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Hello everyone



I hope you are all enjoying the longer nights – summer is on its way!

We launched our young champions' film, Give Me a Chance, during a fantastic event held at the Scottish Parliament on 30 March. Our cover photo shows the four young champions who starred in the film – Lauren, Chloe, Amy and Sophie – alongside Mark McDonald, Minister for Childcare and Early Years. The event was sponsored by Liam McArthur MSP who we are extremely grateful to. We would encourage all of you to visit The Fostering Network's YouTube channel and search for 'Give Me a Chance' to enable you to view our inspiring film.

We were also delighted to be joined by Fiona Duncan, the new chair of the root and branch review of care. We look

forward to working closely with Fiona in the months ahead. If you would like to get involved, turn to page 3 to find out how.

As you will see in the article below, we have recently started our new Walking Tall project and are in the process of recruiting for the post of children's participation worker. The project will reach out to primary school aged children across Scotland – both the sons and daughters of foster carers and children in foster care. Keep an eye on our website and future editions of this newsletter for more information.

Foster Care Fortnight is about to kick off and I would encourage all of you to get involved. We will be hosting a range of events, including an invitation-only

celebration event on 13 May at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. For more information on how you can get involved in this year's Foster Care Fortnight, see page 10.

The last edition of our newsletter included an article by Mark McDonald, during which he encouraged foster carers across Scotland to contact him to share 'any challenges you have experienced and of course, examples of good practice' by emailing e looked_after_children@gov.scot

We are delighted to share with you the letter of a foster carer who has emailed the Minister, using his experience to highlight some of the difficulties faced when children in care reach adulthood (see pages 4 and 5). I would encourage all of you to share your issues, either with us or with Mark McDonald directly.

I would also encourage all foster carers to contact Nicola Sturgeon to urge her to ensure Scotland is brought in line with the rest of the UK by introducing minimum allowances. A template letter and email to the First Minister is available on our website should you want to get involved in this important issue. We continue to campaign on this, and will do so until it is satisfactorily resolved.

Finally, all foster carers will have received a copy of our newly designed Fosterline Scotland magnet. Why not stick this on your fridge now so our helpline number is always to hand should an issue arise that you wish to discuss?

Until next time,

Sara Lurie,
Director for Scotland

Walking Tall – supporting children across Scotland

We were delighted when we were awarded just under £150,000 by the Big Lottery Fund for a new two-year project, Walking Tall. The project started in April, and we are in the process of recruiting for the post of part-time children's participation worker.

Walking Tall will bring together children in foster care and the sons and daughters

of foster carers through a range of events such as drama, play and dance workshops, to develop their confidence, self-esteem and life skills. The project will facilitate sessions to help children combat negative life events, helping them to develop a positive sense of self. We will also engage and consult with children, including disabled children, to produce and distribute new resources which will benefit all children in

foster care. Through this project, children will have the opportunity to feel proud of their history, make sense of their often traumatic past, and learn to 'walk tall'.

Watch this space for more information on our exciting new project!



LOTTERY FUNDED

Independent root and branch care review

Fiona Duncan, who has been appointed to chair the root and branch review of care, has sent the following message to foster carers:



Fiona Duncan talking to our young champions at the 'Give Me a Chance' film premiere

“ I'm delighted to be appointed as the chair of the independent review of Scotland's care system. Everywhere I go, I am given such a warm welcome with everyone sharing their hopes about what this review can - and must - do.

It is my role to ensure that the review delivers and implements lasting change for Scotland's children and young people. This is complex and challenging and cannot be achieved without really listening to and taking account of the views of a whole host of people and organisations.

The lived experience and wisdom of people will be at the very heart of this review from its beginning through to its end: children and young people in care, care leavers – young and old – and their families and carers have a vital place in this review.

To be a success, the review must also understand the experiences, change efforts and views of individuals and organisations working with and for vulnerable children and families. As foster carers, you have such experience to bring to inform the review and to inform my thinking.

This is a real opportunity to ensure a lasting legacy by being thoughtful about how the review is delivered. So whilst the review will 'propose changes to the care system that will improve both the quality of life and outcomes of young people in care,' it will also look for ways to build on the strengths of what is already working.

Strong values of inclusion, equality and being child-centred will permeate everything this review does.

We will start with 'root and branch' and be absolutely clear about what this means. So the first phase of the review is about discovery. To support this phase, I am setting up an external group of key individuals and organisations: the discovery review group. Together we will plan the effective delivery of the review and help guide and support the wide-ranging conversation that needs to take place to reach a consensus on:

What does a root and branch review of the care system mean to you?

What would the best care system in the world look like and how to achieve this?

This review will only truly deliver the change required if we are all taking part in the discussion and debate, and listening to and respecting the views of others.

Please do join the conversation. Your views as foster carers are critical and central to the review as are the voices of the children and young people you look after.

Join the conversation and keep up to date with us by visiting:

www.carereview.scot



Continuing Care

Fostering services have been in touch with us at The Fostering Network to seek clarification on the approval of foster carers as carers for young people over the age of 18, such as through Continuing Care. Each service providing such placements will need to be registered as a foster care service and also an adult placement service. In addition, the carer will need to undergo a formal process of assessment and approval at panel. This could be carried out at the same panel as the fostering panel, but the

recommendation would need to clearly evidence how the carer can provide care for an adult placement. A foster carer can't be approved to care for a young person aged 19 but instead would need to be approved as a foster carer for up to 18 years and as an adult placement carer for 18-19 years.

As this newsletter goes to print, the Care Inspectorate is due to publish guidance to support this – please keep an eye on our website for further updates.



A Letter to the Minister

We are pleased to share with you a foster carer's letter written to Mark McDonald MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years. He eloquently outlines the difficulties faced by foster carers across Scotland as the children in their care reach adulthood - an issue The Fostering Network continues to raise with the Scottish Government and we hope will be addressed in the root and branch care review (see page 3).

Dear Sir,

My partner and I proudly foster two amazing young people. L and G are brother and sister who arrived with us in June 2015. They will be 16 and 13 in April. Along with all the normal dramas of life, they have to negotiate a system that professes to hold the child at the centre of everything. We would all argue differently.

In the time that they have lived with us, L has gone from a shy, reserved stand-in mother to a confident, bright and articulate teenager who is discovering the young woman she is becoming. She has dreams of becoming a teacher. G is now a confident, outgoing, sporty, kind young man who has a positive relationship with his sister.

This is a far cry from the boy who used to need weekly meetings at his school due to various behavioural challenges.

As L is about to turn 16, the local authority is now starting to talk about her leaving care pathway. This fills both her and us with dread.

As a 15-year-old girl she is not ready. Given that so much of her life has been plagued by uncertainty, she seeks the stability and reassurance a long term/permanent foster placement offers. This will involve staying on in school, attending college or university and moving on when her education is finished. Realistically this will be when she finishes her degree and has a secure job, probably no earlier than when she turns 22.

Throughout this time, she will be supported both emotionally and financially by ourselves as her foster family and will remain, at her wish, living with us and her younger brother. As a family we are trying to make plans for the future, both practically and financially, but with so many unknowns it's becoming almost impossible.

The next milestone for L will be 18. This is an age when many young people take gap years, go travelling, move to student halls during term time or carry on to further and higher education. For L, 18 spells uncertainty. Will she be able to do any of the things I mentioned? We would love to be in a position to offer all of these opportunities to her but the limitations of the current legislation and levels of support seem to limit the life chances available to her. Current guidance can be interpreted in various different ways, perhaps deliberately or by design. One size does not fit all when dealing with the often complex and challenging circumstance of children in care.

Local authorities have ever shrinking budgets and with no compulsory requirement to offer continued financial support or provide extended care for young people reaching an age of 17, we are at a loss as to what we do and how we plan going forward. It appears that helping them to exit the care system is the preferred way forward, rather than supporting them to attain their life dreams with the support a foster family can provide.

My analysis may be crass and somewhat cynical but is formed through discussions with experienced carers and care professionals who feel powerless to prevent the death march some of the young people are placed on.

It would seem that the ever appropriate buzzword phrase of a 'postcode lottery' would be appropriate. Had L and G fallen under the care of Glasgow City Council and wished to continue further and higher education, then they would be funded at existing levels until they were 21, with further financial support given to teach them to budget and manage their money. But where we are, young people receive a much reduced package of support which, in turn, limits the chances, choices and opportunities afforded to them both; this disparity is unfair. It quite simply leaves us in an impossible situation. Current legislation would seem to rely on the charity of foster carers not to turn young people out.

L and G were taken into care on the promise that life would be better. Initially, through failed placements this was not the case. However, days are better now and L and G feel they are loved, secure and happy where they are at present. Why then should there be a limitation on how long they can choose to stay in this safe environment? Why should the state who were so keen to protect and shield L and G then decide at 18 they will be ready to face life alone?

I would beg that our Government acts quickly and decisively to show the world how we support, encourage and invest in our most vulnerable young people.

To go forward allowing children in Scotland to have their life chances and opportunities dictated to by the local authority they happen to be accommodated by is at best shameful. Why is a child born in Glasgow worth more than one born in Paisley?

As foster carers we want to know what we can count on in terms of financial support, up to and including the age of 22, for the young people we are privileged to look after.

We must do better for those who not only have the ability but are desperately reaching for the opportunity, only to have their most basic of needs thrown into disarray at the worst possible moment.

I await your response and thank you for your attention.

Kind regards

a foster carer

[name withheld for confidentiality]



Fostering Community Champions

Read our update on this page and next



Our young champion Amy (in the centre of the photo) has been travelling the country to speak with foster carers about her experience of being in care and the importance of permanence, as well as speaking about her work with the young champions.

Our young champions have attended a number of support groups, as well as presenting at conferences. They are dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people in foster care, and sharing their own experiences and knowledge with foster carers can help give an understanding of what it feels like for a child coming into foster care.

One foster carer told us that hearing from Amy reaffirmed that he had made the correct decision to give up his career to foster as he knew he was making a positive difference to children's lives.

If you would like a young champion to speak with your support group about any issue in fostering, please contact Sue McKellar, young champions project worker: e.scotland@fostering.net

Keep an eye out for our Digital Safety Training: Staying Safe Online, which has been written and presented by young champions.

Adam - A young champion in profile



'Show young people you believe in them. Smile. Set the bar high.'

Adam, one of our young champions, recently gave a fantastic presentation at the Enquire conference with Children in Scotland. He spoke about how getting the right support can make all the difference to care-experienced young people: 'I had two very strong teachers at school who helped bridge the gap between not just moving schools, but moving homes. I wanted to share this with teachers at the conference to show them exactly what positive effects they can have on a child's life. I think it's important teachers know some of the background of children.

'Those of us in care don't need to be "let off" from doing homework, but it would help if you understood there may be reasons why school is hard for us. A lot of children who have come into

care haven't had a lot of smiles at home – smiling in the classroom can show them you care. Children and young people can give up if they think they might fail, teaching them that they can aim high and keep going is invaluable.'

Adam explained to a captivated audience that his foster carer encouraging him to believe in his own ability, and telling him to aim for university, made all the difference to his own attitude of what he was capable of.

Adam believes that it doesn't take much to make school a positive experience for children in care, all they need is someone to believe in them, a smile and to set the bar high.

Young champions' film premiere: Give Me a Chance

On 30 March, The Fostering Network and our young champions welcomed foster carers, children and young people, fostering service staff and MSPs from throughout Scotland to a parliamentary reception hosted by Liam McArthur MSP to showcase our film, Give Me a Chance. The short, three-minute film tackles the stigma faced by many young people in care and promotes the positive changes foster care can and does make to children's lives and futures.

The young champions are young people who are, or who have been, in foster care and the sons and daughters of foster carers. Having scripted, starred in and co-directed Give Me a Chance, supported by The Fostering Network, they presented the film and discussed the issues raised with an audience which included Mark McDonald MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years.



This film, and the voice of the young champions, is particularly relevant given the 'root and branch' review of care currently underway. The young champions enjoyed the opportunity to speak with Fiona Duncan, chair of the care review, about her plans.

Our young champions said: 'We made this film because we wanted to highlight the challenges children and young people can face in everyday life when placed into care, which is no fault of their own. This film is the experiences of nine people rolled into one.'

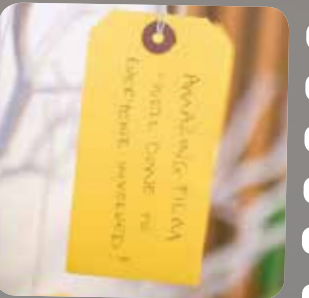
'We chose the medium of film because we personally don't usually pick up leaflets when out and about, but if something of interest is on social media we are more inclined to click on it and share it with our friends.'

'This film is for everyone - for those in care themselves and carers, teachers, social workers and for classmates of anyone who is in care.'

'We hope people discuss the positive impact a foster placement can have on the life of a child/young person and how, when given the chance, any child can achieve their positive potential.'

To view the film, go to The Fostering Network's YouTube channel and search for Give Me a Chance or visit the Fostering Community Champions page of our website.

To contact the young champions to discuss the film, or any issues raised in the film: **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net



Foster carer champions - update

Foster carer champions have had a busy start to the year, successfully supporting a number of carers throughout Scotland. It is always heartening to hear the positive outcomes for carers supported through difficult times. Areas covered recently have included: historic allegations, teenagers running away, relationships with supervising social workers, emotional support following the breakdown of placements and more. Having a listening ear and someone to talk to at these difficult times has proved to be invaluable and resulted in carers remaining as carers when they were on the verge of giving up.

Sara Smith, project worker, has had the privilege of meeting and speaking with

some potential new carer champions and visiting current champions to sign them up to the end of the project in August 2018. 'It is great to get round carers and hear their stories and find out how they can be involved in the project going forward.'

As we move into the final 18 months of the project, we will be ensuring foster carer champions continue to provide support and will also be exploring opportunities for them to be involved in wider consultations and developments.

To date, champions have had a session looking at how carers can support contact for children and young people and the information gathered will be used to create a

booklet and training workshop. We aim to use the vast knowledge of carers to help create better training, inform changes and the future of foster care - so exciting times ahead.

The foster carer champions were involved with the recent premiere of the young champions' film – Give Me a Chance – held at the Scottish Parliament, attending to view the film and as carers of some of the young people involved. It was an emotional time for all.

Remember, if you would like a listening ear, someone to talk through your issues with, contact us on: **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net

Young Scot calls out to young people

Year of Young People 2018

Young Scot is also offering the opportunity for young people to get involved in the Year of Young People 2018.

They are looking for young people (aged 18 to 26) from all over Scotland to become Year of Young People 2018 Ambassadors. Get involved, and represent the Year of Young People 2018 in your local community!

Through the whole of the Year of Young People 2018, Young Scot will be celebrating the achievements of young people and their valuable contribution to communities. They will be part of a Scotland-wide team creating new opportunities for young people to shine locally, nationally and globally.

The Year of Young People 2018 is an important year for the whole of Scotland and we need your help.

With your help, the Year of Young People 2018 will provide a platform for young people to have their views heard and acted upon. You will be helping to showcase the amazing talents of young people through events and the media and developing better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations. You will also be recognising the impact of teachers, youth workers and other supporting adults on young people's lives and developing and providing opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities.

As Young Ambassador 2018 you will be:

- representing the Year of Young People 2018 in your local community
- supporting partners to ensure the success of the Year of Young People 2018
- promoting and creating events and activities in your area
- attending national events and training with other Ambassadors from all over Scotland
- taking part in a Dynamic Youth Award or Youth Achievement Award
- building new skills and meeting loads of new people.

To apply and find out more information visit: yoyp2018.scot and follow [#YoYP2018](https://twitter.com/YoYP2018) on Twitter. If you have any questions, require more information about 2018 Young Ambassadors or would like posters or leaflets promoting Year of Young People 2018 Ambassador Programme, please email 2018yoyp@young.scot.



Would you like to be mentored by the First Minister?

Imagine what you could achieve with Scotland's First Minister beside you...

Young Scot is working with the Scottish Government to find an aspiring young woman (aged 18 to 23 on 8 March 2017, International Women's Day) to be mentored by the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Mentoring is a powerful way of helping young women achieve their goals and will help to create a new generation of positive role models to inspire other young women. If you are a young woman, or you identify yourself as a young woman, aged 18 to 23, and are bold, brilliant and courageous about the future, we want to hear from you.

During the mentoring programme, you will have at least four private meetings with the First Minister. There may be additional opportunities depending on your interests, and the opportunity to work with the media. The mentoring experience will take place between June 2017 and March 2018.

During your experience, Young Scot will work with you to create additional activities and opportunities to expand your skills and help you to realise your goals. These could be speaking engagements, attendance at board meetings or shadowing experiences to help you to develop your projects, ideas and leadership skills.

As you apply, Young Scot will need a few details about you, your circumstance and your hopes and aspirations for the future. You can be passionate about any topic or idea. We are looking for someone who will really benefit from spending time with the First Minister and will grasp the opportunity with both hands.

All young women (or young people who identify as female) living in Scotland aged between 18 and 23 (as of 8 March 2017) are welcome to apply.

Young Scot is committed to ensuring the applicants come from diverse backgrounds, ages and geographies, and that we receive applications from young people with additional support needs. The Scottish Government will meet all reasonable expenses, including childcare and travel.

You can download the application form at: young.scot/media/7485/fm-mentoring-application.docx or contact June Osborne [e juneo@young.scot](mailto:juneo@young.scot) or, alternatively visit: surveygizmo.eu/s3/90028206/FirstMinisterMentoring to apply online

Please note: The deadline for applications is 30 May 2017.



Fosterline Scotland update

Inserted in this newsletter, all foster carers will have received one of our new Fosterline Scotland magnets. We would encourage foster carers to place this on your fridge and, should you feel in need of advice or support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Fosterline Scotland has received a number of calls from foster carers asking about educational maintenance allowance (EMA) for birth children. EMA provides financial support to eligible 16- to 19-year olds who want to continue learning. It consists of a weekly payment of £30, paid fortnightly in arrears.

Who can get EMA (eligibility)?

Any young person aged between 16 and 19, who is 16 or older before 30 September 2017 and planning to continue post-compulsory education, may be eligible for EMA from the beginning of the academic year.

The award is based on household income, and local authorities look at the fostering fee when making a financial assessment for foster carers' own children.



It has been brought to our attention that some local authorities are including the fostering allowances in their calculations. The Scottish Government has confirmed with us that the allowance is not part of the financial assessment.

Young people in care who are in education are eligible for EMA without having to provide evidence of household income. The young person's social worker should support the young person and foster carer to apply for EMA.

Those who meet the eligibility criteria need to apply directly to their school or college.

For more information on this, please visit the EMA website:

mygov.scot/ema/can-i-get-ema/

If you have had any issues regarding EMA, please do not hesitate to contact Fosterline Scotland.

Fosterline Scotland is here to support you with these and many other types of query! Our Fostering Scotland service is open Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm. Please get in touch if you have a query you would like help with: **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** fosterlinescotland@fostering.net

You can also call our legal helpline on **t** 0345 013 5004 or our stress helpline on **t** 0345 074 2799. Both are open all day, every day.

Save the date - Foster Walk Scotland!

Due to the success of last year's event, we are delighted to announce the date for Foster Walk Scotland 2017. Why not join us on Sunday 10 September 2017, for a family-friendly event in Glasgow's beautiful Pollok Park?

Enjoy a fun family walk, while raising money to help us continue our work transforming the lives of children in foster care. We are delighted that we will once again be joined by a park ranger who will help bring the surroundings to life, and we would recommend you bring along a picnic to enjoy.

Walkers are encouraged to dress in orange and challenged to raise just £75 individually or £100 as a family. We can provide you with a Foster Walk fundraising pack, and give you advice on setting up an online giving page.

To register, please head to our website: thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/foster-walk. There is a registration fee of £11.99 per family or £5.99 per adult.

We look forward to seeing you there!





Foster Care Fortnight 2017: foster care transforms lives

With Foster Care Fortnight 2017 just days away - it runs from Monday 8 until Sunday 21 May 2017 - there are a number of ways that you, your family and your fostering service can get involved in the fortnight.

As the UK's biggest celebration of foster care and the highlight of the foster carer recruitment calendar, we need everyone involved in fostering in Scotland to help shine the spotlight on the transformational power of foster care.

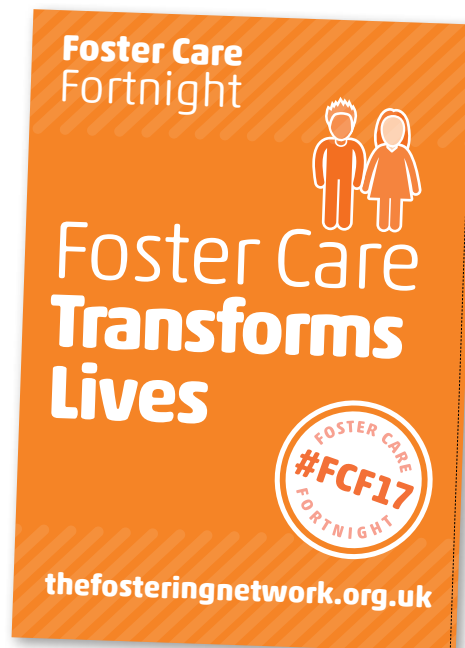
Get involved

- Put up the poster – on the back of Foster Care magazine is a poster for Foster Care Fortnight. We'd love you to display it somewhere prominent so that all across Scotland there can be no mistaking that it's Foster Care Fortnight.



- Show that you're **#ProudtoFoster** – download a placard (bit.ly/FCF17placards), take a photo and share it online using the hashtag **#ProudtoFoster**. And if you know people who are not (yet!) foster carers they can show their support too by using the **#ProudtoSupportFostering** placard.
- Email your MSPs – visit our website and email your political representatives (bit.ly/FCF17politicians) telling them why you are proud to foster. If you can include a photo with a placard that would be even better. We would be delighted if every MSP in Scotland heard from their foster carer constituents.
- Sign up to our Thunderclap – a Thunderclap is a way of getting a single message (it's Foster Care Fortnight!) out to thousands of people at the same time on social media. If you have a Twitter or Facebook account, please sign up to our Foster Care Fortnight Thunderclap (<http://bit.ly/FCF17thunderclap>) before 8 May and help us get the message out.

- Tell your friends, family, neighbours and colleagues about fostering – Foster Care Fortnight is all about raising awareness of fostering, and the best people to do that are foster carers and others involved in the care of children and young people.



Spotlight on Jim Briggs and our Finance in Foster Care course

My wife and I have been foster carers with Edinburgh Council for over 30 years and I am a self-employed accountant specialising in income tax. I assist The Fostering Network to deliver training courses to foster carers, shared lives carers and kinship carers on their income tax responsibilities.

A course will normally run from 9.30am to 2.30pm with a break for lunch.

HMRC regards all foster carers as being self-employed and as such it is mandatory that every carer must register with HMRC and complete a tax return.

The most important aspect of the course is to convey to carers that they are not alone in this minefield of taxation legislation. We stress that Fosterline Scotland, The Fostering Network's helpline, is only a phone call away



should they encounter difficulties. A carer may think that their tax problem is peculiar to them, but we find that the same questions and worries are repeated in every course.

Each carer receives a folder giving summaries of points discussed in the course.

They are shown how to calculate both their income as a carer and the extra carer allowances they are entitled to, and how to complete and submit an online tax return, with paper copies of the completed tax return and the finalised income tax computation.

I would urge all carers to read their quarterly Fostering in Scotland newsletter to find out where and when tax courses are to be held and come along and meet us. Hopefully we will help you overcome your cares and concerns about this very important topic.

The Finance and Foster Care course can be purchased as an in-house training course. For more details contact Joy Crawford: **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net

'The difference The Fostering Network made to me'

'My name is Michelle Orr. I have just completed the three day The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers course. I found this course insightful and have learned new tools in how to deliver this training course within my fostering organisation.

'The Fostering Network is an organisation that I hold very dear to my heart. I did the Stepping Out and Moving On project training course, allowing me to deliver training to my peers, back in 2000 and 2001 when I was 18 years old. This course gave me the confidence and ability to be part of a great young people's project that was designed for young people in foster care as well as sons and daughters of foster carers.

'During my time I did lots of voluntary work such as presenting workshops and speaking at conferences aimed at social workers and other fostering agencies.

'We travelled around Scotland and parts of Ireland. I was also a team leader at a summer camp in Aviemore which was a lot of fun.



'I now work for a fostering agency as a child and youth care worker, and I feel being involved with The Fostering Network all those years ago has been a major factor in me deciding to work within the care profession.

'It was great to see some familiar faces while I was doing the recent The Skills to Foster training and being back in old familiar territory really got me thinking about some of the amazing times I had there.

'I brought in some of my training certificates that I received from The Fostering Network back when I was a young person and shared them with the staff there. Everyone was pleasantly surprised to see that I still had them after all these years.

'I am a sentimental person and I always keep certificates that I have achieved in my life as it's a reminder of the good things I have done. It is also important to me, as being a child who was once in care and who was often passed from pillar to post, I didn't always have many positive things to keep so now when I do achieve anything in my life it means so much to me.

'I am really pleased to hear that The Fostering Network is still offering training and projects to young people, and I hope they enjoy it just as much as I did.

'I would like to say a big thank you to everyone at The Fostering Network for everything you did for me. I am forever grateful.'

Glasgow training suite available for hire!

Our training suite, which holds up to 20 people and is situated in a prized location in the centre of Glasgow, is now well established and available for hire! Are you looking for a venue for a meeting or event? Our rates are competitive.

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



Available open courses – Filling up fast!

As well as offering courses in-house, we are continuing to deliver our open courses in our new training suite. Upcoming open courses, all being held at the new training suite in our Glasgow office with lunch included, are:

Managing Allegations Against Foster Carers (for foster carers, though social workers can attend)

Wednesday 31 May 2017
Price: members £110.00 plus VAT/
non-members £220.00 plus VAT

Men Who Foster Open Course

Wednesday 7 June 2017
Price: members £110.00 plus VAT/
non-members £220.00 plus VAT

The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers (for foster carers, though social workers can attend)

Tues 20, Wed 21 and Thurs 22 June 2017
Price: members £310.00 plus VAT/
non-members £620.00 plus VAT

The Role of the Supervising Social Worker (for foster carers and social workers)

Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 October 2017
Price: members £215.00 plus VAT/
non-members £430.00 plus VAT

Our courses book up fast, so to secure your place on one of the above open courses, or to enquire about running one of our courses in-house, please contact Joy Crawford:
t: 0141 204 1400
e: scotland@fostering.net
thefosteringnetwork.org.uk

Consent and Confidentiality - Free workshop for foster carers

As part of our Health Matters project, we are delighted to continue working in partnership with Action for Sick Children Scotland to deliver a free workshop for foster carer members on consent and confidentiality.

This workshop explores the medical rights of children in foster care, aiming to provide foster carers with:

- an understanding and knowledge of children's rights in a medical setting
- a chance to explore these rights as they relate to foster carers
- an introduction to the specific issues of consent and confidentiality when accompanying a child in foster care who has healthcare needs
- an opportunity through interactive activities (including quizzes and case studies) to apply their knowledge to different situations
- increased confidence when they encounter situations in which these issues apply.

The workshop is free of charge to foster carer members, and includes lunch. It will be held on **Monday 19 June** in Edinburgh. It was held in Glasgow on 27 April.

To secure your place on the Edinburgh workshop, please contact Linda Bowie:
e scotland@fostering.net
t 0141 204 1400.



Dates for your diary ...

Monday 8 May to Sunday 21 May 2017
Foster Care Fortnight (Page 10)

Thursday 11 May 2017
Education workshop

Wednesday 31 May 2017
Managing Allegations against Foster Carers (Page 11)

Wednesday 7 June 2017
Men Who Foster Open Course (Page 11)

Monday 19 June 2017
Consent and Confidentiality workshop (Page 12)

Sunday 10 September 2017
FosterWalk Scotland (Page 9)

Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September 2017
The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers (Page 11)

Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 October 2017
The Role of the Supervising Social Worker (Page 11)



If you are interested in attending any of these events:
t 0141 204 1400 or e scotland@fostering.net

The Fostering Network Scotland...



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