

The  
Fostering  
Network

# FOSTERING IN Scotland

issue 48

The newsletter of **The Fostering Network** Scotland

Winter 2014/15



## In this issue:

- **Could you be a fostering champion?**
- **Update on Foster Care Review**
- **Campaign success!**
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# Hello everyone



I am delighted to begin this letter with huge congratulations to foster carer Marion Crangle, for being awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honour list! Marion has had 296 children through her door, some for a day or two, others permanently.

When I rang Marion to congratulate her, a young man who she previously looked after had just knocked on their door and was in her sitting room, asking for advice on buying his first home. He was just one of the many children who have maintained contact with Marion and her family, with warm appreciation for the difference they have made to his life. Renfrewshire nominated Marion for her "fostering service to Renfrewshire" and we are thrilled that she is getting the recognition she and her family deserve! As Marion said, "it has been lots of fun, lots of emotions, lots of challenges and lots of joy, but it is a family affair and a job you cannot do without the support of your family". Many of our readers know Marion's daughter, Sarah McEnhill, our operations manager and we are delighted for the entire family!

*"It has been lots of fun, lots of emotions, lots of challenges and lots of joy, but it is a family affair and a job you cannot do without the support of your family"*

I also want to extend our warmest congratulations to Aileen Campbell, Minister for Children and Young People on the birth of wee Crawford White. Aileen is a tremendous supporter of our work and we wish her a relaxing, fun filled time with Crawford and his big brother, Angus, and we cannot wait until she returns from maternity leave!

Our front cover photograph for this edition celebrates the achievements of Jen, Ben and dog Rory who braved the kiltwalk to raise funds for our charity. We are so grateful for their support, and if you too would like to raise much needed funds for our Scotland team, do get in touch!

Further congratulations to all the children and young people who submitted their amazing drawings for our Christmas e-card competition and for all who sent in stories, poems, reflections and drawings. A wonderful message, of how important it is to never give up and to keep "practicing" for what you want, in the form of a poem, was submitted by Megan, age nine. Let her words of wisdom inspire us all. We want all our readers, and the children in their households, to keep sending us their poems, stories and drawings! Children have the opportunity to earn a book token and have their book review online! Read about it on page 3.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find out about so much that is happening in the field of fostering throughout Scotland. We are delighted that the Scottish Government has introduced placement limits to no more than three unrelated foster children in any one household. We have been campaigning for this for many years with the support from many of our members. You can also read about new events, our Champions project, consultation with SCRA (Scottish Children's Reporter Administration), and much more!

This edition should land on your doorstep just before Valentine's ♥ Day, which is a huge reminder that creating opportunities for children to hold their head up high and be proud of who they are should always be at the heart of what we all do!



And finally I will end with some more good news – we have secured funding from the Scottish Government for a further year for both our core activities and Fosterline Scotland which is a huge relief. It is thanks to the support of funders and individuals like you that we are able to continue to improve the lives of foster families across Scotland.

Until next time,

*Sara Lurie*

**Sara Lurie**, Director

## Megan's Poem: A message to all our readers

*"Practice, practice, practice you will get there someday.*

*Practice, practice, maybe more than one way.*

*I've always wanted to fly a kite, play basketball and climb really high.*

*Practice practice I'll only get there if I try.*

*Horray! I can fly a kite, play basketball and even climb really high!*

*I only did because I practiced and I tried."*

**Megan, age 9**

# Read, write and review!

## Children's books featuring disabled characters

A huge shout out to our young readers! We need **children and young people** to review one of Scope's recommended children's books, which feature children's characters with a disability. Just follow this link to pick a book: [www.scope.org.uk/Support/Families/Parents-and-Carers/books/books-children/Old-list](http://www.scope.org.uk/Support/Families/Parents-and-Carers/books/books-children/Old-list).

Once a book has been chosen, get in touch with us and let us know the book selected to review: **t** 0141 204 1400, **e** [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net). We will send the book to you to review, enjoy and keep. We will also reward any child who returns a book review (approximately 250 words each) with a £10 book token! Happy reading!



## Message from our Scottish Chair

Having had a quick look at this edition of *Fostering in Scotland*, I am thrilled to see such excellent features and so many stories from young people and foster carers. I want to thank you all for these stories, and to the staff at The Fostering Network for such an amazing edition. Congratulations also go to foster carer Marion Crangle on being awarded an MBE. This is a wonderful tribute to her contribution to foster care in Scotland!

And, for all of our readers, if you want to contribute to the work of The Fostering Network, please think about joining the Advisory Committee for Scotland. With so many talented people out there, some of you would be very valuable on the committee and we look forward to hearing from you. If you are interested in joining our Scottish Committee please email [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net)

Thank you!

Best wishes,  
Anne Black

# Campaign success - Placement limits!

We are pleased to announce that the Scottish Government has introduced placement limits on the number of unrelated fostered children who can live with each foster family.

Since 29 December 2014, through an amendment to The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations, it is unlawful for children to be accommodated in a foster care placement with more than two other unrelated looked after children.

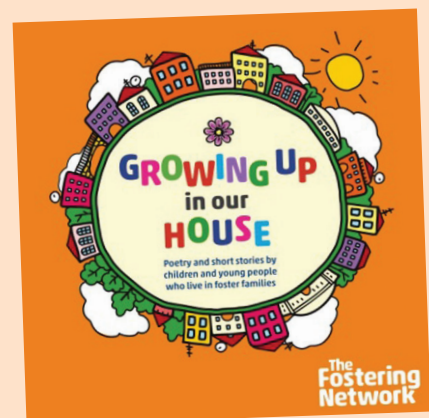
The law won't apply to placements that are already set up and functioning well. This follows a campaign led by The Fostering Network, and brings Scotland in line with the rest of the UK.

## Growing Up in our House

- Thanks for your contributions!

We were all delighted to read the poems and short stories in **Growing Up in our House** from children and young people living in foster families across the UK. Thank you to all those who entered the competition, which was judged by Jacqueline Wilson herself!

The full anthology of poems and stories can be downloaded from our website: <https://www.fostering.net/growing-up-in-our-house>.



# Update from the Scottish Government on the Foster Care Review

### A Foster Care Review

**Implementation Reference Group** has been established to oversee progress and to advise those involved in taking forward work on each of the recommendations. The group met on 22 August, and will meet again in March 2015 to carry out a full assessment of progress.

### Placement Descriptors

A short life working group, chaired by Marjory Booth of the Care Inspectorate, to take forward work on foster care placement descriptors is underway. The Care Inspectorate is planning to incorporate agreed descriptors into its 2016/17 annual returns and the Chair wrote to fostering agencies and other key stakeholders on 12 December to update them.

### Database Alternatives

A short life working group to explore Alternative Strategies to a Foster Carer Database is underway. The group is chaired by Willie Evans of JMT Fostering and a member of The Fostering Network's Independent and Voluntary Providers (IVP) Forum. The group is consulting with Social Work Scotland about how this kind of information is currently captured/shared and will meet again on 2 February 2015.

### Placement Limits

The Scottish Government has now laid down an amendment in Parliament to The Looked after Children (Scotland) Regulations to introduce a maximum foster care placement limit of three unrelated children with exemptions for sibling groups and emergency placements. This came into force on 29 December 2014.

This means that it will become unlawful for children to be accommodated in a foster care placement with more than three other unrelated, looked after children. The Fostering Network is delighted at this development, which follows years of campaigning on the issue.

### Learning and Development Framework

Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has been commissioned to develop a learning and development framework for foster carers. A Strategic Group has now been established and met in November; and a Technical Group has also been set up to support the work as it moves forward. A Children and Young People's group is also being arranged to feed their views into the process.

### Foster Care Allowances

Research has been undertaken on foster care allowances which analyses current methodologies used across the UK on how levels of allowance are reached. However, more robust evidence is required to inform future direction in Scotland, and further research linked to minimum standards of income for families in Scotland is being considered.

### Foster Care Fees

The recommendation related to fees for fostering is for local authorities to progress and the chair of the reference group has approached Social Work Scotland to establish progress.

The full update can be read through this link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/lac/foster-care-review>

The Fostering Network is represented on all of the above mentioned groups, and if you have any comments you'd like to make, please get in touch.

Please email us any thoughts you have: [e.scotland@fostering.net](mailto:e.scotland@fostering.net)

## Reach Out!

### Exploring issues of fostering a disabled child

Our three Reach Out focus groups brought together foster carers from across Scotland who shared the challenges and experiences of fostering a disabled child. Collectively, the foster carers who attended had more than 195 years fostering experience, and had fostered 594 children between them!

Although many challenges were highlighted during the groups, those frustrations were never about the children themselves. Quite the opposite, as one foster carer

expressed, "if it wasn't for the love of the kids I would have stopped long ago," while another emphasised, "I love him to bits."

Participants will meet again during a final Reach Out event in Spring 2015. Other foster carer members are welcome to come along too. We would value your ideas on what should be included. Please contact Linda Ogston, [e.scotland@fostering.net](mailto:e.scotland@fostering.net), **t** 0141 204 1400 any thoughts or ideas, or to register interest in attending the event.



What do foster carers need to improve the lives of the children they care for? One foster carer calls for a "National Independent Arbitration Service for Children and Foster Carers."

Follow Sara Lurie on Twitter @tfn\_sara





# Could you be the voice of fostering?

Our ambitious and exciting **Fostering Community Champions** project is now up and running and we are delighted to welcome Jane Wright as the project worker into our team. Jane (pictured with her son) will be working alongside Sarah McEnhill to ensure the project reaches out to as many of our members within the fostering community across Scotland as possible!

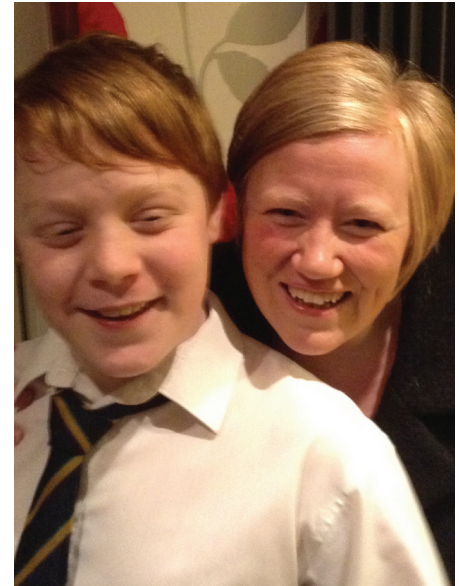
Since taking up post Jane has been busy speaking with foster carers and getting in touch with fostering services to spread the word about the project and we have had a fantastic response from many of you. We've also met with Who Cares? Scotland to explore how we can best make use of joint working opportunities. If your fostering service, foster carer support group or young people's group would like us to come and have a chat about the project please get in touch.

At the end of January we held two information sessions, one in Edinburgh and

one in Glasgow, to allow us some face to face sessions with some of our potential champions. It was lovely to meet some of you at these and to be able to give you some further information about the role of fostering champions. It has been really encouraging to hear the passion and enthusiasm that many of you share for fostering.

We are hoping to start appointing some of our volunteer champions soon but we still want to hear from more of you! In particular, we want to hear from young people (aged 16-25) who could be our young champions. If you have been in foster care or are part of a family who fosters then we want you to get in touch!

To find out more about this fantastic project contact Jane or Sarah  
**t** 0141 204 1400 or  
**e** [bethevoice@fostering.net](mailto:bethevoice@fostering.net)



## Health Matters! Free workshop for foster carers – Consent and Confidentiality



In December, we held a free workshop for foster carers, Health Matters, which was delivered in partnership with **Action for Sick Children Scotland**. It was extremely well received and has encouraged us to organise another workshop with them focusing on Consent and Confidentiality.

Has a foster child been hospitalised in your care? Come along and share your experiences. "The Medical Rights of Children Looked After in Foster Care – Managing Consent and Confidentiality" will provide:

- An introduction to the specific issues of consent and confidentiality when accompanying a child in foster care who has healthcare needs;
- Increased understanding and knowledge of children and young people's rights when accompanying a looked after child who has healthcare needs;
- An opportunity through interactive activities (including quizzes and case studies) to apply their knowledge to different situations;
- Increased confidence when you are encountering situations in which these issues apply.

Explore the health needs and rights of children and young people in foster care during our Consent and Confidentiality workshop, facilitated by Anne Wilson from **Action for Sick Children Scotland**.

If these issues seem relevant to you, please join us on:  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015**  
**Edinburgh**  
**Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm**

The workshop is free of charge for foster carer members, including lunch. To request a booking form, please contact: Linda Ogston  
**e** [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net) or  
**t** 0141 204 1400.



# Preparing children and young people for hearings



SCOTTISH  
**CHILDREN'S REPORTER**  
ADMINISTRATION

Going to a Children's Hearing? Did you know that you or the child/young person in your care can request a pre-hearing visit? You can contact the Reporter's office – their details should be on the letter sent to you – and ask to see the hearings suite in advance of the actual Children's Hearing. This will allow the child or young person to see where the hearing will take place and ask any questions about the process. The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), which administers hearings, is keen to offer this service to children and young people.

Jennifer Orren, SCRA's participation officer, said: "SCRA is committed to improving the participation of children and young people in their hearing. It is critical that they are fully engaged in the process. We know it can be daunting going to a hearing and that's why we are doing what we can to help children and young people come to their hearing much better prepared and informed."

Jennifer explained: "Formal and informal feedback from children and young people indicates that many of them feel that they would greatly benefit from pre-hearing visits being made available.

"Children and young people have indicated that often it is the knowledge that pre-hearing visits can be requested, and that they are available, which is of support to them; rather than their intention to take up on them on a regular basis. Young people in particular are saying that they would benefit from pre-hearing visits because either they have not attended a hearing since they were young children, or, given their age, they have more questions about the hearing process and room layout."

During pre-hearing visits, children and young people have asked for information about the following:

- Where the waiting and hearing room will be
- Seating arrangements
- Who will be in attendance
- What happens if they don't want to see a Relevant Person

During pre-hearing visits, age appropriate information packs are also available which include a selection of leaflets on issues such as children's rights and other information materials.

There are also lots of information materials and a number of films available on our website and some of this is in the waiting rooms as well. Children and young people should also receive information leaflets in the post to ensure that they are well prepared and informed about their hearing.

If you would like to arrange a pre-hearing visit or would like any further information to help prepare a child or young person for a hearing, please contact your local reporter. If you would like more information about participation of children and young people in the Hearings System, please contact SCRA's participation officer Jennifer Orren, [e jennifer.orren@scra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.orren@scra.gsi.gov.uk)

## SCRA Focus Group

Following the success of the focus group we ran in November, we are currently in discussion with SCRA concerning the possibility of holding another focus group to explore issues surrounding becoming a Relevant Person. This will be held on **25 March** in Glasgow, from 10.30am to around 1pm, and anyone who may be interested in attending should contact The Fostering Network, [t 0141 204 1400](tel:01412041400), [e scotland@fostering.net](mailto:e scotland@fostering.net)

## Mapping services for those with additional support needs

Parents and carers of children and young people with additional support needs who have struggled to find assistance and advice will now benefit from Enquire's new **map of services** which covers all of Scotland and allows them to pinpoint exactly what is in their area. The map is aimed at parents and carers, assisting them to find education, access to education and family support services in their local area.



The development of the map was one of 21 recommendations from the strategic review of learning provision for children and young people with complex additional support needs. The final report from the review *The right help at the right time and place*, published in November 2012, highlighted the "fight" some parents faced to obtain help and advice.

Sally Cavers, Enquire's manager, said: "We were delighted to support and now deliver on this recommendation from the Doran review ... We hope this map of services saves parents and carers time, presents key information in a clear way, and becomes a very well used resource for everyone supporting children with additional support needs."

Teresa Catto, a parent from Edinburgh and founder of Autism in Scotland, a forum for parents and carers of children with

autism, explains why she will be using the resource: "Parents and carers are often bewildered by the new world they find themselves in when they have a child or young adult with additional support needs. A central information point will be incredibly useful and will increase how empowered parents feel. I will definitely be recommending the 'find a service' database put together by Enquire to the parents and carers I support across Scotland."

Those wishing to access the map can do so by following this link <http://enquire.org.uk/find-a-service>

**Enquire**  
THE SCOTTISH ADVICE SERVICE FOR  
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

# Fosterline Scotland Update



Hi Everyone! **Fosterline Scotland** has received a number of queries from foster carers about a wide range of issues including those carers phoning for advice about transferring to another fostering provider.

There are occasions when foster carers may choose to transfer between fostering providers (local authorities and independent and voluntary providers). For example, they may move home and it makes sense to have more local support, or foster carers might decide to apply to foster with another agency. Whatever the reason, the child's best interests must always be the paramount consideration for foster carers and for the fostering services involved.

The Fostering Network is aware that some local authorities with responsibility for the child or young person are holding a joint meeting with foster carers to openly discuss the merits of transferring between agencies. This could be when a fostering placement becomes permanent and it has been agreed that the best place for that child is with particular carers, or when a young person is preparing for the transition to independence but still requires the stability and continued relationship with their foster carers.

These joint meetings allow foster carers to make an informed decision about which fostering service they wish to remain/ become approved with but the best interests of the child must always be at the forefront of decision making. Remember also that while the joint meeting is between foster carers and the responsible local authority, if foster carers wish their supervising social worker to be present this should be possible and carers should inform the responsible local authority accordingly.

An important point to remember is that foster carers should not feel pressured to transfer to another fostering service. There are a number of things to consider including support, training, out of hours support and relationships with your existing fostering service.

The Fostering Network has worked in partnership with fostering services across Scotland to create a best practice protocol for when foster carers transfer between agencies. This is currently being revised, but alongside this some fostering services adhere to their own protocols. Please note, in most circumstances it is recommended that the carers should not be deregistered by their current agency until after their approval by the assessing agency.

The focus of all decisions must be what is best for the child or young person, and what will provide that child or young person with the stability, consistency and supportive relationships that they have developed.

Remember, **Fosterline Scotland** is here to assist with this query and many other types of queries! I am contactable Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have a query you would like help with.

Mirren Taylor



## Our young winners!



Congratulations to 10 year old Chloe for her image of Christmas penguins which was voted by our judges to be the winning

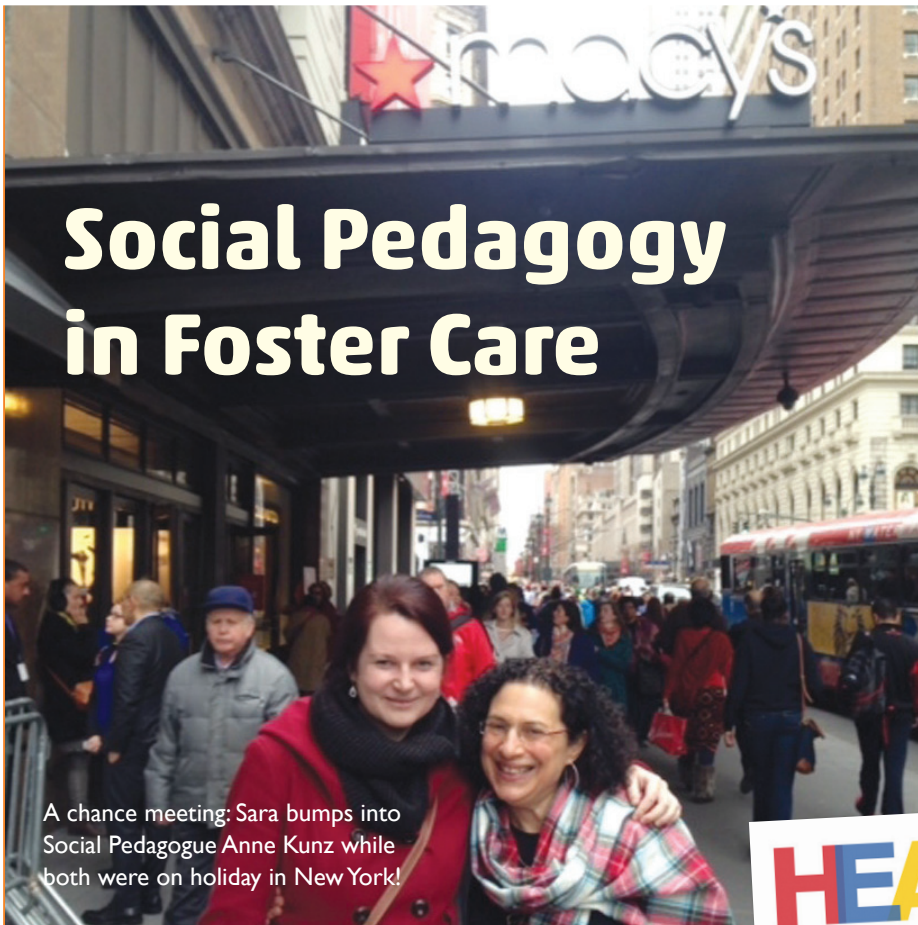
image. Sophie, age 11½, has been awarded second place for her creative snowmen, and our third place winner is John, age 8, for his image of a reindeer.

Well done to all the fantastic artists who submitted their festive images for our e-card competition. We were so pleased to receive all the artwork which added some festive magic to our office in Glasgow in the run up to Christmas!

Remember, we love seeing your artwork and hearing your stories so please share them with us and we may publish them in the newsletter too!







A chance meeting: Sara bumps into Social Pedagogue Anne Kunz while both were on holiday in New York!

**Our four year Head, Heart, Hands project is now past its half way point, and we are delighted to bring you some practice examples from our two Scottish sites.**

**Edinburgh City Council** has shared reflections from a foster carer who was supported to separate feelings from facts in order to clarify issues:

**Head:** this is where the carer felt "stuck" and that facts were not adding up. He reflected on inconsistencies he had experienced, in particular regarding payments. This allowed us to discuss facts and requirements for different kinds of fostering, for example that the department expects specialist carers to be there 24hrs for the child, while mainstream carers can have a job alongside fostering.

**Heart:** Past experiences and feelings were discussed, including his thoughts around how he is perceived and if he is seen as having the skills to be a specialist carer. The carer spoke about occasional feelings of exclusion, for example at carer groups, and said that he realised he is still

suffering from trauma surrounding the ending of a previous placement. He was able to say that he is not sure about the intensity of a specialist placement and feels that



maybe with two younger mainstream children, maybe siblings, he would have a better link into the local community and that this would be good with him working part time. He stated that he realised that he is a heart-led person.

**Hands:** Time was spent reflecting on all the practical adjustments he made in his life for fostering (house move, change of jobs) and discussing practical requirements such as the need to pay the rent to the house, his salary and financial situation. It became clear that what is doable for him from a financial perspective would be to reduce his job to part time and have a mainstream placement, ideally a sibling couple, as a foster placement. Practical considerations such as time frames for placement planning, or for him to give notice to go part time were discussed.

Social Pedagogue Christine Spurk explained that, "through this process, he accepted and requested my support as his supervising social worker, especially helping him not to be heart-led. He felt able to 'let things go' and also better informed about possibilities and how best to proceed. He felt involved in the process, rather than that others were making decisions for him."

**Aberlour Fostering shared a letter written by a foster carer to Social Pedagogue, Anne Kunz:**

Hi Anne

I have just enjoyed some Orkney cheese and thought it was a good time to send you some reflections.

It was a pleasure to share experiences with other foster carers and professionals, particularly when they are such a lovely bunch. From first enquiry onwards at Aberlour we are encouraged to think and work in a Pedagogic manner. This is evidenced in their supportive ethos and the high quality training available to us. I feel that Social Pedagogy is well embedded within the service and will continue to be so for years to come.

On a day to day level I pull from several different systems to help me in my profession. Social Pedagogy complements and enhances Attachment Theory and Resilience Theory, which underpin my practice, but puts "meat on the bone", increasing confidence by including elements of pedagogic practice such as communication and relationships, the 3Ps, The Common Third, stages of reflection and "Haltung".

Hope some of my waffle is of interest to you.  
Take care (Aberlour foster carer)



# Settling troubled pupils to learn

By Calum McPherson, foster carer

As a foster carer with a keen interest in education, I have a very strong view about the role we must all play in a team if we are to be able to offer a good education to vulnerable and traumatised children. As a member of the education sub group, I was fortunate to attend the Fosterplus conference last year and whilst it was predominantly aimed at those in the teaching role, for example teachers and therapists, I found the content to be a breath of fresh air. I thought the fact that the conference was facilitated by Fosterplus made a strong statement to all who attended of the vital importance of foster carers in the role of educating our children.

As we are all aware, a large proportion of the children in our care are not your average pupils due to trauma and neglect. As such it makes it hard for them to switch on their social engagement system which in many cases results in them using their more normal fight and flight mode. This is not only disruptive and upsetting to them, but also to their peers and teachers alike. First and foremost what our children need is an additional level of feeling safe to enable them to listen, engage and learn.

### Some of the risks in not giving this feeling of being safe are as follows:

1. The clash of a pupil feeling insecure trying to fit into a secure attachment system. You can always learn a secure attachment with nurture and compassion.
2. The use of a one size fits all policy in school is overwhelming. Our children need to know who they are. They are not useless, worthless, bad, and we must all look for positives, no matter how small. Specifics are needed as they don't all have the basics "when do I toilet?", "how much is enough food?" Point out the stresses they are experiencing so they understand what the stress is caused by and what it feels like. Don't just deal with it as they won't understand and might not trust your reaction. Firing purely on the emotional part of your brain and not processing it just produces a defence reaction.
3. Polyvagal Theory: fight or flight, hyper or hypo, no middle ground. What would you do on a daily basis in this state of mind? We don't always view behaviour as communication so our interventions or reactions don't always match the needs being presented.
4. Exclusion in my mind should never be an appropriate action as all we do as a team is prolong or increase the stresses, and then wonder why we have problems.

All the risks are potentially everywhere, however as foster carers we tend to be more switched on to recognising them and hopefully dealing with them appropriately. For teachers in a classroom situation with 25-30 children this must be

more challenging, especially as a lot of the time the teachers are under-informed about our children's situations. How many times have you heard "Poor wee Jimmy, I didn't want to give him a row so he's now sitting next to me" or "I didn't want to give him a [demerit] today"? That is not inclusion, sometimes it's a lack of understanding. Our children are a lot of the time preoccupied with past issues of trauma and loss. We need to deal with this differently before education can begin. The understanding and integration of our children involving schools having strategic Attachment Leads at their disposal would be a great thing, but finances don't allow this. Opening a dialogue about the impact of abuse and neglect and the need for increased inclusion, however, costs nothing.

### Conclusion

The way I see it is that communication is the start of the process and that's our role in all of this. By having an open communication with schools in person, on phone or diaries, we can perhaps contribute more than we think in a system which won't change overnight. Let's all see if we can make a small adjustment in how we prepare them for the day at school too.

Maybe that extra wee word of encouragement, explaining again what they have on that day, could be a start in a more positive and pleasant day for all. It's not rocket science, sometimes it's the wee things that make all the difference.

Food for thought.

## 2015 Annual Conference

**fosterplus**  
MORE THAN FOSTERING

### Two great speakers

#### Camila Batmanghelidjh CBE

*Traumas, Tantrums and Tiaras: The Life of a Recovering Teenager*

#### Dr Margot Sunderland

*Healing Conversations with Children and Teenagers: What to say and how to be*

**Date:** 12 May 2015

**Venue:** Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

**Cost:** foster carers & adoptive parents £65 + vat (£78);

professionals £115 + vat (£138)

e [lwhite@fosterplus.co.uk](mailto:lwhite@fosterplus.co.uk) for a booking form or t 01506 443434

More details on our website

**[www.fosterplus.co.uk](http://www.fosterplus.co.uk)**

### Update from Learning and Development

Our popular courses are continuing to be delivered to fostering services throughout Scotland with all our available in-house courses found in our in-house Learning and Development Scotland flyer which you can download from our website.

We are also running the following open courses with more dates to follow:

#### **Caring for Children Who Have Been Abused: a male perspective\***

Sat 7 February 2015

##### **Last Few Places Remaining!**

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

\*This course is intended (but not essential) for those who have already attended *Men Who Foster* and is for men only and is facilitated by an experienced male foster carer.

#### **The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers Open Course**

New Third Edition

Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 February 2015

##### **Now Full!**

Glasgow

Price: members £299.00 plus VAT/non-member £598.00 plus VAT (with lunch)

#### **The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers Open Course**

New Third Edition

Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 March 2015

Glasgow

Price: members £299.00 plus VAT/non-member £598.00 plus VAT (with lunch)

Due to The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers Open Course in February filling up very quickly and due to popular demand for this course we are running this additional Skills open course in March.

#### **Men Who Foster\***

Saturday 16 May 2015

Glasgow

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

\* Please note: this course is for men only.

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** scotland@fostering.net or visit:

**www.fostering.net**



# Our trip to Legoland

## By Nicole, age 12, and foster carer Marion

**Nicole:** "We travelled down to England from Glasgow on a coach. The journey was longer than expected, it took around nine hours to get there but it seemed longer because of the stops we had. The driver was really nice and was easy to chat to, so we had a laugh sometimes.

When we got to our hotel we got our card to enter our room and had a lovely surprise to see how nice the room was. At the Holiday Inn we got a breakfast and a dinner that tasted amazing!!!

We went to Legoland on the Saturday and had a walk around to see what kind of rides we could go on. We could basically go on every kind of ride there was. The rides were exciting because they had lots of different kinds of rides like water rides, roller coasters, spinning rides, rocking rides and much more. The one I enjoyed the most was the water ride because we all got soaked and we all had a laugh and a scream together. Overall I really enjoyed being at Legoland and I would recommend every family go."

**Marion:** "The girls had their first ever holiday 'abroad' during the October holiday. A short break to Legoland at Windsor was to be their first time outside Scotland and boy were they excited!

The journey proved to be quite long and tiring but we took a snack plus games and their tablets so that they kept themselves amused between comfort stops. Our hotel was excellent and staying in a hotel – for two nights – was another first for the children.

Our visit to Legoland was on a Saturday. We knew it would probably be busy and friends had suggested that we go to the far side of the park first and concentrate on the attractions we really

wanted to see and do. This advice proved to be really good – we avoided the crowds until after lunchtime by which time the park was very crowded and people were being advised that queues could be far more than an hour.

We covered a huge area and enjoyed lots of rides. The girls loved the submarine trip, the water rides and especially the dragon. Flat, comfy shoes were essential as we covered and retraced our tracks, marvelling at the model village and the Star Wars exhibit. There is a short train ride you can take back to the beginning of the park and my legs were very grateful for the sit down as we returned to the entrance and to our coach.

The staff were all very friendly and helpful and geared to making your visit memorable. Our children all had a wonderful trip and are already hinting about a return visit!!!"

Our thanks to Nicole and Marion for sharing their holiday experience. Remember, as a foster carer member of The Fostering Network you can enjoy a discount when you book in advance for attractions such as Legoland. For more information please visit our website **www.fostering.net**





# Readers' Comments

## - We want to hear from you!

We are looking for good news stories you would like to share in our newsletter, as part of a regular new feature in our newsletter.

We are particularly keen to hear from any of the children in your household, so please encourage them to send in any stories or poems they would like to share.

We cannot promise to include them all but will do our best!

### A short snippet from the Potter household

"We had a seven year old boy who was always getting into trouble at school.

He said he wasn't interested in learning anything. We were always looking for ways of engaging with him in any kind of learning situation by following his interests.

If he said he liked wrestling we would get him a book about it. If it was planes...we would get him the history of flight....if he was curious about cars we would get someone to show him engines...we allowed him to dismantle older computers... anyway to cut a long story short, he is 18 now and at college studying computing and engineering, and we are so proud of him!"

**Gloria and David Potter**

### Sharon Duncan's thanks to Kent Quilters

A massive thank you from Stefan for his gorgeous cosy blanket, he loves it!

Stefan is severely disabled and gets very cold so this is perfect!

**Thank you to Terrence Gilbert and his Kent Quilters who were kind enough to donate them!**



# Fostering Community Champions

- Are you passionate about foster care?
- Do you want to make a difference?
- Could you be the voice of fostering?

If you are a young person who has been in foster care, a young person whose family fosters or are, or have been, a foster carer then we would like to hear from you!

Would you like to have a chance to speak out about the good bits and support people experiencing some of the hard times?

We are looking to recruit fostering champions who will be the voice of foster carers and of young people with care experience throughout Scotland.

Fostering champions will receive training in advocacy skills, confidence building, counselling and presentation & media skills to enable them to offer high quality peer support to new and experienced carers.

Young champions will be trained to deliver training on contact and social media to foster carers and will also have the opportunities to speak out about the difference that their fostering experience has made to their lives.

All champions will receive support, expenses, training, work experience and the opportunity to make a real difference.

If you are interested in this exciting new opportunity please contact project worker Jane Wright **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** [bethevoice@fostering.net](mailto:bethevoice@fostering.net)



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## Dates for your diary ...

**Saturday 7 February 2015**

Caring for Children Who Have Been Abused: a male perspective open course (Page 10)

**Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26 February 2015**  
**NOW FULL**

The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers New Third Edition (Page 10)

**Wednesday 11 March 2015**

Health Matters – Consent and Confidentiality (Page 5)

**Spring 2015** (Page 4)  
Reach Out Event

**Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26 March 2015**

The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers Open Course New Third Edition Glasgow  
Price: members £299.00 plus VAT/ non-member £598.00 plus VAT (with lunch) (Page 10)

**Wednesday 25 March 2015**

SCRA Focus Group (Page 6)

**Monday 1 to Monday 15 June 2015**

Foster Care Fortnight

If you are interested in attending any of these events **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net)

## The Fostering Network Scotland...



The Fostering Network Scotland  
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G1 1DA  
**t** 0141 204 1400  
**f** 0141 204 6588  
**e** [scotland@fostering.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:orders@fosteringresources.co.uk)

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