

Fostering

in Scotland

Issue 46

Summer 2014

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the fostering network
the voice of foster care



Hi everyone,

that fostering agencies and local authorities will encourage foster carers and children to participate too!



What a wonderful treat to begin my letter with exciting news...we have been awarded substantial funding from the Big Lottery Fund for an innovative and exciting four year project! Fostering Community Champions will allow us to recruit 36 foster carer champions to support other foster carers facing particular challenges.

Some of you attended focus groups last autumn, where we discussed the possibilities for the project. Feedback showed that many have particular areas of expertise - for example: looking after a child with a life-limiting condition; successfully rehabilitating children with their birth families; 'surviving' the scary journey when an allegation has been made, and more.

The above experiences, as well as others, were highlighted by you and our Fostering Community Champions project will allow us to link foster carers with other foster carers for support with particular issues. Additionally, we will recruit 12 young people to provide training on social media and give insights on what makes contact work well. We are grateful to all of you for providing us with your ideas and expertise and we now look forward to taking this project forward! If you or the young people in your household want to be involved, please email me. We hope

During Foster Care Fortnight™, we were delighted that the Scottish Government's Children and Young People's Minister, Aileen Campbell, wrote to all foster carers in Scotland, thanking them for their dedication and hard work. This was sent to all fostering services with a request that the letter be forwarded to their foster carers. The minister said in her letter: "I hear about many of the challenges that foster carers face, and continue to be struck by the positive impact that you have in helping neglected or traumatised children and young people to reach their full potential."

The minister goes on to update foster carers on the policy developments aimed at having a positive impact on foster carers and children and young people and made reference to the recent campaign success which will see fostered young people allowed to stay with their foster carers until the age of 21: "Making the transition to adulthood can be a particularly uncertain time and we know that many young people will benefit from extra support both from you as their carers and the local authority."

We are delighted to have the ongoing support of the Minister. It is foster carers who help children and young people in foster care to thrive, and the Fostering Network will continue to push for further positive change to foster care in Scotland. The full letter from Aileen Campbell MSP can be found on our website: www.fostering.net/news/2014/scottish-childrens-minister-writes-foster-carers.

We are particularly keen to hear from foster carers who are currently looking after young people aged 16+. These young people will miss out on the change in legislation, and will not have the statutory right to remain with their foster carers. We know many will stay, but for others, they will be expected to move on. Please share with us your stories, the challenges and successes! Many of you may have seen the



Sara Lurie and Gemma Waters broadcast live with Lorraine Pascale.

recent documentary film on the BBC, featuring Lorraine Pascale. The documentary showed Lorraine tracing her childhood in care, visiting the homes of her previous foster carers and her adoptive family. In advance of the documentary being shown, I was invited to be on BBC's Woman's Hour with Lorraine and foster carer Gemma Waters. We were delighted with the coverage the programme had, promoting foster care and the difference it can make.

And finally, as I write this letter, the Commonwealth Games is about to "kick off"! This newsletter will land on your door step just after the games, and we would love to hear how the games inspired the children in your households. If you need additional copies of our *Let's Go!* booklet, get in touch. We have many gold medals to distribute, and each child and young person will be awarded one once they complete the challenges they set. Completed booklets have been starting to arrive, from toddlers to teenagers! In the next issue, we will share some of your *Let's Go!* stories and photos of some attending the opening ceremony of the Games!

Until next time,

Sara Lurie

Sara Lurie
Director

Dear Members,

I hope this has been a good summer for you all. A lot has been going on at the Fostering Network and there have been significant developments relating to funding, which are described more fully elsewhere in the newsletter.

I was delighted to hear that many of you have made an excellent start on the *Let's Go!* challenges. Your responses are inspirational and I hope that enthusiasm and activity will mean that at later Commonwealth Games some of these foster children will be representing Scotland themselves!

Our Fostering Community Champions project has been developed by responding to what foster carers and services have been saying. It will make a real difference to the isolation some foster carers experience through being able to share their experiences and skills with other foster carers.

Reach Out events detailed in the newsletter will provide

opportunities for carers who are looking after children with varied and complex disabilities to share their issues and their hopes. The Scottish Government is also working on improving services to children with disabilities and I am sure Reach Out will provide significant and useful information to them and from their discussions we will see more opportunities to have the same life chances for disabled children as for other children.

The board of the Fostering Network is looking at various governance changes and also what should be the priorities of work for the Fostering Network. I would welcome your views on what services the Fostering Network should maintain or develop.

Some very recent news from the Big Fund is a continuation of some of our core funding for 2015-16, which is great news. Thank you to Linda Ogston, our fundraiser, to Sara Lurie, our director and to all the staff for their hard work in making such successful funding applications. It is a lot of work!



I hope that the new school term brings good things for the young people in your care and that whatever the outcome of the Referendum on 18 September, the Fostering Network can continue to deliver vital and high quality services to you all.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Black".

Anne Black
Chair, Scottish Advisory
Committee

Thinking of retiring? No longer fostering?

If you are thinking of retiring, or you have stopped fostering, it is really important to make sure that you continue to be insured against the risk of an allegation. Children fostered by you can make an allegation at any time, regardless of whether or not you are still fostering, or whether it happened recently or in the past. To ensure you qualify for legal support from the Fostering Network, you must be insured at the time the allegation is made.

For just £18.50, our retired foster carer membership 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 the day or night).

Applicants must currently be foster carer members of the Fostering Network who are retiring, and retired membership must commence on the day after your foster carer membership ceases.

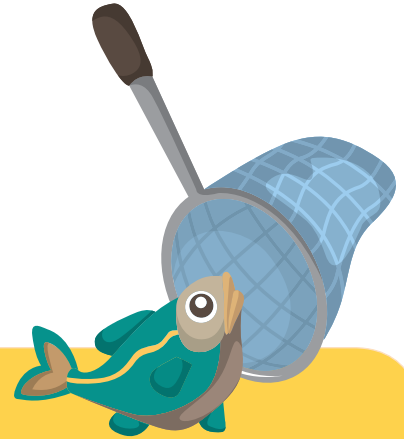
(Please note—retired membership does not give access to any other membership benefits.)

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



LET'S
GO!

Summer of Sport



**Your chance to be a medal winner!
Have you completed our *Let's Go!* challenges yet?**

Following the launch of our *Let's Go!* project, funded by the National Lottery's Celebrate programme, we have already received a number of completed *Let's Go!* booklets from children who have achieved challenges. Thanks to everyone who has returned one. All those who complete and return their booklet receive a certificate of achievement and a gold medal, so hurry and complete yours now!

All foster carers will have received a booklet with the last edition of our newsletter, but if you would like any more, please do get in touch.

Contact the Fostering Network,
t 0141 204 1400
e scotland@fostering.net.

“ *She swam a whole length, without any flotation aids, to the cheers and applause of the assembled crowd. If you could only bottle that smile of achievement!* ”

Foster carer describing the sporting achievement of the 5 year old in his care



Update from Learning and Development

The year has continued to be busy with our popular courses being delivered to fostering services throughout Scotland. Details of all the in-house courses from the Fostering Network Scotland can be found in our In-house Learning and Development Scotland flyer which you can download from our website. Call Joy to find out more.

Don't forget, we also have the following popular 'open' courses taking place:

Men Who Foster*

(Last few places remaining!)

Saturday 23 August 2014

Glasgow

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

* Please note: this course is for men only.

Fostering in a Digital World

Tuesday 9 September 2014

Glasgow

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

The Skills to Foster Leaders' Course

(Now Full!)

New Third Edition

Monday 22, Tuesday 23 & Wednesday

24 September 2014

Glasgow

Safer Caring: a new approach

Tuesday 28 October 2014

Glasgow

Price: members £98.00 + VAT/
non-members £196.00 + VAT

(includes lunch)

The Role of the Supervising Social Worker

Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 November

2014

Glasgow

Price: members £210.00 + VAT/
non-members £420.00 + VAT

(includes lunch)

Caring for Children who have been abused: a male perspective

Saturday 7 February 2015

Glasgow

Price: members £98.00 + VAT/
non-members £196.00 + VAT

(includes lunch)

To book a place, or find out more about any of our training courses, get in touch with Joy Crawford: **t** 0141 204 1400 **e** joy.crawford@fostering.net or visit: **www.fostering.net**

Foster Care Fortnight™ 2014:

Did you guess who fosters?

Fostering services across Scotland have been raising the profile of fostering as part of our recent Foster Care Fortnight™. The annual campaign, which this year ran from Monday 12 to Sunday 26 May, celebrates the work of foster carers and aims to encourage more people to come forward to meet the estimated need for 850 new foster carers in Scotland this year.

This year's theme, guess who fosters, challenged members of the public and prospective foster carers to identify the skills and qualities of current foster carers to think whether they too could foster. The Fostering Network led with the news story that one-third of all Scots believe they could become foster carers if they were to apply, more than in any other part of the UK, according to our poll.

Fostering services throughout the country used the campaign as an opportunity to highlight the need for more foster carers locally, supported by the Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell, who said: "I fully support this year's Foster Care Fortnight™ Campaign - which aims to encourage even more people, from a wide and varied range of backgrounds, to consider whether they too could provide a safe, supportive and secure family life and give a brighter future for children, by applying to become a foster carer."

Thank you to everyone that took part and made this year's Foster Care Fortnight™ a great success.



The importance of log books – a foster carer's experience in court



We are very grateful to the foster carer who sent us her story.

My husband and I have been fostering for a few years and have cared for several children including two boys currently in our care. Like most carers, we have been involved in attending meetings, LAC reviews and children's hearings. From the start we were told of the need to keep a log book/diary for each of the children in our care and advised that we keep the detail factual: how the children are, contact details, appointments and other significant information like any illnesses and treatments required. We were told to record any disclosures that children may make to us and to use the actual words from the children, sticking to the facts shared. Most importantly, we were told that other professionals would have access to the log books/diaries as well as the logs being regularly signed off by our supervising social worker.

We are very glad that we followed advice, as whilst we knew that log books could be used in a court hearing, we never thought it would happen to us. The court became involved and the children's reporter saw the log book and submitted it as evidence to the court. Next I knew, I was cited to appear in court and was asked to set aside five days when I could be called to give evidence. I was fortunate that at one support group we did a court role play, with 'lawyers' asking me questions. With that experience and guidance from the children's reporter and our supervising social worker, I went to court!

My supervising social worker (SSW) and I visited the court and identified the courtroom where the case would be held. The next time I went on my own and had to go to a different courtroom which threw me as it had been comforting to know where to go. I have to be honest and say I was shocked and worried and wondered if I was

capable of seeing the case through, but being a foster carer I knew I had to be strong and was grateful for the continued advice and support I was given from our SSW. She was always there from start to finish when I needed to talk and gave me support and advice throughout.

The first day in the witness box seemed fine and I answered the questions put to me. The questioning lasted five whole days and I remember saying to my SSW: "a night in the cells would be preferable to going back into the witness box". It was exhausting and the questions kept coming. The log book was literally taken apart and I was questioned on everything. Fortunately, the questions were factual so I was able to answer them. At times I felt disheartened, intimidated, and nervous and was always concerned about my ability to continue to be a foster carer. I held onto the advice from the Fostering Network and my SSW that I had done nothing wrong and would still be a foster carer at the end of the court case. That said, it was not a pleasant experience. Apart from the details in the log book I was asked what training I had done, when and who delivered it. My SSW was also questioned about the fostering service, her own training and how long she had been my SSW.

This has been an experience none of us will forget or wish to repeat. No matter what the outcome is (the case has not yet been resolved) I can look the young person in the eye even as an adult and say: "I told the truth in your words and did all that I could as your carer."

I would urge carers to follow advice on log books and records and do factual recording – I am glad that I did!

Record keeping

Following on from the previous article, our Fosterline Scotland worker thought it was important to mention a few important points with regards to record keeping. It is important to record any event or circumstances that might affect the wellbeing or safety of any member of your family, including fostered children.

It is not necessary to make lengthy or detailed notes. Try to keep to factual information and don't be judgemental. If you do record personal opinion make it clear that this is opinion and not fact.

Your daily record could include: where all the members of the foster family are, including the fostered child; dates when the child is away from the foster home; comments the child makes that give cause for concern – using the child's words; details of a child's behaviour if it is causing you concern and what was happening before it started; any positive improvements or

achievements; details of any specific incidents, events or changes of circumstances; details of any accidents or injuries – name witnesses, action taken including date, time and who the incident was reported to; dates of medical or dental appointments, and details of any contact visits.

Your supervising social worker should read through your records regularly and sign and date them as seen. This is not asking the social worker to agree the contents of the record, but to confirm that it was written up to a certain date.

The Fostering Network therefore recommends that in addition to the information you record on behalf of the responsible authority, you also keep a personal log which will remain your property after the child has left. Your fostering services may provide you with a diary. If so, you need to clarify with your supervising social worker whether it is yours to keep or whether it is on loan and they will expect it to be returned. It is also important to note that a personal diary can, under some

circumstances, be requested by a court of law if it is felt to contain evidence important in a particular case.

The above advice is from our Record Keeping signpost booklet, which has lots of information on why foster carers should record information, what information should be recorded, and how this information can be used to help foster carers fulfil their role, as well as be of benefit to the children and young people they care for.

Our signpost booklet can be downloaded from www.fostering.net/all-about-fostering/resources/publications/record-keeping if you are member of the Fostering Network. Please call Fosterline Scotland **t** 0141 204 1400 if you have any questions about this.



Health Matters!

Free workshop for foster carers!

Each child and young person's health matters: Who looks after those in care when they are ill?

We are delighted to be hosting a workshop in partnership with Action for Sick Children to explore the health needs and rights of children and young people. It is designed to help foster carers to gain a deeper understanding of health needs, and support them in accessing the most appropriate healthcare services. Who is allowed to stay with a child in hospital? Who can give consent to treatment?

If you are a foster carer member, you are welcome to join us free of charge. Lunch will be provided.

Tuesday 9 December 2014
Edinburgh
Time: 10.30 – 2pm



To find out more or request a booking form, please contact Linda Ogston,
e linda.ogston@fostering.net
t 0141 204 1400

Action for Sick Children has also produced a toolkit, which includes podcast interviews with a foster carer and healthcare professionals. This can be accessed at:

www.ascscotland.org.uk/default.asp?page=85.

If you would like more information on this, or to arrange your own workshop session, please contact:

Anne Wilson, Project Officer
Action for Sick Children Scotland
t 0131 553 6553
e a.wilson@ascscotland.org.uk

Foster Care Connect introduce Social Pedagogy

Foster Care Connect, an independent fostering agency based in the Scottish Borders, held an enlightening event to celebrate *Foster Care Fortnight™*, where the spotlight was on social pedagogy.

Foster carers, panel members and staff from Foster Care Connect, joined with foster carers from Scottish Borders Council, social workers from City of Edinburgh Council and Sara Lurie, Director of the Fostering Network Scotland, to hear Evelyn Vrouwenfelder, ThemPra Associate, talk about social pedagogy. The day was packed with sparkly moments and activities to help explore some of the key concepts. All those involved participated in planning how to take ideas forward and embed this fundamental approach in their practice.

Reflecting on the day, foster carer Dave Upton commented: "I've really enjoyed the reflective aspect of this approach. The ideas around developing a 'risk sensible' culture are great to allow young people to learn so much."

At the end of the day everyone signed the Social Pedagogy Promise which Foster Care Connect will take forward as their focus for the future. For more information, contact Foster Care Connect: www.fcconnect.co.uk.

Head, Heart, Hands gathers pace!



Manja, Orkney's Social Pedagogue, and Catherine: "having fun, sharing joys and scares of climbing together!"

Momentum is building in our pioneering Head, Heart, Hands programme, which is introducing social pedagogy into foster care. All the foster carers, social workers and others who are taking part in the three Scottish fostering services involved (Edinburgh City Council, Orkney Islands Council and Aberlour Fostering) have completed the learning and development courses and are now putting the principles of social pedagogy into practice in their day-to-day work. In May, we held the first meeting of our Social Pedagogy in Foster Care Practice Forum, which was well attended by fostering services from across Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.

To keep up to date with programme developments visit: www.fostering.net/head-heart-hands.

For more information about the forum, or to join the next meeting, contact [e sara.lurie@fostering.net](mailto:sara.lurie@fostering.net)



Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

CELCIS has published the first in a new series of briefings on the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The series is designed to help organisations and individuals involved in making this ambitious legislation real for looked after children and young people. The first briefing focuses on the changes introduced to Aftercare services, and the introduction of Continuing Care. Read the first briefing on: www.celcis.org.

These changes to young people's support constitute one of the greatest reforms the looked after children's sector has seen for many years. The definition of care leaver has been broadened, and from April 2015

Scottish care leavers will be entitled to aftercare support up until they turn 26. The 2014 Act also places Scottish local authorities under a new obligation to secure some care leavers in their looked after placement, or suitable alternative accommodation, up until they turn 22. This will have a significant impact on foster carers as the number of young people able to remain in placements beyond the age of 18 increases.

A question frequently asked by foster carers is: will a young person have the right to return to a foster care placement if they initially decide to move away after they cease to be looked after? Under the 2014 Act, a local authority's obligation to provide

a Continuing Care placement comes to an end if a young person chooses to leave their placement of their own volition. But as the Scottish Government's *Staying Put Scotland* (2013) guidance makes clear, all looked after children should be encouraged, enabled and empowered to make graduated and extended transition to inter-dependent living. The 2014 Act should help young people and their carers to achieve this, by extending the range of options available and enhancing the level of support provided.

For a fuller answer to this, and many other frequently asked questions, visit CELCIS website or contact Fosterline Scotland, t 0141 204 1400.



Preparing for my own flat: Ranee's story

My name is Ranee. I am now 20 and have lived with my foster family for over 11 years. Two years ago, I went to the tenancy sustainment group which was organised by South Lanarkshire Council and Blue Triangle Housing. I would like to tell you all about it.

My foster mum Alaine and social worker Terri went to a meeting to find out what the group would be about and if it would be good for me to go to the groups. When they spoke to me about the groups, at first I was a bit frightened as I thought it would mean I would have to move out soon. But they reassured me that this wasn't going to happen. Alaine took me to the first group and stayed with me for an hour, then she left me with the group. This helped me feel less nervous.

The group was run by Amanda and Derek who are both really nice and lots of fun to be around. There were about ten groups over six weeks and sometimes we met twice a week. In the group there were three girls and three boys and everyone was shy at first but we soon got to know each other and joined in the activities of the group. Some of these were a lot of fun.

Someone came to the group and spoke to us about when they first got a house and what it was like to manage your money to pay bills, buy food and clothes. We talked about how to keep safe in our home and to be careful who we answer our buzzers or doors to. We discussed how to make good friendships and to keep ourselves safe from people we don't know very well.

We talked about the danger of fire in our home and how phone chargers, candles, chip pans, cookers and overloading plugs can cause serious fires. We were told about how we could make a fire escape plan and to keep all doors closed to stop the fire spreading throughout the house.

We worked out what would be important for us to have in our home. Everybody is different and what one person might think is essential other people would not. Some people would like a PS3 instead of a hi-fi. Others may want a microwave but not a cooker. We got to look at and cut out

things we liked for our homes from magazines and Argos books.

The group went to view an empty flat. I wasn't there that night but heard all about it. They had to look for damages, and think about whether they liked the area. Before they went to the flat, everybody met up at McDonalds.

Near the end of the group we went out for a lovely meal. It was really good and by then we all knew each other a lot better than when we first started. We held a presentation night where we all had to say something about what we had learned and things we had done. There was a buffet, juice and lots of photographs from our nights at the group. Some of the foster carers, people from the family placement team, Blue Triangle, and the housing department came along. I was very nervous that night but it went well and I enjoyed it.

I feel very lucky to have had the chance to go to these groups as I know there have been lots of young people leaving care who won't have had the chance to go to a group like this and learn what I have learnt. I hope that the group is able to help many more young people like me prepare for getting their own house, and help them to keep it.

"Ranee has recently been given the keys to a lovely flat. The Blue Triangle Tenancy Sustainment course will now be beneficial to her as she remembers the things she learned from it and puts them into practice. She is due to move into her flat in the next few weeks after almost 12 years in our care and we know it's going to be a challenging time for her but she knows we will always be there to support her. We wish her all the luck in the world in this new chapter of her life."

Alaine Graham
Ranee's foster carer

A great year for Lee and Linda



Lee and Linda, foster carers.

Linda Kane and Lee Lyons, foster carers with Fosterplus have had an excellent year! They were approved as long term foster carers for the two children currently in their care in August 2013, congratulations to them both.

The couple have shown great commitment to the children as Lee's successful efforts to lose a significant amount of weight shows. Supported by the agency's medical advisor, Dr William Doak, and inspired by his desire to lead a healthy lifestyle and act as role model for the children, Lee has lost more than 10 stones and run a half-marathon in less than three and a half hours.

With his usual sense of humour, here is Lee's story in his own words: "On 6 October 2013, I took part in the Great Scottish Run. The main reason was to raise awareness for Fosterplus, to thank them for the help they have given me, changing my life over the past year. A year ago I weighed 30 stone and after going for the medical to become a permanent carer for the two children I have in placement, the doctor and I discussed the need for me to change

my life drastically. I had to give a guarantee that I was going to be around for their teenage years and that's why my life had to change. Since that day I have managed to lose 10 stone, which was a lot easier than I thought possible. All I had to do was cut out the takeaways, get out more and keep my calorie count to 2000 per day.

My story was picked up by the BBC and I gave a televised interview about my weight loss and changing my life for the children in my care. To view the video, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeofgSpjFRA>. It was a good laugh with a film crew who were

happy to embarrass me publicly in the middle of Glasgow Green! It was my wonderful professionalism that carried me through, as every scene you can see in the clip is accompanied by an unrecorded soundtrack of four guys from Manchester shouting 'check out that wiggle' and 'look out ladies, Primark clearance model coming through' as I walked through the busy park! Eventually it was in the can and I just had time to make sure they had my contact details for the BAFTA award folk before heading home for a sleep ahead of the race day itself.

The race itself was just the best fun ever. Seriously, if you've never done a run like this before you really must get round to it. Shop keepers were out handing fruit to runners, thousands of folk were standing to cheer you on, car washes hosing us down as we passed, bands setting up to play for the runners as they passed. Towards the end when I had convinced myself the organisers had mistakenly added a few extra miles, I was metaphorically carried the last half mile by a combination of finished runners showing me their end of race goodie bags and members of the public actually walking with me and shouting encouragement right to (and beyond) the final step.'

And last but by no means least, Linda recently successfully completed her SVQ Level Three, Caring for Children and Young People, so well done to Linda and Lee from everyone at Fosterplus, and the Fostering Network Scotland.

"On 6 October 2013, I took part in the Great Scottish Run. The main reason was to raise awareness for Fosterplus, to thank them for the help they have given me, changing my life over the past year."

The Royal Garden Party 1st July

In recognition of the immense contribution foster carers make across Scotland, we were pleased to have the opportunity to nominate a foster carer and a foster son or daughter to attend this year's Garden Party at Holyrood Palace.

We were delighted to nominate Carol Ritchie and her foster daughter Shannen who we suspect took the limelight from the Queen!

Fosterline update



Hi Everyone! I hope you are having a great summer. Fosterline Scotland has been very busy lately! I have been out and about recently meeting various carer support groups, which has been very insightful and interesting. There has been lots of good discussion about various issues at these groups but I've found the main issue that comes up in discussion is TAX! Fortunately, due to funding from the Big Fund, we were able to organise three tax workshops in Edinburgh and Glasgow. We ran two of these workshops in June and the feedback from foster carers was excellent. Foster carers reported feeling more confident about doing their tax return and that the workshops were useful, informative, clear and well presented. Please call Fosterline if you need any advice or information about this and please remember if you are fostering you must register with HMRC as self-employed. There is a



misconception that once you register with HMRC you do not need to do anything else. This is not the case and once you register as self-employed you must submit a self-assessment tax return each year.

At the start of June, Sara Lurie and I visited Kirkwall in Orkney to meet with the fostering and adoption team and foster carers. Our visit included lunch with foster carers and the fostering team where we discussed some current issues in foster care. We held a development session for the fostering and adoption team and also an information session for foster carers. We were also delighted to be in Kirkwall for the launch of the new Intensive Fostering Service where prospective and existing foster carers could attend. Sara was also involved in some media activity around this and was interviewed on Radio Orkney with Marie O'Sullivan, Head of Children's Services and Gillian Skuse, Chair of Orkney Health and Care.



Remember, Fosterline Scotland is here to assist with all types of queries! Mirren Vanko, our Fosterline worker, is contactable Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm **t** 0141 204 1400 **e** FosterlineScotland@fostering.net

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have a query you would like help with.



Great Funding Success for Scotland! Fostering Community Champions!

We are delighted to report the success of our application to the Big Lottery Fund's *Investing in Communities* programme for an ambitious four year project which will recruit and train fostering champions!

Our champions, consisting of foster carers and care experienced young people, will offer support and guidance

to other foster carers, as well as children and young people in foster care, providing specialist support when required. The project will also deliver training to help foster families maintain positive contact with birth families, and directly involve young people in delivering training in social networking.

If you would like any further information on the project – or if you

are interested in becoming a fostering champion – please do get in touch: the Fostering Network, **t** 0141 204 1400 **e** scotland@fostering.net



Reach Out! Free workshops for foster carers

- Are you fostering a disabled child, or are you considering doing so?
- Are you a member of the Fostering Network?

If you are then why not come along to one of our workshops and share your challenges and successes?

Wednesday 17 September 2014 – Aberdeen

Wednesday 22 October 2014 – Glasgow

Thursday 30 October 2014 – Lauder, Scottish Borders

Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm

The workshops are free of charge, including lunch. All participants will be invited to a final meeting where we will discuss how best to take forward the issues which were raised. To request a booking form, or for more info, please contact: Linda Ogston, [e linda.ogston@fostering.net](mailto:linda.ogston@fostering.net) **t** 0141 204 1400.

Our thanks to: Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, The Robertson Trust and RS Macdonald Charitable Trust for funding this pilot project.

Stella comes to stay: a story of caring and sharing (2010)

Have you requested your copy of Stella? We have additional copies of our first ever storybook for foster carers' own young children; free to foster carer members and complete with activity cards.

Please contact Deborah Cook: **t** 0141 204 1400
e deborah.cook@fostering.net to request your free copy.

The book is also available to purchase across the UK at: www.fosteringresources.co.uk



The Fostering Network Scotland...



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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

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

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