

The
Fostering
Network

FOSTERING IN Scotland

issue 58

The newsletter of **The Fostering Network** Scotland

Summer 2017

In this issue:

- Letter to foster carers from the Minister
- Our Dynamic Earth celebrate event
- Moving into Adulthood - new course
- And more!

Hello everyone



across Scotland to celebrate the enormous contribution foster carers make to Scotland's children. Mark McDonald, Minister for Childcare and Early Years, who attended the event, wrote to all foster carers during Foster Care Fortnight, and we are pleased to share his letter with you on pages 4 and 5. Fiona Duncan, chair of the root and branch review of care, also attended the event at Our Dynamic Earth and was delighted to meet with so many foster carers, children and young people. We are working closely with Fiona and would encourage all our readers to become involved in the care review by visiting the website: carereview.scot.

Our training courses are continuously oversubscribed and many are purchased by fostering services for their foster carers and social workers. We have recently launched a new course entitled Moving into Adulthood. This provides an opportunity for foster

I am delighted to tell you that we have had confirmation from the Scottish Government that the Minister has agreed that a national review of care allowances should be progressed and this is likely to be in the autumn. As many of you know, The Fostering Network has been campaigning tirelessly for a national minimum fostering allowance across Scotland and we hope this will now be progressed without any further delay. Thank you to all of you who contacted the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, and your MSPs in support of this campaign.

As you can see from our cover photo and feature on page 6, our Foster Care Fortnight event at Our Dynamic Earth was a huge success – it was a pleasure to bring together the fostering community from



Stop press!
Scottish Government update
We have had recent confirmation that the Minister of care allowances should be progressed and this is likely to begin in the autumn.

carers to consider how to support young people who remain with them in a Continuing Care placement. Read more about this on page 11 and make sure you get in touch with Joy Crawford as soon as possible if you would like to attend or request a date for this to be delivered to your fostering service.

Chloe, one of our young champions, has headed off to Tanzania to build houses and is featured in the inset photo with her brother and sister before heading off to her prom. We are extremely proud of all our young champions, and wish Chloe the best of luck on her venture.

Finally, our small Glasgow team is gradually expanding, and we are delighted to welcome Kirsteen Marshall as children's participation worker on our Walking Tall project, and to welcome back Mirren Taylor, our Fosterline Scotland worker, who has been on maternity leave.

Until next time,

Sara Lurie

Sara Lurie,
Director for Scotland

Foster Walk Glasgow – don't miss out, register now!

After the success of last year's event, why not join us on Sunday 10 September 2017 and participate in Foster Walk Glasgow, a family-friendly walk (approximately 5k) around one of our beautiful parks.

Enjoy a fun family walk, while raising money to help us continue our work transforming the lives of children in foster care. We are hoping 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!



Introducing some of our new Scottish advisory committee members

Our Scottish advisory committee meet on a quarterly basis, overseeing our work in Scotland and advising on the delivery of our strategic objectives. Janet Smith, the chair of our Scottish advisory committee, is also the vice chair of The Fostering Network UK board. Fostering service vacancies are in the process of being filled, but in the meantime we are delighted to welcome new members to our committee, including Amy Davidson, one of our young champions:



Colin Brough,
the City of Edinburgh Council
foster carer

'I've been a foster father for around 15 years, starting off as a respite carer before moving on to full-time foster care. I have 17 foster sons, two of whom live with me at the moment and both they and the other 15 are the source of immense pride. Adam is about to start his fourth year at Edinburgh University and is a young champion with The Fostering Network. My youngest is an amazing rugby payer and hopefully the source of future family tickets at Murrayfield.

'In terms of fostering, my main focus, beyond my sons, is Continuing Care and ensuring that our care system meets the needs of our young people through to the age of at least 21. Unfortunately, it doesn't do this at the moment, despite legislation that we had hoped would do so. You can follow my challenge on **#ContinuingCareForAll!**

Robert McCready,
Inverclyde foster carer
and associate trainer for
The Fostering Network

'I have been a foster carer for almost seven years now and am a long-term carer with my local authority in Inverclyde. Currently, I have a fifteen-year-old girl who has been with us for just over six years. Over the last few years, I have become an associate trainer with The Fostering Network and help to deliver the Men who Foster training course. I also assist with the delivery of the The Skills to Foster training provided by my local authority.

'In my spare time (yes we do get some!), I am an avid cyclist.

'I am looking forward to the challenge ahead and giving my input to the committee from a foster carer's perspective in this important time. With the root and branch review of the care system in Scotland recently announced by the Scottish Government, I'm sure there will be a lot to do.'



Amy Davidson,
young champion

'My name is Amy Davidson. I'm 22 years old and live in a small town called Kilsyth.

I have a BA in photography and will start my honours degree in September. I am a professional photographer and own a gallery which is situated on the Fourth and Clyde canal. I am a young champion for The Fostering Network and we meet regularly to discuss topics and issues that surround fostering for both the foster child and biological child of the foster carers.

'I've been in foster care since I was 12 years old and stayed in one foster home, which I still currently reside in with my younger brother. We have been in a permanent placement for many years now and find it to be exactly the same as a normal family life.'

Your chance to win Slaters' vouchers!

Are you looking for a suit for an upcoming occasion – possibly a graduation, job interview or wedding? Here's your opportunity to win vouchers to Slaters by entering our exciting new competition!

To enter, simply send in a brief piece (roughly 200 words) on your experiences of fostering and what you are most proud of.

We're keen to hear positive stories from foster carers and young people.

Please send your entries to:
e scotland@fostering.net.

The closing date for competition entries is 8 September 2017.

Best of luck!



A Letter from the Minister

We are pleased to share with you the letter which was sent out to all foster carers during Foster Care Fortnight by Mark McDonald MSP.



Minister for Childcare and Early Years
Mark McDonald MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

To all foster carers in Scotland

8 May 2017

Dear foster carers

Last year during Foster Care Fortnight, I introduced myself as the new Minister for Childcare and Early Years with a portfolio to ensure that we get it right for looked after children in Scotland. I have now met with a variety of people from the sector who make it their priority to support our foster children on a daily basis. I have been impressed by the dedication of both The Fostering Network and the foster carers I have met so far.

I want to restate my heartfelt appreciation for all that you do in caring for and supporting some of our most vulnerable children. I have met young people who have talked to me at length about how their foster families have supported them to consider opportunities in further education and employment, or given them the confidence to follow other ambitions.

Last month I had the pleasure of meeting the young people involved in making 'Give Me a Chance' at the premier of their film, which was hosted at the Scottish Parliament. The positivity and energy radiating from them was absolutely tangible and they are determined to use the film to share their positive experiences of being in foster care.

Listening to our care experienced young people and acting upon the experiences they share with us is at the heart of our policy development. You will be aware that we are committed to building on improvements already realised in foster caring over the past few years, by announcing a national review of care and a review of care allowances in Scotland. Both of these commitments will be gathering pace over the summer months.

I encourage you to do all you can to inspire others to consider caring for a vulnerable child.

Here is what I hope will be a useful more detailed update on work so far and plans for the future that will impact on foster caring:

Learning and development for foster carers

Thank you to those of you who will have contributed to last year's consultation or attended a workshop on the new learning and development standard for foster carers. You can also access the final standard document and a full report on the feedback we received from the consultation (sssc.uk.com/consultations/consultations/current-consultations/standard-for-foster-care-consultation).

We will shortly begin considering options for implementation of the new standard within the context of the independent care review once the review has announced more details. We will then establish an expert group to consider a cost analysis and agree a realistic plan and timeframe for foster care providers to implement the new standard into practice.

Allowances

We had hoped to launch a national allowances review group last year; however, following the First Minister's announcement about the care review, work on this will be taken forward this summer. The allowances review group will be tasked with considering the feasibility of introducing a new national allowances scheme that meets the needs of children living in both kinship care and foster care.

Guidance on decision making for foster carers

Following a consultation on the draft guidance (gov.scot/Publications/2015/10/9827) we are now working with our solicitors to produce a final version of the guidance later this year.

Independent review of care

The independent review of care (carereview.scot) has recently launched its website, which provides useful information about the Review as well as contact details for use by anyone who would like to be involved or submit views to the Chair.

I hope you find this update useful and thanks again for all that you do on a day to day basis to support the needs of vulnerable children and young people.

Mark McDonald



Ministers across Scotland support fostering

Not only did the Minister, Mark McDonald, thank foster carers during Foster Care Fortnight, MSPs from across Scotland also recognised the value of foster care. We were delighted when Ruth Maguire MSP lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament to honour Foster Care Fortnight – a motion supported by a host of MSPs across Scotland:

Motion S5M-05500:

Ruth Maguire, Cunninghame South, Scottish National Party.

Date Lodged: 09/05/2017

Foster Care Fortnight 2017

That the Parliament recognises that Foster Care Fortnight 2017 (#FCF17) takes place from 8 to 21 May; understands that it marks the UK's biggest foster care awareness raising campaign and is delivered by the leading fostering charity, The Fostering Network; further understands that it has taken place for almost 20 years and aims both to showcase the commitment, passion and dedication of foster carers, and to support fostering services to highlight the need for more foster carers; notes that thousands of new foster families are needed every year to care for children, with the greatest need being for foster carers for older

children, sibling groups, disabled children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children; commends the work being done by North Ayrshire Council and other councils across Scotland to promote Foster Care Fortnight, and for their ongoing work in the excellent support and training they provide for carers all throughout the year; understands that many people remain as carers with North Ayrshire Council for a long time, including one couple who have been carers for 40 years, which is testament to the quality of support provided by the local authority, and encourages all MSPs to get involved with and support Foster Care Fortnight in any way they can.



Supported by: Jeremy Balfour, Ivan McKee, Ash Denham, James Dornan, Kenneth Gibson, Clare Haughey, Liam McArthur, Richard Lyle, Ben Macpherson, Fulton MacGregor, Gail Ross, Clare Adamson, Stuart McMillan, Emma Harper, Jenny Gilruth, David Torrance, Alex Cole-Hamilton, Joan McAlpine, Colin Beattie, Neil Findlay.

Celebrating fostering in Scotland



As part of Foster Care Fortnight in May, we held a fantastic celebration event at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Fund's Celebrate programme. We invited fostering services across Scotland to nominate foster carers and their families to attend. On the day our young champions played an active role in welcoming guests, and making sure everyone knew what activities were taking place and when. It was great to meet with over 30 families – 63 adults (54 foster carers) and 84 children, the youngest being just six weeks old. Also joining us on the day were Mark McDonald MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years, Heather Brown, policy officer Scottish Government, Liz Brabender, CELCIS, and Fiona Duncan, chair of the care review.

Feedback from the event has been really positive, here's one of many comments we have received: 'We came along to your event at Our Dynamic Earth on Saturday 13 May,

and chat with us and made sure we had everything we needed.

unsure of what our children would think of it as being eight, seven and three years they are still quite young to appreciate it.

'Well what can I say, we had an absolutely amazing day!! The kids loved every second of it. Especially the face painting.

'I thought the day itself was very well organised and we were made very welcome! After the tour there was still lots for the kids to do, giving my husband and I lots of opportunities to chat with other foster carers. All staff from The Fostering Network went out of their way to come

and chat with us and made sure we had everything we needed.

'We were delighted to be part of this event and left feeling extremely proud to be a family who fosters! Thank you again.'

Following the event, Mark McDonald MSP tweeted about how much he had enjoyed being part of the day (see pictured tweet) and Fiona Duncan (main picture, far right) wrote a letter to thank everyone for coming along. Fiona writes:

'I wanted to write to thank you for such an amazing event at Dynamic Earth on Saturday 13 May. I really appreciated being included in your day of activities and was delighted to be able to speak with so many of you. What a great opportunity for me to hear from you first hand, and to learn from you.

'I do hope we stay connected during the course of the review as you have so very much to offer. The review website is as follows: carereview.scot

'You will find all information there which is relevant to the review to date.'

Foster Care Fortnight 2017 - foster care transforms lives



Foster Care Fortnight once again proved a huge success, with a host of people connected with foster care stepping up to show their support for fostering. Not only did we host our celebrate event in Edinburgh as part of the fortnight, some of our young champions presented at CELCIS's looked after children education forum (see page 8); we hosted a free education workshop for foster carers, facilitated by Children in Scotland; and our director attended BBC Scotland to be interviewed on The Kaye Adams Programme along with Amy Davidson and her foster carer Dot Clelland.



One of many positive feedback cards from children at our Celebrate event.



Care-experienced student bursary



The Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) is an agency of the Scottish Government giving financial support to eligible students doing a course of higher education in the UK. They handle over 150,000 applications from students per year. Applications are now being received for the 2017/18 session.

From this session, new and continuing care experienced students doing an eligible full-time undergraduate course will be eligible to apply for their tuition fees and a non-income assessed bursary. The bursary amount available for this year is £7,625.

You may be eligible to claim the Care Experienced Student Bursary if:

- You have ever been looked after by a local authority in the UK and

- You are under the age of 26 on the first day of the first academic year of your course (known as the relevant date). For most students who start in the autumn term, the relevant date is 1 August.

Accommodation grant

If you are care experienced and need help with your accommodation costs during the summer holiday that falls between each year of your course, you may be able to claim the Care Experienced Accommodation Grant.

SAAS can pay up to a maximum of £105 per week during the summer holiday, which is paid directly to the person that is providing you with the accommodation.

Further information

For further information on support packages including the Care Experienced Student Bursary and Accommodation Grant, please visit the website at: saas.gov.uk

If you have any queries on the application process please call the SAAS helpline on 0300 555 0505.

Care Experienced Bursary

£7,625

Have you ever been in care and looked after by a local authority and will be under 26 at the start of the course?

Fostering Community Champions



Educating the educators – our young champions present



Sophie and Adam, two of our young champions, gave a presentation at the CELCIS Education Forum in May. The forum is made up of teachers, education staff and those interested in education from across Scotland. Adam and Sophie spoke about their own experience of attending school while being in care and highlighted some of the issues that education staff should be aware of. One of the issues the young champions would like to address is children having their school time interrupted so they can attend meetings. This can contribute to the stigma that children and young people in care experience throughout their school life. The young champions think that meetings involving children and young people should happen outwith school hours, as it is not just the education they may miss out on, but also the social benefits of being with their friends and classmates.



Sophie and Adam received great feedback from CELCIS and those in attendance: 'We loved the presentations and the excellent film. I watched the film again after the meeting and noticed so many things that hadn't registered on first viewing. It really is powerful and I love the positive message.'

There has already been another date booked for them to speak at an event in Stirling later in the year!

If you would like the young champions to speak at your meeting or event please contact Sue McKellar:
t 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net

Would you like to become a young champion?

Are you a young person between 15 and 22 with experience of foster care, either as the son or daughter of foster carers or as a looked after young person? If so, we would love it if you joined our young champions team. Our young champions meet regularly throughout Scotland to discuss fostering-related issues, attend and present at events, participate in and even lead training and have a great deal of fun!

If you would like to join our friendly team, then please contact Sue McKellar: **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net.



Questions and discussion points for the Minister



The young champions regularly campaign on behalf of children and young people in foster care. During Foster Care Fortnight they took the opportunity to sit down with Mark McDonald, Minister for Childcare and Early Years, and posed some questions to him:

What are the Scottish Government's priorities to improve lives for children and young people in care and fostering families?

Our key priority is early permanence and reducing short term placement. We have had positive feedback from PACE (Permanence and Care Excellence) which was piloted in Aberdeen and we plan to roll that out throughout the country. This will make a significant difference to the lives of fostering families.

How well do you think young adults in care are represented in government and in the care review?

Young people are exceptionally prominent. We have the campaign 1000 voices which allows us to hear directly from care experienced young people about how to make things better.

We want to hear more from, and represent more, the young people who are just out of care and those in care at the moment.

We want to break down the stigma of being in care, how can you help us do this? How can we reach more key decision makers in the government?

We need to get the message out there that children and young people are in care through no fault of their own. If we want more positive outcomes we must accept their care identity.

My job is to spread positive messages – that being in care works well. The young champions are an excellent example of how much young people can achieve when given the right encouragement. You guys are walking the walk!

Foster carer champions – a busy few months

The past few months have proven to be a busy time for the foster carer champions. They have offered invaluable support to a number of carers through referrals from Fosterline Scotland on many issues. The link with Fosterline is vital as the champions are able to offer just that bit more, additional support for carers when they need it most.

As a part of the foster carer champion role, carers have an opportunity to access further training, talks and forums to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to carry out their champion's role. We aim to meet monthly to ensure the right support and training is given. Most recently the group had a fantastic presentation by Lifelong Links which really focussed the mind on the importance of creating links with a foster child's family and extended family. Giving them an identity and knowing who their family is can settle children and support them in their placement.

The champions came together as a consultative group to support the creation of a document on contact (which is available on our website). A lengthy conversation was had with many ideas and examples of good practice shared which has been invaluable for the gathering of evidence to create this piece of work.

The foster carer champions also attended Our Dynamic Earth as a part of our Foster Care Fortnight Celebrate event, and what a great day we all had!

The summer will be a quieter time for champions allowing time for the school holidays and the activities this brings, but we will continue to support carers where needed. After the summer we aim to host an open meeting for carers with Scottish Children's Reporter Administration to look at the role a foster carer plays in the children's hearing and find out more about 'relevant person' status.

Never forget if you need to talk, need support and would like to access the champions service, please contact Sara Smith at The Fostering Network, Glasgow office: **t** 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net.

Fosterline Scotland update from Mirren



Hello everyone, I hope you are all having a lovely summer. I am delighted to let you know I am now back from maternity leave - it's great to be back and catching up with everyone. Both Julie Reid and I will now be covering enquiries to Fosterline Scotland.

Over the past few months, there have been a number of calls to us regarding allegations. An allegation and the process that follows can be a distressing and upsetting time for everyone concerned so it's hugely important that you, as foster carers, know what to do. Fosterline Scotland is available to provide information, it is crucial that you get the support you need.

Often, when an allegation is made against a foster carer, you will be told there has been an allegation made and that's all the information you have. If you are a member of The Fostering Network, please contact our legal helpline (0345 013 5004) as soon as you have been informed about an allegation. After you have spoken with the legal helpline, dependent on circumstances, you will be contacted by a solicitor who will offer you legal advice and explain what will happen next. At this stage you won't know if there will be police involvement, however, it is important to be prepared for this.

Please refer to The Fostering Network signpost **Allegations – information for foster carers** for more information. Please contact Fosterline Scotland if you would like a copy of the Allegations signpost and we will post one to you. This explains what to do if an allegation is made against you, how to prepare for the investigation and what happens during official investigation procedures and police questioning. The primary concern is always the wellbeing and safety of the child and any allegation or concern raised must be listened to and taken seriously. However, it is also important that the foster carer is respected and treated fairly, regularly updated on progress and the principles of natural justice should apply.

It is useful to familiarise yourself with the documents below so that you are aware of how agencies should respond.

Managing allegations against foster carers and approved kinship carers: How agencies should respond (July 2013) is good practice guidance and can be found on the Scottish Government website. Alternatively, Fosterline Scotland will be happy to email the link to you. The guidance says 'it is the responsibility of fostering agencies to ensure that staff continue to treat carers fairly and honestly in these difficult situations.' Once the foster carers have been informed that a concern has been raised about the wellbeing of the child in their care the fostering agency should ensure that foster carers:

- are given a copy of the local authority's child protection procedure
- have access to legal advice and representation
- understand the process of the investigation and why it is taking place
- as far as possible, know when, where and by whom interviews will be conducted
- are informed about any independent support that will be provided
- are informed about the financial arrangements the fostering service or local authority will make in relation to allowances/fees if looked-after children are removed or the carer is temporarily suspended from taking further placements.

We often hear from foster carers that when an allegation is made against them they are left completely isolated. It is important to note that while an allegation is being investigated contact



with the supervising social worker should continue, even when independent support is also provided.

In the **National Care Standards for Foster Care and Family Placement Services** information and advice is covered under Standard 7.4: 'You have written information on what to do if an allegation of abuse or neglect or another complaint is made against you.' All fostering agencies must comply with these national care standards. Please note the new **Health and Social Care Standards: My support, my life** will replace the standards above and be taken into account from 1 April 2018. Further details on the new standards can be found on the Scottish Government website.

While we appreciate that the above information, guidance and care standards will not eliminate the pressures and difficulties experienced by foster carers during an allegation, it is hoped that it will help to keep the lines of communication open between fostering agencies and foster carers and that allegations are managed in as quick a timescale as possible. Please do contact Fosterline Scotland for further advice, and we will also be able to refer you to one of our foster carer champions who are in a position to offer a listening ear.

Fosterline Scotland is open from Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm. Julie is available on Monday and Tuesday, and Mirren is available from Wednesday to Friday. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have a query you would like help with.

Thanks, Mirren

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

Moving into Adulthood:

New training course for those supporting young people into independence

As highlighted in our last newsletter, Continuing Care has created a number of challenges for foster carers. In response, we have developed a new training course exploring the issue, entitled Moving into Adulthood. The training, aimed at those supporting young people remaining with foster carers, such as in Continuing Care placements, is designed to help support foster carers in this very different role. Continuing Care and other arrangements can lead to young people potentially remaining with their foster carers until they are 21 or beyond, depending on circumstances. Foster carers primarily support children until they are 16 or 18, and in increasing cases for longer. The skills of a foster carer range from caring for children, teenagers and young adults.

This newly designed course will explore the differences for carers in working with young adults. It will look at the legal differences in terms of their rights, what legally they can do aged 16 and 18, and how and why 'house rules' may differ. It will also explore how foster carers support young adults to make choices around education and employment and help them develop the key skills they will require as adults to move on to independence.

Moving into Adulthood will be running as an open course in November, and can also be purchased by fostering services on an in-house basis. Secure your place now by contacting Joy Crawford (see details below).

Available training courses – filling up fast!

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

The Skills to Foster™: Train the Trainers

Tues 26, Wed 27 and Thurs 28
September 2017
Price: members £310 plus VAT
non-members £620 plus VAT

Men Who Foster (for male foster carers)

Wednesday 4 October 2017
Price: members £110 plus VAT
non-members £220 plus VAT

The Role of the Supervising Social Worker

Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25
October 2017 *
Price: members £215 plus VAT
non-members £430 plus VAT

* please note, these dates have changed since the last newsletter.

Moving into Adulthood

Wednesday 8 November 2017
Price: members £110 plus VAT
non-members £220 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

Introducing Kirsteen – our Walking Tall project begins

Hi everyone. I just wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kirsteen Marshall and I am the new children's participation worker for the Walking Tall project. I cannot express how excited I am at both joining The Fostering Network team and developing the Walking Tall project, which aims to bring together primary school aged children in foster care and the children of foster carers through a range of drama, dance and play events and workshops. Our goals are to:

- enhance a shared understanding of the fostering experience from both perspectives
- enhance confidence, self-esteem and life skills
- develop a positive sense of self and combat negative life events
- engage and consult with children in a fully inclusive way
- produce and distribute new resources which will benefit all children in foster care.

Ultimately, the project aims to enable children to feel proud of their identity, make sense of their often difficult past and learn to 'walk tall'.

I have a range of experience in working with children and families, both in a statutory and voluntary context. I am a qualified social worker with significant experience in community development. More recently, I have achieved my MSc in Human Resource Management and have spent the last nine months working within the addiction field. I also run a non-profit dance club for young girls in my local community and I am a qualified Zumba Instructor (I can sense a Zumba event in our near future!). I have lived in Glasgow my whole life and I am a mother to a wonderful teenage daughter and a very spoiled dog.

I really look forward to getting to know everyone over the coming months. If you



would like to learn more about the project and how you can get involved – we are looking for volunteers to be a part of the project's steering group and also children to be including in the project's workshops - then please contact me: e scotland@fostering.net

I look forward to hearing from you!

Free tax workshops for foster carer members

- 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?

If yes, then why not come along to one of our free tax workshops:

Wednesday 20 September 2017	Glasgow
Thursday 5 October 2017	Glasgow
Wednesday 25 October 2017	Edinburgh
Thursday 2 November 2017	Perth

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

To find out more or to request a booking form, please contact Mirren Taylor or Julie Reid: **e** scotland@fostering.net or **t** 0141 204 1400



Dates for your diary ...

Sunday 10 September 2017

Foster Walk Scotland (Page 2)

Wednesday 20 September 2017

Tax workshop, Glasgow (Page 12)

Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September 2017

The Skills to Foster: Train the Trainers, Glasgow (Page 11)

Wednesday 4 Oct 2017

Men who Foster, Glasgow (Page 11)

Thursday 5 October 2017

Tax workshop, Glasgow (Page 12)

Wednesday 25 October 2017

Tax workshop, Edinburgh (Page 12)

Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 October 2017

The Role of the Supervising Social Worker, Glasgow (Page 11)

Thursday 2 November 2017

Tax workshop, Perth (Page 12)

Tuesday 7 November 2017

Consent and Confidential workshop, Glasgow

If you are interested in attending any of these events:

t 0141 204 1400 or **e** scotland@fostering.net

The Fostering Network Scotland...



With thanks to the funders who supported this edition.

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Legal Helpline

t 0345 013 5004

Stress Helpline

t 0345 074 2799



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