

# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



A huge **THANK YOU** to Devon's Fostering Service who have given us £500, again this year to help us achieve the aims set out in our Constitution. A copy of our **CONSTITUTION** (outlining our **Aims and Objectives**) are attached to this newsletter. (A copy of the **MINUTES** from our last meeting (on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017) will be out very soon).

**REMINDER** - The deadline for responses to the National Fostering Stocktake – 'Call for Evidence' is the 16th June!!

Your responses to this important stocktake **will** be taken into consideration in the panel's recommendations to Government and the panel's decisions will **directly** impact on how the Government reacts to fostering nationally in future.

**Please** don't miss your opportunity to have your views taken into account!

We all recognise this is a hugely important time for fostering in this country. Wouldn't you rather be part of future planning than just being a bystander?!

CHANGE IS COMING – let them know what Children in Care (and their foster carers) need.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-fostering-stocktake-call-for-evidence>



**MAKE THAT DIFFERENCE – GIVE YOUR VIEWS**



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**Kids go 'free'** to West End shows in August\* Free child ticket with paying adult!

If you're planning a trip to London with your children this summer, you might like to know that, from **10am on Tue 13 Jun**, you can get a free child's ticket (age 16 and under) to one of 35+ London theatre shows, including Aladdin, Wicked and Les Misérables, throughout August (some shows have excluded days) when you buy a full-priced adult ticket via the [Kids Week\\*](#) website.

There are 170,000 tickets available in total (this includes adult and child tickets) through Kids Week and you can book until the offer ends on Wed 31 Aug. The curtain may close on this deal if all seats get booked – last year, 80,000 tickets sold within the first 24 hours, so you'll need to go quick if you're after a particular performance.

There are no booking or postage fees, and you can save £11.50-£77.50 depending on the show and seats you choose. You can also get 50% off for up to two more children per adult.

**More details on the summary attached!**

We're informed the Training courses run by Devon have increased overall (from 20 – 79) and this years are available to book now, online. There's particularly some good news for carers in the North! It seems trainers are now only being commissioned by Devon if they agree to come up to the North of the County, too, which is great news all round, so book your places. If you don't see the course you need, contact Jayne Birbeck direct on [jayne.birbeck@devon.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.birbeck@devon.gov.uk).



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**The Calvert Trust** has some fantastic facilities to “challenge disability through outdoor adventure” They provide a wide range of adventurous outdoor activities and adventure with skilled, qualified and caring staff able to fulfil visitors’ needs. They have accommodation for those that wish to stay overnight and facilities for families and friends to share the enjoyment and experience

Why not check it out, with your young people in mind – Go to <http://www.calvert-trust.org.uk/exmoor/friendsofcte.pdf>

## REMINDER!!

**Tax** - General guidance on fostering and tax can be found on HMRC website, <https://www.gov.uk/foster-carers/help-with-the-cost-of-fostering> , but carers are **STRONGLY advised** to check their own individual personal circumstances carefully.

**National Insurance Contributions** - To ensure you receive the benefit of Class 2 National Insurance credits when you retire, you will need to have at hand a copy of a letter from Childrens’ Services confirming how long you’ve been caring for Devon.

## Don’t miss out

– ask your supervising social worker for one now!

## A LITTLE BEDTIME READING?

For those that haven’t read them, yet, but who might like to, a copy of the Fostering Services National Minimum Standards may be found on <http://www.fosterline.info/national-minimum-standards/> - you might be surprised what they include. 😊



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## CHILDCARE

If you would like to attend our meetings, but feel you can't because of your caring responsibilities for your little ones, do let one of us know.

We might be able to help by engaging a qualified Childcare Worker to occupy and play with your youngster, in an adjacent room, leaving you free to take part in our discussions or, even, maybe just have a cuppa while you listen to what everyone else is saying.

Why not come along? You might be glad you did!

## DON'T FORGET!!!

The Agenda will be out one week before our next meeting (details below). If you would like to raise anything for discussion in the Agenda, please do let one of us know.

Remember, this is **YOUR** Association!

Your views matter! 😊

*(Staff are warmly invited to join us from 11.30.*

**WE HAVE BISCUITS!** 😊)



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## SUMMARY



Kids go 'free' to West End shows in August\* Free child ticket with paying adult!

### ...Shows for this August include:

- [Annie\\*](#) (Piccadilly Theatre), Mon and Wed-Fri
- [Matilda The Musical\\*](#) (Cambridge Theatre), Tue-Thu and Fri 25 Aug
- [School of Rock\\*](#) (New London Theatre), Mon, Wed and Thu
- [Disney's Aladdin\\*](#) (Prince Edward Theatre), Mon-Fri
- [Disney's The Lion King\\*](#) (Lyceum Theatre), Sat & Sun, Fri from 11 Aug, Tue-Thu from 15 Aug
- [Dreamgirls\\*](#) (Savoy Theatre), Mon-Fri
- [Mamma Mia\\*](#) (Novello Theatre), Mon-Sat
- [Les Misérables\\*](#) (Queen's Theatre), Mon-Thu
- [Thriller Live\\*](#) (Lyric Theatre), Tue-Sun
- [Wicked\\*](#) (Apollo Victoria Theatre), Mon-Sat

See 'more info' below for the full list of shows participating in Kids Week 2017.

### Which performances can you get the deal on?

You can't get the deal on every performance of every show, and some exclude their most popular performances, e.g., matinees or weekends (such as Aladdin and School of Rock). Tickets are spread randomly across all dates, shows and seat prices, so it could be pot luck finding the show and performance you want on a particular date.

To book, select which type of ticket you want (adult, free child, half-price child) from the drop-down menu when the promotion begins. You'll get to see which seats are available during the booking process. There's no limit to the number of performances you can get tickets for, but you'll only be able to book a maximum of eight tickets per show (one free child per paying adult). In the past, we've seen some shows increase their allocation of tickets and more shows have been added during the booking period, so it could be worth checking back.

To find out which performances are included in this offer, go to the <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/redir/ea4c4900?url=http://www.kidsweek.co.uk/shows/> page, find a show, and click 'more info'.

GOOD LUCK, and have fun!



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LAST OF ALL,

...sadly, this will be our last editorial on the Fostering Devon newsletter – but it's not the end! 😊!

Carers will continue to receive information in similar format in our own newsletter in future, by email so, if we don't already have your contact details, please let one of us have them as soon as possible, so you're not left 'out of the loop'.

## Next Meeting will be

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

at 10.30 a.m.

Oaklands Court, Tiverton

Hope to see you there



How to contact us; -

- **via** Facebook. Simply 'friend request' one of us, (Patricia Bagshaw, Leigh Strange, Nicky Knight or Mandy Heggadon) on Facebook and, once we've checked you are who you say you are, we'll add you to the closed group. After that, simply look for Devon Foster Carer's Association and you should be able to find us, and join in the chat....

OR;

- **via** any one of our committee (so far!) Trish Bagshaw or Leigh Strange (**North**), Lewis Crowden (**Exeter**), Mandy Heggadon or Sarah Turner (**Exeter & East**), Nicky Knight, David Leyland (**South**) or Rosemary Miles. We have carers from all walks, with all kinds of reasons for fostering and with all kinds of experiences. Feel free to contact any of us for any information about the Association and what we're doing on **YOUR** behalf or, you'd simply like to get more involved.

*If anyone would like to join us or help in any way, please do just let us know  
– the more the merrier.*

REMEMBER, THIS IS **YOUR** ASSOCIATION

