org.uk/fosterforfife
03451 55 55 55 ext 470699

Glasgow Foster Carers Association 'GFCA'

Malcolm McAulay, secretary of the Glasgow Foster Carers Association, shares an update on the GFCA and how new and existing members can get involved...



GFCA was established in 1998 as a result of concerns raised by foster carers that they felt isolated, not represented, found it difficult to speak

out effectively, etc. Two carers at that time, Clare Williams and Ken Whitty, were the inspiration for setting up the association and sought advice from other established groups, which were predominantly in England. Both these carers retired a few years ago.

The aims and objectives at that time and presently were to represent the collective interests of their members in all matters affecting foster carers. They also offered individual advice and personal support to foster carers when requested to do so, on a range of subjects. The association has in the past made representation to the Scottish Government and for many years had regular and good working relations with the Glasgow Social Work Department. In the last few years, the working relationship with the Social Work Department has not been as

pro-active as previous experiences i.e. being consulted on issues or changes being introduced, etc but GFCA are committed to trying to building good working relations with social work. A main focus for the association during the past few years has been supporting and representing foster carers in time of difficulty in their role as foster carer.

GFCA is holding an open meeting, for members and non members and would like to extend an invite to all foster carers to come along on Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 7.30pm in Renfield St Stephens Church, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JP. Tea and coffee will be available from 7.00pm. GFCA has a yearly membership of £10.00. For further information please feel free to visit the GFCA website at www.gfca.org.uk

Fosterplus annual conference

Settling Troubled Pupils to Learn: Why Relationships Matter in School

Speaker: Louise Bomber, Teacher & Therapist

2nd May 2014

Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

Louise is a qualified teacher and therapist. She has worked with individual pupils, with classes, in whole school settings and with teachers and support staff in both primary and secondary settings.

Louise currently works as an adoption support teacher for Brighton & Hove in an advisory capacity and is also an Attachment Support Teacher Therapist for the Yellow Kite Attachment Support Service to Schools. Louise is the author of *Inside I'm Hurting* and

What About Me. She also contributed to *Teenagers & Attachment*. Louise's latest publication was co-written with Dan Hughes – *Settling Troubled Pupils to Learn: Why relationships matter in school*.

Who Should Attend:

Teachers & those who work in Education Settings, Social Workers, Foster Carers, Adoptive Parents, Health Professionals.

Cost: Carers and Adoptive Parents £54 (VAT included); Professionals £102 (VAT included)

If interested please contact Lorraine White lwhite@fosterplus.co.uk or Lesley Sharp lsharp@fosterplus.co.uk for a booking form by email or telephone 01506 443434.

Recruitment and retention forum – update

A small group of social work practitioners from across Scotland recently came together at the Fostering Network's office in Glasgow to move forward with a

Recruitment and Retention forum. The Forum emerged from the Scottish Government hosted seminar in Glasgow in May 2013, during *Foster Care Fortnight*.

The group generated some great discussions and identified a number of themes prevalent to recruitment and retention in foster care. These included, among others, awareness raising, networking, sharing ideas and better joint between agencies.

It was agreed a date be set in early December to bring together a wider group of practitioners with a key role in foster carer recruitment and retention to take forward these discussion.

To find out more please contact sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net



Update from our Learning and Development team

As always our learning and development team have continued to be busy delivering a range of both 'in-house' and 'open' courses across the country. Our new Fostering in a Digital World course was launched with a presentation for South Lanarkshire's foster carers. We recognise that this is a huge area for everyone in fostering and are pleased to be running an open course in Glasgow in January – more details below.

Marjorie Ruddick is one of our well known associate trainers having been with us for many years. Recently she and Sara Lurie, our Director, co-delivered the Role of the Supervising Social Worker two day course in Glasgow. Both days were a huge success with a great deal of energy, awareness raising and sharing of practice between the course participants. Here is what some of the supervising social workers who attended said:

'As this is a fairly new role for me, I found the whole day interesting and informative.'

'Have very much enjoyed the course, the presentations, group and free flowing discussions.'

'Very useful and has offered lots of practical ideas and suggestions which I will use.'

In addition to the course above, we run a range of learning and development training days. Here are just some of the dates we have coming up:

Few places remaining

The Skills to Foster: using the Skills to Foster assessment materials

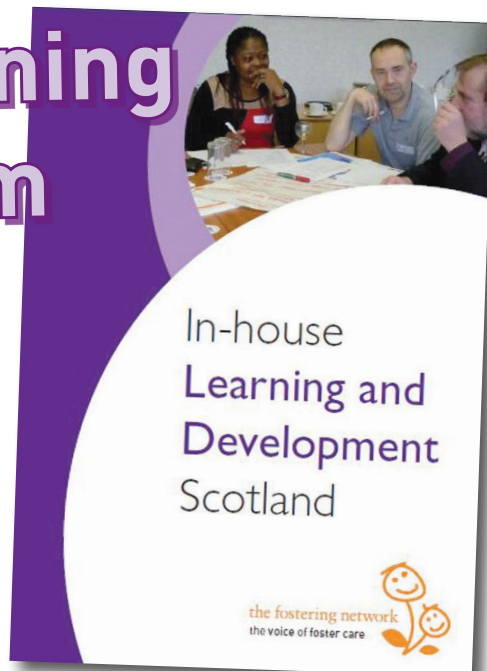
Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 November 2013
Glasgow

Price: members £210.00 + VAT/ non-members £420.00 + VAT (includes lunch)

New open course

Fostering in a Digital World

Wednesday 29 January 2014
Glasgow



Price: members £98.00 + VAT/
non-members £196.00 + VAT
(includes lunch)

We are also really pleased to have had a meeting with a number of foster carers (and workers) who are keen to join our team of associate trainers. We look forward to introducing them face to face and in the newsletter over coming months!

For further information on any of our learning and development please contact Joy Crawford **t** 0141 204 1400
e joy.crawford@fostering.net

Incredible Years parenting programme

Kay Jackson, foster carer, associate trainer for the Fostering Network and training coordinator with Barnardos Scotland, shares the recent success of the Incredible Years programme...

The Incredible Years is an American based, researched parenting programme for reducing children's aggression and behaviour problems, and promoting social competence. Barnardo's Scotland fostering ran two pilot training programmes in 2012, one in Edinburgh and one in Aberdeen. Carers attending the 12 week programme were very positive about the results, it is now being rolled out to carers across Scotland.

This year the programme has been delivered in Edinburgh, Dundee,

Aberdeen and Glasgow. Some have been joint sessions with not only Barnardo's carers and staff but with local authority carers, staff and carers from another independent agency. Analysis of the outcomes has been impressive, showing significant reductions in problem behaviour in a large number of the children and young people cared for by participating carers. The programme runs alongside a range of mandatory learning and development opportunities for carers and staff.

Stephanie Stone, Assistant Director of Barnardo's Scotland emphasised the need for the provision of foster care which matches up to, and meets the changing needs of children being cared for today. 'We are committed to rolling out this programme to all our carers, to date almost 30% of Barnardo's carers has received this training and our aim over the next two years is to have all our carers trained in this programme. The follow up from carers six months after completing the course remains enthusiastic and positive.'

Fostering Community Champions



To help support an ambitious funding bid to the Big Lottery Fund, the Fostering Network Scotland held two events in October. We wanted to hear from our foster carer members about what types of support they would

welcome from other foster carers, and how to best access this support.

Please email sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net to share your views.

The days were hugely successful and enabled foster carers from a range of fostering agencies to come together and share some common challenges as well as share some great practice ideas. The sessions also ensured that the funding proposals we submit to the Big Lottery Fund are what our members need and would welcome.

To help us shape the project we would also like to hear from children and young people who have either experience of being in foster care, or who are the sons and daughters of foster carers. We want to know what makes foster care work well for you and how it could be made even better. We'd love you to get in touch to let us know your thoughts.

Fostering Healthy Finance update

Two events were held in October, in Glasgow and Edinburgh, to support the Fostering Network Scotland with our *Fostering Healthy Finance* discussions. We came together with foster carers from a range of fostering services (local authorities, independent and voluntary providers) to tell us directly the range of issues they, and the young people they care for, have experienced in relation to day to day finances.

Issues including Juniors ISA's, DLA, bank accounts, self-assessment, pocket monies, school trips, home adaptations were among some of the many areas which arose during our discussions. Some great examples of good practice were also shared, and a wealth of expertise uncovered

among the group's participants due to the diverse range of backgrounds the foster carers brought with them.

The next steps in the *Fostering Healthy Finance* theme is for the Fostering

Network to create a good practice guide which can be shared among foster carers. To find out more, or to add areas which you feel should be included, contact sarah.mcenhill@fostering.net





CEOP warns of webcam abuse

Charlie Stewart

Everyone caring for children has a crucial role in empowering them to stay safe online. Recent research has shown that 48 per cent of carers think that their child knows more than they do about the internet, rising to 70 per cent of carers of children aged 12 to 15.

For carers the challenge is to get those percentages down. One bonus for carers if we do manage to lower these figures we can then start to enjoy the benefits of everything the online world has to offer.

As you may have seen in the media, CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection) recently warned of a concerning rise in the use of webcam by sex offenders to blackmail children and young people online. CEOP are asking schools and youth organisations to run assemblies to raise awareness amongst young people of this type of crime. If possible we would ask all carers to ask their young people's school if this can be done for their pupils and teachers.

We want all young people to know that if they are being threatened online, if they've shared something they regret, it's never too late to get help. Young people might feel like there is no way out but they can always report to CEOP online at www.thinkuknow.co.uk or visit the CEOP Safety Centre.

The Fostering Network would encourage all foster carers to talk to children and young people about this type of crime and ensure they feel supported to raise any concerns they have. Young people can also call Childline on 0800 1111.

CEOP have investigated a number of cases in which sex offenders have used blackmail to force young people to perform sexual acts on webcam. Typically online sexual blackmail happens as follows:

- An offender makes contact with a young person. This can happen anywhere online, including on a social network, in a chat room, in a game or even on their mobile.
- The offender begins a conversation and tricks the young person into sending them an indecent picture, appearing naked or performing sexual acts on webcam. They trick them in a variety of ways including: pretending to be a girl or boy of the same age, pretending to be someone the child knows, flirting with them or sending them sexual pictures or videos.
- The offender records the webcam footage. They then threaten to share the video with the young person's friends or family if they don't perform more sexual acts. Some young people have been threatened for money or told to hurt themselves.

This has happened to hundreds, potentially thousands, of young people in the UK. This is sexual abuse. The emotional impact can be devastating. A number of young people have attempted suicide as a result of finding themselves in this situation. Tragically Daniel Perry, 17, from Dunfermline did commit suicide after receiving threats over the internet.

What Can You Do

1. Make sure home computers/laptops are used where you can see what your young person is doing e.g. living room/kitchen. Try and dissuade any use in bedrooms.
2. Remind young people that what goes on the internet stays forever on the internet.
3. Ask your young person not to post or display online anything that they would not want their parents or their grandparents to see.
4. Make sure you have the passwords for all pc's and laptops and let your

young person know you will check online history to see what activity has taken place.

5. If you are not computer literate get some advice or help – even from your young person – on how to use the pc/laptop.
6. Check with your local authority/fostering agency to see if they have a specific policy on the use of digital media such as pc/laptop, mobile phone or ipad/iphone.
7. Do not get overwhelmed or panic if you think something untoward is going on ask your young person to show you what they are doing and ask them how they keep themselves safe. The **Thinkuknow** website has materials specifically for foster parents pre, during and post placement. These can be accessed at: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Carers

Useful Websites for Carers

www.fostering.net
www.thinkuknow/parents/
www.childline.org.uk
www.ceop.police.uk
www.kidsmart.org.uk
www.saferinternet.org.uk
www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe
www.childinternetsafety.co.uk

Many local authorities offer training on using PC's and many courses are low cost or free, if available enrol and get some knowledge of the digital world - oh and have some fun whilst doing it!

The internet is a wonderful resource when used correctly. Sadly it is also home to many who abuse the facilities and uses it provides. If any carers need to talk to anyone with regard to internet and online safety please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via the Fostering Network and we will help you to find a solution to your problem.

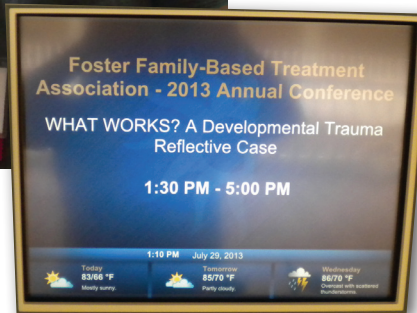
Charlie Stewart is a foster carer, CEOP ambassador and associate trainer with the Fostering Network.

USA conference welcomes Scottish perspective



Kay and John, managers from Kibble's Intensive Fostering Services travelled to Nashville, Tennessee to present at the Foster Family Treatment Association Conference in July. Their 'trauma informed' service works with traumatised young people 5 – 18 years and integrates a range of services including educational and psychological supports.

Their presentation *WHAT WORKS? A developmental trauma reflective case study* began with a DVD of a play performed by two young people, one of whom is placed with IFS, their drama teacher and a supporting actor. The play is co-written



by the young people and gives their insight into their experiences of being in care. An opportunity for a Q&A session was then followed by a case study presentation considering the psycho-educational support offered via training and practice ethos within the Intensive Fostering Service to foster carers and staff.

Discussions focussed on key concepts incorporating Life Space Crisis Intervention, Safe Crisis Management, disorganised attachment & developmental trauma, along with consideration of new emerging focus for the service; namely Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics and Social Pedagogy.

Kay says: 'We thoroughly enjoyed sharing our trauma model as a common language with our stateside colleagues whom like us see our carers as the greatest agents of change in young people's lives.'

Scotland welcomes Czech colleagues

The Fostering Network Scotland recently welcomed a delegation from the Czech Republic in October. The 12 strong group represented practitioners from foster care charity and social services departments, as well as psychologist. The Czech Republic institutionalises a higher percentage of children than any other EU member state and the delegates were visiting Glasgow and Edinburgh as part of a study visit to find out more about foster care practice in Scotland and what learning they could take back with them.

The group had a busy three day tour visiting with the Fostering Network, CELCIS, Edinburgh City Council and Core Assets. They were particularly keen to hear how we recruit, prepare and approve prospective foster carers in Scotland, and how we work to ensure children are best matched to foster carers who can respond to their needs. A particular challenge they noted prevalent in the Czech Republic was in ensuring the effective recruitment of foster carers for children from ethnic minorities and also for children with complex disabilities.



Thinking of retiring? No longer fostering?

As a retired foster carer (someone no longer fostering) it is really important to make sure that you continue to be insured against the risk of an allegation. A child that has been fostered by you in the past can make an allegation at any time, regardless of whether or not you are still fostering, and you must be insured at the time the allegation is made in order to qualify for legal support.

For just £18.50*, our retired foster carer insurance provides you with continued legal protection insurance as well as access to a 24-hour legal helpline (you can also use the same number to access stress counselling any time of day or night).

To find out more, visit our website: www.fostering.net or call our membership team on 020 7620 6400.

*Price correct at 4 October 2013

Hi everyone,

It has been a wonderfully busy autumn for the Fostering Network, with many of our activities reported throughout this newsletter. Behind the scenes, we have been applying for funding for a range of new projects, so fingers crossed and watch this space! To assist our thinking and to contribute to our work, it has been lovely to meet so many foster carers from across Scotland throughout the month of October. Recently, we held a small focus group for 9 foster carers, joining us in Glasgow from as far away as the Highlands. Between them, they had been fostering for 89 years and fostered 253 children! The children currently placed with them ranged from infancy to age 20. Throughout the session, foster carers shared a wealth of experience, insight, challenges and success and everyone left feeling highly enthused and filled to the brim with a range of new ideas to add to their 'foster carer toolkit' for managing their everyday scenarios. One foster carer took the time to email after the event, simply to say:

'I attended the sessions today in Glasgow. I thought I would send a message to say that I really enjoyed it. It was great to hear and share other ideas and share the diversity among fostering services.'

'Me and my colleagues discussed how it would be great if days like this could be held 2-3 times a year. It's a great way for the Fostering Network to collate information and let's carers meet other carer's from different areas and share experiences and learn from each other. Anyway, I just wanted to give you some feedback. Keep up the good work.'

So, for any foster carers reading this newsletter, who have not yet attended any of our focus groups, we hope to see you in the near future!

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Scottish Government is currently undertaking a *National Review of Foster Care*. The review group is expected to have its last meeting in mid-November and will then produce its report. In the meantime, a summary of the National Foster Care Review's discussions, conclusions and

recommendations from their meetings can be accessed on the CELCIS website: www.celcis.org/resources/entry/foster_care_review_meetings

The *Children and Young People Bill* is going through Parliament, with stage 1 to be completed by 29 November. As it journeys through the various stages there are opportunities for amendments. Stay tuned for further information from the Fostering Network.....

For now, if you have not already joined our rapid response group but would like to do so visit our website and sign up on line: www.fostering.net/policy-and-campaigns/rapid-response

Remember, we are always here and happy to answer queries or questions and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Until next time,

Sara Lurie
Director

The Fostering Network Scotland...



The Fostering Network Scotland
2nd floor, Ingram House
227 Ingram Street
Glasgow
G1 1DA
t 0141 204 1400
f 0141 204 6588
e scotland@fostering.net
www.fostering.net

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

For help with membership queries
e membership@fostering.net

Legal and stress helpline
24 hours, 365 days a year

 / [thefosteringnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/thefosteringnetwork)

Your first point of call if an allegation arises. Queries are answered by fully qualified experts with years of experience helping our members. Members are free to raise any legal query, not just relating to foster care.
t 0845 013 5004

Publications & Resources
t 0844 335 1892
e orders@fosteringresources.co.uk

Registered Office:
87 Blackfriars Road London SE1 8HA
Registered Charity Number: 280852
Registered in Scotland SC039338

Fostering in Scotland is produced using recycled paper. When you have finished with this newsletter please share with family and friends, or recycle.



 @tfn_sara