

The  
Fostering  
Network

# FOSTERING IN Scotland

issue 50

The newsletter of **The Fostering Network** Scotland

Summer 2015



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# Hello everyone



A huge thank you to everyone who made this year's *Foster Care Fortnight™* such a success. We were overwhelmed by the range of activities that took place over the two weeks, and were delighted by the media and social media coverage that was generated.

This newsletter is full of information and news from around Scotland, including a number of training and event dates that we hope to see you at. We're particularly excited about our first Big Day Out, which you can read more about on the back page. The photo on our front cover was sent to us by our foster care members, Nikki and Stuart. We were delighted when they chose to make a donation to The Fostering Network as favours at their recent wedding. On page five you can read about other fundraising initiatives and discover how you, too can donate.

Like all charities, The Fostering Network is governed by a board of trustees, which determines the strategic direction of the organisation. The trustees play an essential part in the governance, and therefore, the success of The Fostering Network. We are looking for four new trustees, with at least one of these being from Scotland, with the right commercial management, financial, marketing or high level fundraising skills and connections, to join our board and, along

with our staff, help us develop in our role as the UK's leading fostering charity.

Our elected trustees need to be genuinely passionate about making a difference and improving foster care for children and young people in Scotland, and across the UK, and about The Fostering Network and its role in this. But beyond that they need to bring skills and experience which enable them to govern a large, successful and complex charity and membership organisation like The Fostering Network. With a turnover of more than £8 million per year, over 100 staff and tens of thousands of members, The Fostering Network needs strategic thinkers with business and commercial brains on its board.

Now is a really exciting time for The Fostering Network. We have our new chief executive, Kevin Williams, in place, and are looking to develop a board that can provide Kevin and the rest of the staff team with the guidance, management and support we need as we lead the organisation in the next phase of its journey.

If you combine a passion for foster care and The Fostering Network with business, financial or fundraising skills, and would like to become one of our trustees, more

information and nomination forms are available on our website at [www.fostering.net/elections](http://www.fostering.net/elections)

In addition to the UK board, we have a Scotland advisory committee which we wish to expand. Our advisory group oversees our work in Scotland, and shares our views with the wider fostering community. If you're interested in getting involved, then please email [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net).

And, finally, a personal big thank you from Sara to everyone at Aberlour Fostering who surprised her with beautiful flowers on her recent 60th birthday!

We hope to see you at one of our events.

With best wishes,

  
**Sara Lurie**, Director

  
**Anne Black**, Chair,  
Scottish Advisory Committee

# Letter from Fiona McLeod MSP

During *Foster Care Fortnight™*, Fiona McLeod MSP, Acting Minister for Children and Young People, wrote to all foster carers in Scotland. This was sent to all fostering services to circulate.



## Dear Foster Carer

The Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell wrote to foster carers on 19 May 2014 expressing her gratitude for the dedication and commitment you make on a daily basis to caring for the needs of some of our most vulnerable children and young people. In my position as Acting Minister for Children and Young People, I would very much like to reinforce that message to you all.

I would also like to take this opportunity, especially at the start of the *Foster Care Fortnight™* awareness raising campaign, to update you on recent policy improvements that will positively impact on you in your role as foster carers and also on the lives of the children you care for.

## Foster Care Review

Some of you may already be aware that a national review of foster care took place during 2013 and you can read the final report and the Scottish Government response to that review and each of the recommendations which was published on 23 January 2014.

Between August 2014 and March 2015 we have been taking forward a programme of work aimed at seeing the majority of the recommendations implemented into practice and I am pleased to report that some substantial pieces of work have now been concluded. You can read our latest progress update which also provides you with some links that you may find of interest.

## Children And Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

You may already be aware that the new Act, from 1 April 2015, allows 16 year olds to remain with their foster carers up to the age of 21 should they request it. When they are ready to leave their continuing care placement, they will also be entitled to aftercare support up to the age of 26, to offer a more gradual transition to independent living. This is much more in line with the experiences of their non-looked after peers. These benefits were enthusiastically welcomed by the care sector and young people.

A number of consultation events are about to take place specifically targeting foster carers to allow them to discuss & clarify the guidance for Part 10 Aftercare & Part 11 Continuing Care. This will give them the opportunity to influence the final guidance and discuss any issues that it raises for them. The events will also help foster carers understand when they might consider a Continuing Care placement for a young person placed with them and what this means.

As you may appreciate, there has been a substantial amount of work carried out in recent months to develop guidance for the care sector on how these new provisions will work in practice. We have in recent months been undertaking a series of meetings and events aimed at providing service managers, practitioners and young people with the opportunity to provide us with their views on the draft Continuing Care and Aftercare guidance. In May we held events with a particular focus on foster care. We hope to be in a position to publish the guidance in the summer.

Our aims are to ensure that young people are not discharged from care before they feel ready, improve the planning and preparation that is required when they do decide to leave care and also provide young people with a better package of support after they move into their own living arrangements.

## Guidance on decision making for foster carers

I would like to let you know about another piece of work being undertaken to support you in your role. The Scottish Government have commissioned Scottish Child Law Centre to develop guidance that will assist foster carers understand their legal position on everyday decisions they need to make about the children they care for. This will cover e.g. haircuts, medication, bank accounts, holidays as well as many other circumstances that arise on a daily basis. The guidance is expected to be finalised soon and we hope to publish this guidance in the summer. We will bring this to your attention at the time.

## The Fostering Network

You may find it helpful to know that The Fostering Network provide advice and guidance to foster carers on a wide variety of issues relating to fostering and Fosterline Scotland is a confidential helpline that you can access Monday to Friday between 10 am and 4 pm on **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** [fosterlinescotland@fostering.net](mailto:fosterlinescotland@fostering.net) should you require support on any issue. I do hope this update is useful to you and again, thank you to you and your families for providing support for the children and young people you care for and helping them to achieve their full potential.

*with my heartfelt thanks  
Fiona McLeod*



For more information from the Scottish Government following the Foster Care Review, please follow this link:  
**[www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/lac/foster-care-review](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/lac/foster-care-review)**

# Foster Care Fortnight™



What a fortnight! Foster carers, fostering services, celebrities and politicians from across the UK made their connection to fostering during *Foster Care Fortnight™* 2015. Countless Facebook posts, thousands of tweets, alongside events and activities helped raise the profile of fostering this June.

Here in Scotland, we pulled out all the stops to run a series of events during the fortnight. A fantastic event hosted by the Scottish Government was the highlight, with foster carers and other professionals consulting on the continuing care regulations. We also held an open day in our offices, hosted our final Reach Out event exploring the issues of fostering a disabled child, and held media training for our young champions through our Fostering Community Champions project. Our director shone on BBC Radio Scotland with inspirational care leaver Alex Horne, and people throughout Scotland joined the campaign. Roll on next year!



## Reach Out – empowering you for the journey



During the second week of *Foster Care Fortnight™*, we hosted our final Reach Out event in Perth, Empowering you for the Journey, which was attended by families from across Scotland fostering a disabled child. One foster carer shared his thoughts on the day: 'We talked for hours afterwards on how the speakers and delegates were able to clear away much of the "smoke and mirrors," it was a breath of fresh air to realise the level of support that is available and that you are not alone on your journey. Well done on an inspiring and informative day.'

Also in attendance was Emer Murtagh, a research student who grew up in a foster family. Emer has outlined her reflections on the day: 'I was delighted to attend The Fostering Network's Reach Out event on 9 June in Perth Concert Hall. I grew up in a family that fostered and I am now a third year social work student. Next year I am hoping to do my dissertation on the views of foster carers caring for children with disabilities, and this event was an invaluable and special experience.'

'I participated in a group with four foster carers. It was fascinating to hear about their fostering experience, especially in relation to children with disabilities. I could hear the passion for fostering and the love for the children in their stories.'

'During the event the foster carers identified their biggest struggles in fostering children with disabilities. I found this amazing and some issues came up that I would never have thought of. To my surprise the majority of the issues were not in relation to directly caring for the children but to do with working with the

health and social care system! For example, preplacement information about the child's needs, the narrow definitions of disability and lack of information about additional support available e.g. information about guardianship.

'The day emphasised the importance of listening to foster carers' views and opinions. They have great insight and the best interests of the children at heart. They are truly experts by experience.'

'I hope people will participate in my study which will focus on harnessing all the foster carers' views. I very much hope it will be of benefit to The Fostering Network as they advocate on behalf of foster children and their carers.'

If you are happy for Emer to contact you in relation to her research, or if you would like more information about our Reach Out project, please do get in touch: [e.scotland@fostering.net](mailto:e.scotland@fostering.net)



## Making fundraising easier through MyDonate...

As a charity, we are reliant on the generosity of donors to continue our important work. Our funders range from large funding bodies such as the Big Lottery Fund Scotland, to individuals like you. We are a small team in Scotland and all donations, no matter how small, make a significant impact on the support we provide. Sadly, in this financial climate, we need your help to keep improving fostering across Scotland.

We have now made it easier for you to donate to us directly in Scotland by setting up an online giving page through

BT's MyDonate. You can use this site to make an individual donation or to set up your own fundraising page to seek sponsorship for an event (have a look at Ben's story below for inspiration!). To make a donation, either contact us directly or follow this link: [mydonate.bt.com/charities/thefosteringnetworkscotland](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/thefosteringnetworkscotland)



## Wedding fever!

Nikki made a stunning bride at her recent wedding to Stuart, and we were so touched when she chose to support our charity on her big day:

'When deciding what to do about favours for our wedding there was never any question. We both decided the only thing we wanted to do was give this money to charity. Being that I had been recently approved as a respite foster carer, The Fostering Network was the obvious choice for us. In return for our donation The Fostering Network gave us lovely gold medals and cards allowing us to share the information of what we had done with that part of our wedding budget.

'An awesome day was had by all, with some lovely comments made about our favours. We both are looking forward to working with The Fostering Network in the future, especially as I love a charity event. So watch this space...'



## Foster family's eggcellent idea

We were both surprised and delighted to receive a cheque following the enterprising efforts of a foster family from Oban:

'Why do we foster? Our kids said we should, to make a difference. So we opened the doors to our home, offered a safe haven to some of our most traumatised children, and offered them a piece of our family's heart.

'This Easter, as thanks for the support we received, it was decided by my team that we would raise some money for The Fostering Network. I knitted the chicks, managed to sew on the eyes and beaks, then the children placed cotton wool in the head of the chick and a Cadbury Creme Egg in the body, pretty impressive if I say so myself! My daughter then placed them on Facebook and they sold within 10 minutes! We had orders from as far afield as Australia!

'So this year, I have an army of knitters who are currently on the job and we hope to make at least 500 for Easter 2016! All proceeds will of course go to The Fostering Network Scotland.'



Our thanks to all those who support our charity



## How muddy can you get...?!

Our MyDonate profile had been up less than 24 hours when Ben Cook created a fundraising page in support of us here in Scotland. Inviting sponsorship from his friends and families, Ben set about training for the Tough Mudder, which was held at the end of June...

'Having not done anything as physically challenging as Tough Mudder in my life, I was absolutely committed to completing this mammoth task for a good cause and good fun! I trained for more than three months in preparation for this gruelling task, up until the day itself!

'With motivation and help from my family and team mates, I am delighted to say I did not die in the process but successfully completed it!'

# Fostering Community Champions

Fostering Community Champions is an exciting four year project that aims to improve the outcomes of children in care. It will do this by reducing the isolation experienced by many foster carers, and by helping young people to use their experience of foster care in a positive and meaningful way. It's funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Investing in Communities programme.

Young people from fostering households (who are or have lived in foster care, or who are sons or daughters of foster carers) will take part in a range of activities and 36 foster carers will be trained to provide peer support to foster carers throughout Scotland.



# Caring

The following is an extract from a blog written by Cherise, one of our young champions. To read the full blog visit [fostering.net/blog](http://fostering.net/blog)

Family. One of the most important things. To us a family is about loving and caring people who will always look out for us and after us, but for some this is not the case. My mum is a foster carer which means she looks after kids who for whatever reason cannot be looked after by their own parents.

For some children their mothers doing this could be hard on them, especially in the relationship they have with their mum, but for me fostering created excitement. The thought of getting a little one made me feel at ease as I love helping out with kids, I really want to work with them when I'm older, just the thought of helping my mum out and by showing the children a different way to treat others and be treated themselves. Looking back I didn't realise what an inspirational person my mum is and the strength required to pursue her job with such patience, she does it so gracefully with a tremendous amount of effort put in to helping these children along with the time she puts into her family.

I don't know where I'd be without my mum, without thinking, 'I know she would be there for me no matter what.' Have you ever stopped for a minute and thought about children, much younger children, that don't have this? How would that make you feel, growing up with parents that couldn't care less about you, hurting you, not just physically but emotionally? Luckily there are people like my mum who can look after these kids.

Just like the previous child we had, most will go to loved ones or back to their

parents if social services see fit, although for some this is not the case. Thinking about the little boy we had for almost a year and a half, we didn't even realise what we'd done for him. When he first came he couldn't speak properly and was still in nappies, but with some attention and caring help he was out of nappies in five weeks and talking in no time. During this time it didn't seem like anything extraordinary, but looking back it really was.

There was a time when we were going to pick him up from respite after our holiday and met him at Largs shore front. We were walking along the prom and he was coming towards us on his scooter, from the minute he saw us I can honestly say I've never seen him happier. He scooted as fast as he could, stopped dead and jumped into my arms, it was the perfect moment, the 'Kodak' moment. I genuinely would give anything to see that or even better re-live that again.

One of my favourite moments wasn't particularly good for him because his behaviour wasn't the best but looking back on it, it puts a smile on my face. My mum, he and I were in Burger King and after our ice-cream he was running frantically around in the play area having a great time, I was having a sip of my Fanta. A scream erupted as a little boy ran to his mum in floods of tears, our little man ran towards us and said 'I didn't bite him!' The little boy's mum walked towards us and explained what happened, while his head lowered. His shoes were on and he was in the car as quick as a flash. When we got home the usual, 'I'm sorry I no do that never ever



again' was said. Despite his behaviour I had to look at him annoyed but then turned round and smiled, no matter what he had done, I loved hearing that, it has always put a smile on my face.

There are small moments in life that are never thought of during the moment but the simple things in life make the difference, family comes first, and to me this little boy is classed as my family, even though he was not a relation he definitely made a massive impact on my life, which made me more grateful for mine.

The work we have done as a family brought us closer together, however seeing what some children go through has made me more grateful for my own family. At the end of the day it's the luck of the draw. Fortunately for me I have been lucky to have been brought up in a loving and caring family, in contrast to many children. Some say it's an amazing job we are doing. Yes it has its ups and downs, but to me it's the best job my mum will ever do.

# Update on the young champions

Our young champions have been busy during the last few months, and in April met for a photoshoot to take pictures to use in future publicity. Thanks to the skills of Amy, a young champion and our photographer for the day, we had lots of fun posing for the camera! Below is a sneak peek of our resulting publicity.

Our champions also met early on a Saturday morning in June to practice media and presentation skills. They were joined by Gavin from Active Inquiry Theatre Company who soon had us jumping about the room acting as crocodiles and elephants – and more importantly learning how to overcome the embarrassment of standing

talking in front of a group. The afternoon focused on interview techniques, discussing the difficulty of sharing personal stories of fostering experiences, and demonstrating ways to steer interviews towards topics the champions want to get across. We now have a group of dynamic young people who have experienced foster care and are able to talk in front of a group, and also give interviews to the media and press.

If you would be interested in one of our young champions presenting at your event, for example your foster carer support group, seminar or conference, please get in touch with Jane or Sarah (details below).

We are still keen to meet with young people aged 15-22 who have experience of fostering and would like to be the voice of fostering in Scotland today. If you or someone you know is interested then please contact Jane or Sarah

**t** 0141 204 1400

**e** [bethevoice@fostering.net](mailto:bethevoice@fostering.net)



## What's been happening with our foster carer champions?

### Project manager Sarah McEnhill updates on activities over the past few months.

Following a busy few months, we are starting to build a team of volunteers who between them have an extensive list of skills and a real range of experiences that will provide invaluable support to foster carers in need of a listening ear.

As well as ensuring all checks and references are in place for our champions, we held a learning session in Glasgow in June – the 3 R's: Responding, Reflecting, Recording. Undeterred by a fire alarm and dramatic evacuation of the building mid morning, we managed to remain focussed on the purpose of the session! This was to reinforce the importance of listening skills: how to actively listen, how best to respond,

and how our foster carer champions will empower the foster carers they support to plan what they will do next. The group also discussed the importance of record keeping, data protection and confidentiality, as the support our champions will give to peers will be confidential. Our next development sessions (in September) will focus on media and presentation skills.

We are keen to begin to match our champions with other foster carers across Scotland. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a listening ear, a helping hand in finding some useful resources or just want to chat to someone who has experienced a similar (fostering) situation then please get in touch.

We would still welcome interest from a range of foster carers, particularly if you have experience of the issues that face LGBT foster carers (or young people), have

supported asylum seeking young people, or have cared for children/young people with complex medical needs. We have been meeting with prospective champions across Scotland, and will be in Dundee on Tuesday 15 September between 10am and 1pm to share more about the Fostering Community Champions project (how people can get involved or make use of the project) with our members. It is also an opportunity to meet with some of our champions. The venue is child friendly so hopefully those with children who are not at school will be able to pop along and enjoy a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

If you are a member of The Fostering Network and this is something you are interested in finding out more about, or to come along on 15 September, please get in touch. Contact Jane Wright or Sarah McEnhill, **e** [bethevoice@fostering.net](mailto:bethevoice@fostering.net) **t** 0141 204 1400

# Fosterline Scotland update – medical information queries

**Hi everyone! Fosterline Scotland has received a number of queries recently from foster carers who have medical related queries. These are listed below:**

**Medical questionnaires** - foster carers have been in contact with Fosterline to ask if their social worker/fostering agency should have access to their full medical questionnaire provided by their GP.

The Fostering Network's position is that medical information provided by the GP should only be assessed by the medical adviser within the fostering agency. The medical adviser would then give their opinion/comments on the medical information provided and the potential impact of this on the foster carer's ability to foster. It is certainly good practice that only the medical adviser see the full medical report provided by the GP, as they have a medical qualification in order to make a professional judgement. Confidentiality and data protection are key considerations and reports should be handled sensitively. Regulation 19 of the *Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations (2009)* 'requires the local authority to appoint "such number" of registered medical practitioners as they consider necessary to provide them with medical advice in connection with the exercise of their functions. The medical advisers' principal role in relation to the fostering panel is to look at the completed medical information received from the general practitioner for each applicant to foster; to interpret any relevant issues for the panel and to provide advice on these. Complex situations may need significant follow-up prior to the panel meeting, with the GP; any consultants involved and also involve research into the latest information on a wide range of medical issues. Large authorities with more than one medical adviser may wish to have medical advisers who, between them, cover a spread of experience of paediatric and adult medicine.'

**Medical questionnaires** asking for the BMI (body mass index) of *all* family members - foster carers have been in contact with Fosterline to ask if it is appropriate to ask this question and why the fostering agency need to know this information.



The Fostering Network is aware that health checks on foster carers often ask about weight and BMI. If other family members are asked for their BMI you could question the purpose of this as it may not be appropriate to ask for the BMI of all family members - only the person/people who are going to have caring responsibilities for foster children. If you are asked this question in your medical questionnaire, you could ask how the information provided under BMI will be assessed. You could also ask how this information will impact on an assessment or a review, i.e. what happens if a person's BMI is too low or too high and how is this viewed in light of other information. For example, if a person has a lower/higher BMI but has a healthy and active lifestyle? Obesity can cause health problems as can anorexia or other eating disorders. The agency would need to look at information such as - how does a person's weight affect their day to day caring and how do they offer a healthy model in terms of exercise, diet and nutrition. The agency would need to look at the short and long-term health risks involved, and how to consider obesity or an eating disorder as part of a balanced assessment. Ultimately, the medical adviser will advise on each individual case, however, the final decision regarding the approval of foster carers is an agency decision not a medical one. It is ultimately made by the agency decision maker on the recommendation of the fostering panel. Although health information is important, it is not the only criteria on which panel judgments should be made. Other

information required would include the foster carer's values, attitudes, life experiences, commitment and flexibility in responding to the needs of individual children.

**Stress and mental health** - foster carers have been in contact with Fosterline to ask what happens when a foster carer experiences a period of stress or there are factors impacting on their mental health.

It is important that if a foster carer does experience a period of stress or mental health (related or unrelated to fostering) that the foster carer is open with their fostering agency and asks for appropriate support. Foster carer members of The Fostering Network can access our stress counselling helpline on 0845 013 5004. It may be that the fostering agency offers options such as counselling, or perhaps even a break from fostering. If a period of stress or mental health is serious, this may prompt an early foster carer review, which may require the oversight of the fostering panel. If the decision is to vary your terms of approval or to terminate your approval and you do not agree with this, you can appeal this decision. However, if you agree that you are not able to foster at present, you could ask the fostering agency if you could reapply to them in the future. History of stress or mental health would not automatically rule someone out of fostering; in fact there is no diagnosis that can automatically prevent you from fostering. However, if you applied to foster in future, you would need to discuss this in more detail with the fostering agency. A fostering agency has a duty to ensure that foster carers have the physical and mental health to care for the child placed with them and a medical report is always sought as part of the assessment process.

Remember, **Fosterline Scotland** is here to assist with all types of queries! Our Fosterline Scotland telephone line is open Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have a query you would like help with.





## Changes to class 2 national insurance, what you need to know

Once you register as self-employed you become liable to pay Class 2 National Insurance. The way Class 2 National Insurance is paid changed on the 6 April 2015. Up until April 2015, Class 2 National Insurance was billed six monthly or taken via a monthly direct debit. Class 2 National Insurance cost £2.75 per week in 2014-15. Up until April 2015 you could apply in advance to HMRC for an exception from paying Class 2 National Insurance.

For the tax year 2015-16, the amount of Class 2 National Insurance due, which will still be calculated based on the number of weeks of self-employment in the year; will be determined when you complete your self-assessment tax return and paid alongside your income tax and Class 4 National Insurance. Although the change came into effect from April 2015, the last direct debit payment under the old system will be due on 10 July 2015. This will cover the period to 5 April 2015 so there will be no Class 2 National Insurance in your 2014-15 self-assessment tax return.

The rules for those with small earnings from self-employment will change. People with profits of less than the Small Profit Threshold (£5,965 for 2015-16), will not have to pay any Class 2 National Insurance. You will not need to claim an exemption in advance. If your earnings are under the Small Profits Threshold and you have a Small Earnings Exemption certificate for 2014-15, then you won't need to renew it for 2015-16. For 2015-16, Class 2 National

Insurance is due at £2.80 per week. If you do not have to pay Class 2 National Insurance, you may still wish to pay Class 2 voluntarily in order to preserve your pension entitlement and entitlement to certain other State Benefits.

If your profits from self-employment are above the threshold - the Small Profit Threshold of £5,965 for 2015-16, or the Small Earnings Exception level for earlier years (£5,885 for 2014-15) - you will have to pay Class 2 National Insurance. For those that wish to spread the cost of their Class 2 National Insurance, HMRC will retain a facility for them to make regular payments throughout the year. HMRC will be providing more information on this.

If your taxable profits are above the lower Class 4 profit limit (£7,965 for 2014-15; £8,060 for 2015-16) you will also have to pay Class 4 contributions of 9% on profits over this limit. You pay Class 4 National Insurance together with your income tax - usually due by 31 January and 31 July each tax year. If profits are high (over £41,865 in 2014-15; £42,385 in 2015-16) then the rate of Class 4 National Insurance falls to 2% on profits over this higher limit.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please don't hesitate to contact Fosterline Scotland for more information. See details of our free tax workshops in the next article.

### Free tax workshops for foster carers in September 2015

**Thursday 3 September 2015**  
**Glasgow**

**Tuesday 15 September 2015**  
**Dundee**

**Wednesday 30 September 2015**  
**Falkirk**

**Time:** 9.45am – 2.30pm (including lunch)

- Are you a foster carer member of The Fostering Network?
- Would you like a reminder of how to make sure your tax (in relation to fostering) is up to date?
- Would you like to find out more about other matters in foster care finance – fostering payments, national insurance, pensions & benefits, savings & pocket money, insurances & member benefits?

If yes then why not come along to our free workshops in September:

To find out more, or to request a booking form, please contact Mirren Taylor,  
e [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net)  
t 0141 204 1400

## STOP PRESS!

### Holiday discount for foster carer members!

The Fostering Network is pleased to announce a new partnership with Haven Holidays. They are now offering up to 10% off holidays for our foster carer members (5% for breaks during English school holidays). Not only this, every time a member books a holiday with them, they will donate £15 to The Fostering Network.

To book with Haven Holidays, t 0845 2601096 and quote CH\_FOSTERING. Alternatively you can visit [www.haven.com/fostering](http://www.haven.com/fostering) Happy hols!



CHILDREN WELCOME

## Kidz Scotland

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015**  
**Highland Hall, Royal Highland Exhibition Centre, Edinburgh, EH28 8NB**  
**9.30am – 4.30pm**

FREE Entry

Disabled Living Disabled Living Disabled Living

Kidz Scotland

Disabled Living Disabled Living Disabled Living

FREE event for children & young adults with disabilities and special needs, their families, carers and professionals.

Over 100 Exhibitors providing information on:

- Funding •Seating •Beds •Mobility •Bathing
- Sensory •Accessible Vehicles •Transition
- Toys •Education •Legal Matters
- Communication •Wellbeing •Sports/Leisure and much more...

FREE CPD & TOPICAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME!

For FREE Visitors' Tickets and to register your interest - Tel: 0161 607 8200

Email: [info@disabledliving.co.uk](mailto:info@disabledliving.co.uk)  
[www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk](http://www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk)

Dates For Your Diary

- Kidz to Adultz up North – 19/11/2015  
EventCity, Manchester
- Kidz to Adultz in the Middle – 10/03/2016  
Ricoh Arena, Coventry
- Kidz to Adultz South – June 2016 Rivermead Leisure Complex, Reading
- New Event •Kidz to Adultz Wales – 07/07/2016  
Cardiff

Kidz Exhibitions

Established in 1997, Disabled Living is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Registered Charity number 228742



Seven Golden Rules  
for Participation  
Symbols Resource



## Foster carers honoured

The Fostering Network is always delighted to hear foster carers being recognised by the Queen. This year our congratulations go to Marion Crangle MBE, foster carer with Renfrewshire, for being recognised for her services to foster care in the Queen's New Years honours.

Along with her family, Marion attended Buckingham Palace for her investiture in May and her MBE was presented by HRH Prince Charles (see picture). Marion says: 'It was a very special day. Visiting the Palace was a real honour and everyone was so kind and made us feel welcomed. During the brief exchange HRH Prince Charles said he was delighted to present me with my MBE and he thinks the work foster carers do is invaluable and should be recognised more.'

If you know of individuals who you feel should be recognised for their dedication and commitment to children and young people you can nominate them. Visit [www.gov.uk/honours](http://www.gov.uk/honours) to find out more.

## SCCYP launch new participation tool

A new communication resource has been launched by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People. It encourages participation with children and young people who are non-verbal or have speech and language difficulties.

The new communication tool is a companion resource to the popular Seven Golden Rules for Participation that is currently being used all across Scotland.

The resource can also be used to help communicate ideas and information about participation for children and young people with English as an additional language and to very young children.

The resource has been designed to enhance children and young people's understanding of what participation means to them, and to encourage them to explore how they are supported to participate in different situations.

The symbols can be used to motivate and encourage children and young people to communicate their views and feelings and be personalised to suit the needs of individuals.

The resource is available to download from the Commissioner's website: [www.sccyp.org.uk/education/golden-rules/symbols](http://www.sccyp.org.uk/education/golden-rules/symbols) or you can email [administration@sccyp.org.uk](mailto:administration@sccyp.org.uk) for more information or to request training.



Scotland's Commissioner  
for Children & Young People

## Free health workshops for foster carers and a DVD resource

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Action for Sick Children Scotland once again to deliver two new workshops exploring the health needs of children in foster care. These events will be free of charge to foster carer members, including lunch, and will be held during the autumn:

### Mental health and wellbeing for children in foster care

Wednesday 7 October 2015,  
Glasgow

### Dental healthcare support through play

Thursday 29 October 2015, Edinburgh

To secure your place on either, or both, of these workshops, please contact Linda Bowie: **e** [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net),  
**t** 0141 204 1400.

Action for Sick Children Scotland has also produced a DVD featuring a series of interviews with healthcare professionals and carers which answers some of the many questions from foster carers about child

health. Children in care have health needs like any other child, but may have come into care with underlying health problems which have not been identified or addressed.

The DVD can be accessed by following this link: [www.ascscotland.org.uk/default.asp?page=91](http://www.ascscotland.org.uk/default.asp?page=91) or you can contact Action for Sick Children Scotland directly to request a free copy: **e** [enquiries@ascscotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ascscotland.org.uk) or **t** 0131 553 6553.

# Social pedagogy in Scotland

As The Fostering Network's Head, Heart, Hands programme enters its final six months of work in the demonstration sites, the organisations who have been exploring social pedagogy with us for the last two and a half years are continuing to reap the rewards of their work. One benefit that is being reported by the fostering team at Aberlour Sycamore Services is the fact that social pedagogy is helping foster carers to increasingly see themselves as professionals.

The team at Aberlour have fed back that, 'social pedagogy empowers our foster carers to confidently stand up for the child, take the lead on moving things forward and also take responsibility for speaking up in panels, review meetings and in conversations with social workers. Our foster carers are also confident in using theories to underpin their practice and guide their reflection and action.' But this growing confidence in their role as professionals does not conflict with the nurturing role they have at home. Foster carers have spoken insightfully about their desire to find a balance between being professional and still providing a warm, loving and safe home for children.

Aberlour have been delighted to witness the continued growth of their foster carers. Nicola Fearon, fostering coordinator at Aberlour Sycamore Services told us that, 'having a group of professional foster carers who confidently advocate on behalf of a child definitely contributes to long term outcomes. Foster carers who feel listened to and accepted as professionals will filter this down to children. We've seen signs that the relationships between children and adults



are becoming more equal which again could contribute to long term outcomes such as placement stability.' These and many more positive impacts are being echoed across the Head, Heart, Hands services in Scotland and England. The independent evaluation of the programme is also showing early positive signs that social pedagogy is helping to improve the experience and outcomes for children and young people in foster care.

To find out more about the programme or social pedagogy, please do get in touch. To receive regular e-newsletters sharing stories from the sites and bringing our learnings about social pedagogy to life please email [HHHinfo@fostering.net](mailto:HHHinfo@fostering.net). You can also find out more about the programme and social pedagogy by visiting: [fostering.net/head-heart-hands](http://fostering.net/head-heart-hands)

**Please note: The Fostering Network Scotland hosts a social pedagogy in foster care practice forum attended by fostering service representatives, Scottish Government, SSSC and the Care Inspectorate. Get in touch for more information and to be included on the forum: [e.scotland@fostering.net](mailto:e.scotland@fostering.net)**

## Update from Learning and Development

Joy and the team of associate trainers continue to be busy with training taking place across the country.

We now have only a few places remaining on the following popular open courses:

### Men Who Foster\*

**Saturday 22 August 2015  
Glasgow**

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

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

### The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers

**Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 and  
Thursday 27 August 2015  
Glasgow**

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

### The Role of the Supervising Social Worker

**Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 October 2015  
Glasgow**

Price: members £210.00 plus VAT/non-member £420.00 plus VAT (with lunch)

To book a place, or find out more about any of our training courses, get in touch with Joy Crawford:

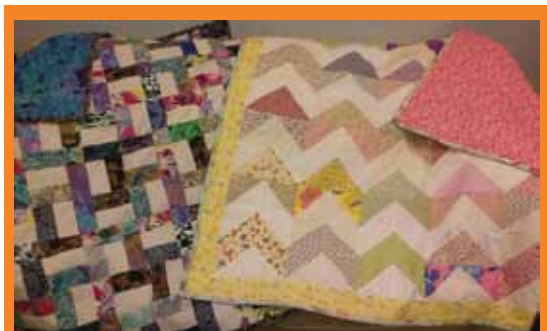
**t** 0141 204 1400

**e** [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net) or visit:

**www.fostering.net**



Our four Scottish social pedagogues: Anne Kunz, Christine Spurk, Manja Golobic and Liliana Da Silva Santos alongside Pat Petrie, Professor Emeritus, Centre for Understanding Social Pedagogy, University of London, who presented at a social pedagogy practice exchange day in Edinburgh.



## Quilt competition

We are delighted to be offering foster families the opportunity to win one of our new quilts, which have been donated by our friends, Kent Quilters.

We are asking foster children to either write a short story or draw a picture with the theme of 'comfort'. The winning entry will be announced in our next newsletter, and rewarded with one of our beautiful quilts.

Please email your competition entries to [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net)

## Save the date!

### Showcasing the Champions project at our Big Day Out



In November we will be holding our inaugural Big Day Out - a day for foster families to meet, learn and have fun. The event will take place at Edinburgh Zoo on Sunday 15 November with presentations in the Budongo (home to the family of Chimps) and information stalls and fun activities in the Jungle.

The aim of the day is to celebrate our Fostering Community Champions project and introduce our fostering champions - both our foster carer champions and our young champions. It will also provide an opportunity to find out more about The Fostering Network as well as provide you with helpful information about other useful organisations. You will have the chance to meet up with other foster carers (and children and young people) and make new connections. There will also be lots of fun activities for kids!

We anticipate demand for this free event will be high and want to encourage foster families from throughout Scotland to attend. Supervising social workers are also welcome to intimate interest, but must be accompanied by their (member) foster families! If you are a member and would like to register your interest please contact Sarah McEnhill who will be able to advise further:

**e** [bethevoice@fostering.net](mailto:bethevoice@fostering.net) or **t** 0141 204 1400. Closing date for registering your interest is 30 September 2015.

## Dates for your diary ...

### Saturday 22 August 2015

(Page 11)  
Men Who Foster

### Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 August 2015 (Page 11)

The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers Open Course  
New Third Edition

### Wednesday 3 September 2015 (Page 9)

Tax workshop for foster carers

### Tuesday 15 September 2015 (Page 9)

Tax workshop for foster carers

### Tuesday 15 September 2015 (Page 7)

Meet the champions

### Wednesday 30 September 2015 (Page 9)

Tax workshop for foster carers

### Wednesday 7 October 2015 (Page 10)

Mental health and wellbeing for children in foster care

### Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 October 2015 (Page 11)

The Role of the Supervising Social Worker

### Thursday 29 October 2015 (Page 10)

Dental healthcare support through play

### Sunday 15 November 2015 (Page 12)

Big Day Out

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

2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Ingram House  
227 Ingram Street  
Glasgow  
G1 1DA  
**t** 0141 204 1400  
**e** [scotland@fostering.net](mailto:scotland@fostering.net)  
**www.fostering.net**

### The Fostering Network – Head Office

Registered office  
87 Blackfriars Road  
London  
SE1 8HA

For queries relating to the members' area of the website:  
**t** 020 7620 6400

For help with membership queries:

**t** 020 7620 6400  
**e** [membership@fostering.net](mailto:membership@fostering.net)

### Publications & Resources

**t** 0844 335 1892  
**e** [orders@fosteringresources.co.uk](mailto:orders@fosteringresources.co.uk)

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**t** 0845 013 5004  
The stress counselling helpline can be accessed through this number



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