

The
Fostering
Network

FOSTERING IN Scotland

issue 55

The newsletter of **The Fostering Network** Scotland

Autumn 2016



In this issue:

- **Scottish award winners**
- **Need someone to talk to?**
- **Training suite now open**
- **And more!**

Hello everyone



I am delighted to open my letter by sharing the good news that we have been successful in securing a Big Lottery Fund grant for a new two year project called Walking Tall. The project will support children in foster care and the sons and daughters of foster carers. We will be recruiting for the new post of children's participation worker soon. Keep an eye on our website or future editions of our newsletter for more information on our exciting new project.

As you will see from our cover photo and article on page 9, FosterWalk Scotland was a huge success. Two walks took place on 11 September, our official event in Glasgow's Pollok Park and one organised by Gloria Potter, a member of our Scottish Advisory Committee, in Stonehaven. We are extremely grateful to everyone who participated in these walks. They were fabulous days which also helped to raise vital funds to support children across Scotland.

I have been raising funds myself, by recently completing a 21 day hula hoop challenge! As you will see from my photograph above, while it was quite a challenge I also had great

fun! If you would be interested in raising funds to support our work, do get in touch.

We have recently opened our new training suite in our Glasgow offices in the centre of the city (see page 11) and would encourage you to consider it for any events you are hosting in Glasgow. We have also developed some new training courses, so do keep an eye on the newsletter.

As you will see from our centre spread, our Fostering Community Champions project continues to thrive, and we are excited about the progress of a film to tackle stigma by our team of young champions. Our foster carer champions have also been busy, and are available to offer a listening ear to any foster carer who would like to hear from someone who has 'been there.' To find out more, or if you would be interested in becoming a champion, do get in touch.

In the last edition of our newsletter, we shared a letter to all foster carers from Mark McDonald MSP, Minister for Early Years and Childcare. Since then, I accepted an invitation to meet with Mark to discuss

our work, and I look forward to working with him in the years ahead. I have been assured that the Continuing Care and decision making guidance will be out soon. I suggest you keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and follow me on Twitter (@tfn_sara) for updates.

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Fiona and Jonathon, our two Scottish winners of Fostering Excellence awards. They are a shining example of the positive difference foster care can make – take a look at page 3 to read more.

Finally, I am delighted to share with you the news that Ellen Rose Taylor was born on 5 August 2016, daughter of our Fosterline Scotland worker Mirren. As promised, please see a photo of Mirren and Ellen below.

Until next time,

Sara Lurie,
Director for Scotland



Introducing a Scottish charter for foster carers

The Fostering Network is encouraging all fostering services in Scotland to work with their foster carers to introduce a foster carers' charter.

The concept was first introduced in 2011 following consultation with our members, with the idea of creating a document setting out the mutual roles and responsibilities of both foster carers

and fostering services – all with the aim of improving the lives of children in care.

We believe that foster carers should be regarded as full members of the team working with a child, and are seeking a charter for all foster carers across the UK, supporting them in their role and enabling foster carers and services to work together effectively as equals.

We have an updated sample charter on our website:

thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/charter which we would encourage

fostering services and foster carers to use as a starting point for developing a local charter.

For more information please

e campaigns@fostering.net.

Fostering Excellence - Scottish award winners!



Fiona Bruce with
her husband David

The Fostering Excellence Awards are the UK's leading foster care awards. They shine the spotlight on the young people, foster carers, social workers and others who make a positive contribution to fostering each year.

This year, we extend our warmest congratulations to two Scottish winners: Fiona Bruce, a foster carer from Dundee who received an Outstanding Contribution by a Foster Carer award, and Jonathon Fyfe, a young man who won a Fostering Achievement award.

Fiona fosters a boy who has very complex health needs and is developmentally delayed. He is fitted with a tracheostomy and

gastrostomy and needs to be ventilated overnight. She and her family moved to a specially adapted house to ensure his needs are met. Fiona adores him, and has told us he is coming along beautifully, describing him as 'a wee smasher'.

Jonathon's award commemorates his journey through residential and foster care into a young man who is a huge source of pride for all those who know him. Nicola Fearon, fostering manager at Aberlour, who nominated Jonathon, said: 'Jonathon is now a father with an incredible work ethic. My team and I are enduringly proud of all he has achieved and wish him every success for the future.'

One of our young champions, Amy Davidson, who won an Educational Achievement award at last year's ceremony, shared her experience of this year's awards:

'This year was different from last, I was going to meet and talk to all the amazing and dedicated people who have been in care or support those who need it most. My foster mother and I arrived at the event in the RIBA Building in London and immediately felt at ease. We all knew that our struggles and different experiences brought us together for this event. The ceremony felt more intimate and relaxed this time around as last year was a more high-profile event. Both my foster mum and I were delighted to attend and felt that mingling with everyone who had

experienced similar events to ours helped us to share our thoughts and help one another along.

'Each year the awards invite a wide range of people from all different backgrounds and experiences to come together and share a day where we are all seen as equal and aren't labelled due to jobs or backgrounds. I thoroughly enjoyed the event and it allowed me to network and spread the word of things that are taking place in Scotland with the young champions, and how we plan to improve the stigma that surrounds young people in foster care.'



An update on the learning and development standard for foster care

The consultation on the draft standard for foster care closed on 30 September. The Fostering Network submitted its own response and worked with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and the fostering community to encourage as many people as possible to respond. The SSSC has advised us that a total of 162 responses were received, 25 from organisations and the rest from individuals, mainly foster carers. This is a very impressive response rate and shows real engagement and interest, especially from foster carers. As well as the online consultation, staff from the SSSC travelled around the country to meet staff and foster

carers and held two small webinars. In total 170 people engaged 'face to face' with almost half of those being foster carers. The SSSC received a host of comments designed to improve the draft standard.

The SSSC have told us they will take some time now to digest every point made and produce a report for the Scottish Government. In The Fostering Network's response we highlighted a number of gaps, including managing allegations, the impact of trauma on a child's development, self-employment and tax, and more. We suggested that the document could be

successfully restructured and condensed to ease comprehension and accessibility. We have offered to work with the SSSC and the Scottish Government in the coming months with the aim of addressing these issues and moving positively forward. So watch this space, we will share an update with you soon.



Celebrating success – Ross's story

After his placement broke down, Ross Colbourne went to live with foster carers Helen and Alan Watson who had previous provided respite care to him. It was agreed they would care for him full time as he was known to the family and it would minimise any disruption. The Watsons cared for him until 2012 when he moved from their care to his own flat. This allowed Ross to study at The University of Edinburgh.

In July 2016, Ross graduated with a 2:1 degree in Business and Marketing, and his proud foster carer attended his graduation ceremony on 28 June 2016 (see picture), along with other family members and his social worker at the time. Together, they made Ross's day an extremely memorable event for him.

Helen and her family are extremely proud of Ross's achievements and have maintained contact with him since his placement ended. There is clearly a strong bond between them which was evidenced when he invited the family to see him

graduate and also in his comments which are below:

'The support I had during my time with Helen and her family was great. Having known the family since a very young age through respite stays, I felt very welcome and at home. I was fortunate enough to have stable foster placements and did not have to switch around often. This stability helped me to make plans for my future and not have to worry about being moved on.

'After leaving Helen's just before my 21st birthday, I managed to secure my own flat with the help of the team at Throughcare and Aftercare. The support from their team was great and without the financial contributions towards rent, going to university would have been simply impossible for me. I have now graduated from The University of Edinburgh, one of the most respected universities in the country. It was not easy at all and I definitely struggled at times.



'With passionate people like the Watson family, and the right support mechanisms in place, every looked after child has the potential to achieve whatever they want. Achievements like mine should be attainable for everyone.'

North Ayrshire's fostering celebration



Earlier this year, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership held an award ceremony celebrating the contribution of foster carers who have fostered for five or more years. The total number of years contributed by the foster carers came to more than 500, and as such the event was called '500 Years of Fostering'.

It was a fantastic day for the carers, with lunch, speeches and the awards being presented by provost Joan Sturgeon and councillor Anthea Dickson. Thanks were also given by Iona Colvin, North Ayrshire's director of Health and Social Care

Partnership, recognising the work that foster carers provide.

The foster carers commented that they felt appreciated and valued in their role. Each carer was given a plaque and a certificate in recognition of their contribution to children and young people in North Ayrshire. There were two long-service awards given to Jean and Terry Hart with 37 years, and Jean and Bruce Jackson with 38 years service to fostering.



Exploring the great outdoors!



But now I am set on joining the police force, and am applying for work experience with Police Scotland. It is all thanks to this once in a lifetime opportunity, which helped me to realise my potential and boosted my confidence in every way.'

The foster carer of another young man who took part on the course, Kieran, has also spoken about the impact of the course: 'Kieran has gained so much confidence and self-belief, it is amazing in such a short time.

He has had two interviews for part-time jobs and has already been working for three weeks now. I'm so proud of him.'



Using the mountains, rivers and lakes of the Highlands, Lake District and Snowdonia, the aim of the Award is to enable participants to challenge themselves,

demonstrate progress through 1:1 coaching and action planning, work outside of their normal friendship group and leave with a breadth of experience that will enrich a personal statement and set them apart from their peers.

In 2016, through the support of a very generous donor, the Outward Bound Trust was able to support young people from The Fostering Network on a Skills for Life Award. This is an immensely powerful 19-day outdoor residential experience, which sees 15- to 19-year-olds travel from across the world to take part.

Combining personal development techniques with high adventure, it is a potentially life-shaping opportunity designed to ensure that young people are equipped to make an effective transition onto the next stage of their life, whether this is onto college, university or employment.

15-year-old Lennon from Ardrossan was one of the young people, having heard about the course through The Fostering Network. Describing the experience, Lennon told us:

'I decided to apply for the course because I wanted to change. I wanted to be someone who isn't scared to face new challenges. Although there were some tough times on the course, overall it was the best experience of my life. It has boosted my confidence greatly and I now look forward to new challenges and embrace them rather than shy away from them like I used to.'

Participants take part in a range of exhilarating activities from rock climbing and sea-kayaking to climbing Ben Nevis.

Lennon continued: 'I had never been on holiday anywhere before, and was unsure what I wanted to do after leaving school. I really didn't see myself as having any potential to achieve any sort of decent job.

The Fostering Network is hoping that additional funding will be available to enable more young people to benefit from this fantastic opportunity next year. If you would like to be kept updated on this, please contact Sarah McEnhill:

e scotland@fostering.net, or to find out more about the Skills for Life Award visit: outwardbound.org.uk/skillsforlife

Using the law to promote sibling contact for looked after children

There can be many reasons why looked after children and young people may, against their wishes, lose contact with their siblings. The Fostering Network Scotland is working with Clan Childlaw on a new project set up to look at ways to address this issue through the use of the law and human rights. We are keen to hear real-life (anonymised) examples where a looked after child or young person you know is having difficulty seeking sibling contact.

To share your experiences, or if you would like to know more about this project, please get in touch: **e** scotland@fostering.net



Fostering Community Champions

Please see below for an update on the progress of our four year project.



Sara (pictured right) says: 'I am delighted to take on the role of foster carer champion's project worker working alongside Sue. As a foster carer and previous champion I am passionate about this project, I come from a background of foster caring (13 years with children from 5 to 18) and working in the equine and sports industry as a trainer, tutor, coach and assessor. I am always focused on the support and development of people and look forward to continuing to use these skills in this exciting project. The team in Scotland have been brilliant in their welcome and they are a great group to work with, though I have been bribing them with cakes!'

Sue says: 'Hi, I'm Sue McKellar and I am delighted to be welcomed into The Fostering Network as the young champions project worker. I have been in post since August and I am already amazed at the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the young champions and I am super excited to see what will be achieved in the next few years.'

'Although new to the world of fostering, I have been a children and young people's support worker for nearly 20 years, working in residential childcare and for Women's Aid.'

'Sara and I will keep you updated on all the champions' developments and we look forward to meeting many of you soon. Thanks to everyone at The Fostering Network for making me feel so welcome!'

Welcome to our new project staff

We are really pleased to introduce Sara Smith and Sue McKellar who are our project workers for the Fostering Community Champions project.

Never a wrong time to talk – foster carer champions

As well as all the joys that it brings, foster caring can be a stressful, lonely world. Often foster carers experiencing difficulties have no one they can talk to who really understands what they are going through.

Through the Fostering Community Champions project our foster carer champions aim to bridge this gap. Our group of experienced, trained and supported foster carers can be matched with other foster carers who just need someone to listen to them and support them through a difficult time. The champions do not give an opinion or advice but are there to listen and support, helping carers to make sense of a situation or just to de-stress. To date this has mainly been phone contact but can also be via e-mail.

One champion supporting a carer recently said: 'I can't take their pain away, but I can be there for them.'

Supporting foster carers in this way has been shown to benefit them to such an extent that foster carers have reported improved relationships with supervising social workers, increased confidence at meetings, and those who have been on the verge of giving up have stayed on as foster carers.

Foster carers who have signed up as champions are feeling involved and they are giving something back – using their experiences to support others. Champions attend training, have

regular meetings and take part in social activities to support them in their role. We recently had fun (and the chance to relax) at an art workshop hosted by one of the champions (see picture).

'There is never a wrong time to talk'

If you feel you could benefit from talking with a champion, or if you are a foster carer with a wide range of fostering experience and feel you could be a champion, you can contact us:
t 0141 204 1400 or e scotland@fostering.net



Fife's STAR project – Sophie, one of our young champions, shares her thoughts on rural life

Young champions' film – Give me a chance!

Our young champions are in the final stages of their short film exploring stigma in foster care. Having written the script, designed the set and sorted their costumes, they were ready to direct and star in the film. Our pictures provide a sneak peek of what to expect!

The young champions loved the experience they gained through the filming: 'thank you for one of the best experiences, everything we've done has been amazing.'

If you are a young person and would like to get involved, do get in touch. For more information on the project, contact Sarah McEnhill or Sue McKellar: **e** scotland@fostering.net or **t** 0141 204 1400.

Watch this space for more updates on the production of our film!



'In September I visited the STAR (Sibling Therapeutic Assessment Retreat) project in Fife. STAR is a project run from a farmland in North East Fife. It provides a learning environment for regular, quality sibling contact for brothers and sisters who are separated in the care system or through adoption.

'The farmland has a garden area, a huge wigwam with toys and arts and crafts, a mud kitchen, a greenhouse, and some very friendly animals that all the children can meet. It also has access to the forest and beach close by.

'We visited on a very rainy, windy day and managed to see almost everything – proving that the experience doesn't have to be spoiled by the weather! We kept cosy in the outdoor kitchen, which had a pizza oven and a huge table for everyone to eat together. There is also a summer

house which allows foster carers to relax while the children play outside.

'If my sisters and I had visited during our contact sessions I think I would have loved the garden most, it reminded me of my gran's garden. I think my younger sisters would really love the arts and crafts which are available for all different ages.

'I grew up in a small village so moving into my foster home, with horses, dogs, ducks and chickens on my doorstep, was all new to me. I really enjoyed it from the start and was even happy mucking out the horses. I have seen other children who have come to live with us really love it too. The wee boy we have living with us just now didn't know where eggs came from and now he goes out every day after school and collects the eggs from the chickens and ducks.

'Being outside helps you learn things you wouldn't really learn at school or if you don't live near the countryside. We also have the chance to go out on our bikes as there are no busy roads, I think being outside is really relaxing and can make everyone more chilled out. I think children who don't normally get a chance to play out in the forest and woods or be near to animals should be encouraged to experience it, as it is something they will always remember.'

If you want more information about the STAR Project you can visit their website: www.star.cx



Fosterline Scotland update



While Mirren Taylor, our Fosterline Scotland worker, is on maternity leave, we are delighted to welcome Julie Reid to our team.

Fosterline Scotland receives a large volume of calls from foster carers on completion of tax returns, and the deadline for submitting online tax returns is fast approaching. The HMRC paper return deadline for 2015-2016 tax returns has now passed (31 October 2016), and the online return deadline is: **31 January 2017**.

If your return is late you will be charged a £100 penalty. If your return is more than three months late, you will be charged daily penalties of £10 per day. If you pay late you will be charged interest and a late payment penalty.

Since April 2003, all foster carers are treated as self-employed by HMRC. If you are an approved foster carer then you must be registered with HMRC as self-employed – even if you have no tax to pay.

HMRC's helpline for the newly self-employed is 0300 200 3504 or you can register online at hmrc.gov.uk/sa/register.htm. HMRC has an online e-learning course for foster carers hmrc.gov.uk/courses/syob2/fc/index.htm which provides useful information to help you. This includes information on registering as self-employed; National Insurance and Income Tax; qualifying care relief and how to work out your qualifying amount; tax returns and payments; and also how to claim tax credits and benefits.

Many foster carers have little or no taxable profit from fostering, because of 'qualifying care relief'. Foster carers have to **declare all fostering income** on their tax return. Fostering income includes any



Fosterline Scotland



allowances, fees, expenses and reimbursements paid by a fostering agency or local authority. Foster carers need to do a simple calculation at the end of each tax year to find out what their qualifying amount is for that tax year and whether they have any taxable profit or not. The simple calculation is unique to them and their individual circumstances and is therefore unlikely to be the same as other carers.

Your calculation is:

Step 1. A fixed amount of £10,000 per year and per household (this is applied pro-rata if a carer was approved part of the way through the year)

PLUS An additional amount per child depending on their age - £200 a week for every child aged 0-10 and £250 per week for every child aged 11 and over.

Add together the £10,000 fixed amount (or pro-rata amount) plus the relevant amount per week for each child in placement. A tax week runs from Monday to Sunday.

Step 2. Work out total payments from your fostering service. This is everything that has been paid to you. Your fostering service should give you a statement.

If the total of all the payments a carer receives for fostering is lower than or equal to the qualifying amount then a carer won't pay income tax on these payments. If a carer has an income from fostering above the qualifying amount then they may have to pay income tax on these payments. If a carer has no other income apart from fostering they will have access to their personal tax allowance, which may offset any profit. The personal tax allowance for tax year 2015-16 is £10,600. Carers will have to be paid substantial sums by the local authority or fostering agency before tax is due. Other income from pensions, employment, property and taxable benefits also has to be declared on the tax return. If a carer works part-time or full-time their personal tax allowance may get used up by their wages.

Useful advice and information to help:

- Our free tax workshop on 5 December in Inverness.
- Our signpost booklets: 'Income Tax and National Insurance'.
- Our website: thefosteringnetwork.org.uk
- Fosterline Scotland.

Remember, Fosterline Scotland is here to assist with this query and many other types of queries. Fosterline Scotland 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.

Scottish Children's Reporter launches updated fact sheets



SCOTTISH
CHILDREN'S REPORTER
ADMINISTRATION

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has recently produced and published updated fact sheets about the Children's Hearings System.

SCRA has a suite of 15 fact sheets covering a range of subjects including: the Role of the Reporter, Child Protection, Alcohol and Drugs, Deprivation and Youth Offending. The fact sheets are available in the resources section of SCRA's website and can be printed off: <http://tinyurl.com/z9ylgy9>

Each fact sheet outlines SCRA's fundamental purpose, and contains facts, figures and information on each subject, including new data from 2015-16.

The fact sheets are reviewed annually to ensure they are kept up-to-date, and new ones are occasionally added to reflect the evolving landscape of the Children's Hearings System.

SCRA would be interested to hear of any further related subjects which you think should be added to the list - please email to let them know:

ecommunications@scra.gsi.gov.uk

The Launch of Foster Walk Scotland!

On 11 September 2016, foster families from across Scotland came together to raise vital funds for our charity. Two foster walks were held that day: our official walk in Glasgow's beautiful Pollok Park, and one organised by Gloria Potter, a member of our Scottish Advisory Committee, in rural Stonehaven (see Gloria's article below).

As you will see from the photographs (with thanks to Amy Davidson), we were very fortunate with the weather. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the many families who took part, as well as the volunteers who helped out and all those who raised money for us to continue our important work supporting foster families across Scotland.

Roll on Foster Walk 2017!



Stonehaven Foster Walk

'We had a lovely walk from Fetteresso Church through Mineralwell and Baird Park, Stonehaven, on Sunday 11 September to coincide with the Glasgow Walk. The day was beautifully captured by our photographer Ian Shewan.

'One or two of our company had disabilities and illness, but this did not hold them back. One couple raised £87.50 and they were delighted to put all that money into my hands to send on to The Fostering Network Scotland. One lady who has cancer kept walking, she fell, picked herself up and just kept walking. One family who brought their own children wanted to support the idea that all children will be cared for. One family who had been involved in a bad car accident a few years ago in which their son broke his neck, wanted to say thanks to all the folk that rallied round in their time of need. Their son is now doing his doctorate at Oxford University. One lady who is a cleaner has a big heart for children and families - she

makes the toast and snacks at the parent and toddlers group and just makes time for people and listens to them whatever their age. My husband and I were very humbled at the commitment they showed in supporting The Fostering Network walk.

'As we walked round, we remembered all of our 17 foster children and gave a grateful little cheer for one who has a happy family of her own now; one who is a sports instructor; one who is at university studying IT and engineering; one who is developing her skills in sales, and all the laughs we had

and all the trials of life we had together as we lived and worked out our extended family life – I would not trade this for the world. If one were to ask why foster...we have 17 good reasons...what about you? We found this walk a wonderful and visible witness in the community that fostering is a valuable and valued family network.

Together through the walk...we raised over £800!



Let's Go Festive!



Warm up your winter with our festive challenges!

As the nights draw in, we are excited to be launching a new Let's Go booklet to encourage children to head outdoors and explore their creative side with our new festive challenge booklet: Let's Go Festive!

All foster families will have received their own copy inside this newsletter. If you would like more copies, just let us know. We want to encourage foster families to head outdoors to discover the changes in nature, to create a decoration and to make a gift.

All children who complete challenges will be rewarded with a themed certificate and gold medal. Rather than being the best, we want to celebrate every individual doing their best - Let's Go enables everyone to be a winner!

Once you've completed your challenge booklet, send it back to us here at The Fostering Network Scotland to claim your certificate and medal. If you would like additional copies of this, or any of our other Let's Go booklets, please do get in touch: **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net



Join us for a festive fundraiser!

On Thursday 8 December, the Glasgow branch of Crabtree & Evelyn will be hosting a fundraising event in aid of our charity.

Tickets cost just £10, and all those who attend will receive a goody bag worth £10 (the perfect Christmas gift!), and also a mini hand treatment, demonstrations and a fragrance layering session. Refreshments will also be available.

Thursday 8 December, 6-8pm
Crabtree & Evelyn
Princes Square, Buchanan Street, Glasgow

There are a limited number of tickets, so if you would like to come along do get in touch as soon as possible. Contact Linda Bowie: **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net



While you're feeling festive - our annual e-card competition is here again!

Once again it's time for The Fostering Network to invite you to take part in our festive e-card competition. We love receiving your pictures, and are looking for festive images from children and young people up to the age of 15.

Our festive e-card winner will be sent out by email across Scotland to everyone we work with, and the others will provide our Glasgow office with some festive cheer!

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

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



Merry Christmas
By Sophie aged 14

Have you secured your place on our latest training courses yet?

New suite now open

We are delighted to have officially opened our new training suite, housed in our Ingram Street offices – a prized location right in the centre of Glasgow! Our training courses book up fast, so do keep an eye open for new ones coming up, and make sure you secure your place.

Are you looking for a venue for a meeting or event? Our new training suite is available at competitive rates (holds a maximum 20 people).

Please contact Linda Curran for more information: **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net



Spotlight on Kay Jackson, one of our trainers



“ I have been a foster carer for 21 years and have cared for a number of children of varying ages, abilities and circumstances. I also am a member of the Scottish Advisory Group for The Fostering Network. These two roles have given me some of the relevant knowledge and experience to facilitate training on behalf of The Fostering Network which I have done for a number of years.

Receiving, Giving and Storing Information, which is now available as an open course, has been developed from

the perspective of the young person, the foster carer and the social work department. We all handle information all the time, but what is the purpose of collecting this information? What do we do with it? Does anyone ever look at it?

We look at what is being recorded, how much to record – should I be recording every day for a permanent child?

Young people in the looked after system have probably never had so much written about them, photographs taken, records kept at every turn. Foster carers have had a huge increase in the amount of records they need to keep, many changes in legislation to keep abreast of and may feel that this can take away from what they love to do: spend time with the children.

This course will give opportunities to discuss all these issues and help us to think about how we can do what is necessary in a way that is helpful for both the young person and the foster carer. ”

If you would like to book a place on our Receiving, Giving and Storing Information course, or any other training course, please see below.

Receiving, Giving and Storing Information

Wednesday 9 November 2016 and
Wednesday 11 January 2017
Glasgow

Price: members £110.00 plus VAT/
non-member £220.00 plus VAT

The Role of the Supervising Social Worker

Wednesday 18 and Thursday
19 January 2017
Glasgow

Price: members £215.00 plus VAT/
non-member £430.00 plus VAT

All our courses include lunch. To secure your place, or if you would be interested in holding one of our courses in-house, please contact Joy Crawford:

t 0141 204 1400

e scotland@fostering.net or visit:

thefosteringnetwork.org.uk

Education - getting the support your foster child needs

If you are concerned about the education or additional support needs of a child in your care, talking to their school is a good place to start. If you have done this and are still unhappy, you could consider using mediation. By law, education authorities must provide an independent additional support needs mediation service free of charge for parents, carers and young people.

Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process where an independent person – the mediator – helps those involved in a disagreement to explain their concerns to each other and find a shared solution both parties are happy with. Any disagreement about the education of a child with additional support needs can be referred to mediation. Using mediation will not affect your rights to take the matter further later on.

If you would like more information on this, please come along to our education workshop, led by Sandra Mitchell, Mediation Manager for Additional Support for Learning, Children in Scotland:

Tuesday 6 December 2016
Edinburgh

Time: 10am – 1pm

The workshop is free for foster carer members.
To secure your place: **e** scotland@fostering.net
or **t** 0141 204 1400.



Dates for your diary ...

Wednesday 9 November 2016

Receiving, Giving and Storing Information (Page 11)

Tuesday 15 November 2016

Head, Heart, Hands seminar and parliamentary reception

Monday 5 December 2016

Tax workshop (Page 8)

Tuesday 6 December 2016

Education workshop (Page 12)

Wednesday 7 December 2016

E-card competition deadline (Page 10)

Thursday 8 December 2016

Crabtree & Evelyn festive fundraiser (Page 10)

Wednesday 11 January 2017

Receiving, Giving and Storing Information (Page 11)

Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January 2017

The Role of the Supervising Social Worker (Page 11)



If you are interested in attending any of these events:
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The Fostering Network Scotland...



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