

# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



## Changes to PEPs

Some of you may already be aware of the recent changes affecting the **Personal Education Placement** meetings for our looked after children.

These meetings will be taking place **TERMLY** from now on, instead of, the previously, twice a year.

PEPs are the appropriate forum to access the PEA (personal education allowance) available for children in care and schools, carers and social workers should all have input into them to ensure the educational needs of our children are met.

### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

- Do you know what support is out there for children with SEND?
- What might the recent changes mean for you and your family?  
A **FREE** information session has been arranged to take place at The Library Centre, PETROC College, Barnstaple to help parents and carers to understand the SEND system in Devon.

The session will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 from 2.00 p.m. until 3.30 p.m.

**IF YOU GO ALONG. WHY NOT OFFER US ALL SOME FEEDBACK?**



# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

## The National Association of Therapeutic Parenting

Provide support, education and resources for Therapeutic Parents and supporting professionals relating to therapeutic parenting, effective interventions, compassion fatigue and the effects of early life trauma.

To promote better outcomes for children who have suffered early life trauma, by significantly improving the consistency and quality of support available to Therapeutic Parents in the UK.

Their Facebook forum carries a wealth of information and advice from people just like you, who are caring for children struggling with trauma and attachment disorders.

You can find them by searching Facebook for NAOTP, or by checking out their website at [www.naotp.org.uk/](http://www.naotp.org.uk/)

Well worth a look! 😊

## CAN YOU HELP????

The Fostering Service is organising some events for foster carers and would appreciate some help from a foster carer (or two) with the planning of them. Would YOU be interested in helping create something special for your fellow foster carers?

If so, Luke Chapman would love to hear from you. Contact him direct on

[luke.chapman@devon.gov.uk](mailto:luke.chapman@devon.gov.uk)

## OUR ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

...is circulated around the County, detailing events and activities for and by carers, as they're organised. Why not check out the attached, updated version to help keep you in the loop?

If you'd like us to add any events in your locality for distribution to carers across the County, please just let us have details and we'll broadcast it for you to help support your event / activity.

Please do offer some feedback (*i.e. how can we improve it?*)

## REMINDER

For a quick resolution, you can forward any concerns and queries direct to

[childsc.fosteringoperationsmanagermailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:childsc.fosteringoperationsmanagermailbox@devon.gov.uk)

*(we're assured the mailbox is checked every day)*



# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

## FOSTERING NETWORK REGIONAL CONFERENCE (SOUTH WEST)

The recent State of the Nation's Foster Care 2016 will influence and shape the landscape of fostering from 2017. It's the largest UK survey of fostering, with 2,530 responses – with 77% from England. It identified Workforce Issues and Practice Issues and considered Attitudes & Views. It highlighted that

- only 55% of foster carers would recommend fostering to others,
- 53% will continue 'as long as I'm able'

Some of the findings from the Ofsted Report on Fostering;

- Of the approximately 70,000 children in care in England, **75%** live with foster carers – approximately **50,000** children!
- 66% of these are in local authority foster care
- Just under 10% of that figure were reported disabled
- More care leavers are choosing to stay with their foster carers

If you'd like more information around discussions at the Conference, please let us know.

David and Marion Leyland's offer of a **trip to Kenya** is still open for those who'd like to visit a Secondary School for children in poverty **in August 2018**, with Operation Imprezza. (Check it out at [www.operationimprezza.org](http://www.operationimprezza.org))

If you're interested in finding out more, **contact David or Marion direct** at [davidleyland@hotmail.com](mailto:davidleyland@hotmail.com)

## TABLE TOP SALE

**Don't forget, our Table Top Sale at our meetings enables members to sell or exchange items they no longer want or need, for a small donation in our collection box.** *(All money raised in this way will go towards future events we're planning to support you and yours)*

**Just bring any items you'd like to donate (e.g., books, toys, clothing, equipment, clothing, etc) along to the meetings with you, and place them on the sale table as you come in for others to see.**

## DON'T FORGET...

**Our very own Cathy Parker.... negotiated with Josh Haywood (Manager) Crealy Family Park, a change to their annual membership card, that all Devon's foster carers can benefit from!**

**Crealy have agreed that they will give us flexibility with any child annual passes we purchase. From now on, the child pass will cover any child a foster carer registered for Devon takes into the park. The new flexibility means that a child annual pass can continue to be used for the next child when a child moves on or returns home, before the year ends. Really useful, especially for those that do respite and have different children frequently.**

**WHY NOT PAY CREALEY A VISIT!**



# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

## UPCOMING EVENTS: NORTH

### FAMILY QUIZ!

on 11<sup>th</sup> November, at

Fremington Village Hall, N Devon.

Just £5 per team

(Carers, staff and non-carers welcome!)

Book your table via Kim St. Barbe

Why not bring a prize to win a prize!

Bring a prize a prize! 😊



Come join in the fun!

MUSIC  
SOCALIZE  
CRAFTS

NORTHAM (TOP) HALL

**Disabled Disco**

Every Wednesday 11.30 - 1.30

£5 entry (careers free)

HOT DOGS DRINKS TEA & COFFEE  
CRISPS SWEETS

Refreshments from 20p - £1.00

If you'd like to donate some jumble for the upcoming **JUMBLE SALE** being held in the North on **25<sup>th</sup> November** (details on the next page), please feel free to bring it along with you to our next DFCA meeting (on 14<sup>th</sup> November).

*All money raised from this event will be used to support future events 😊*



# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

WANT TO EARN A LITTLE 'EXTRA' FOR CHRISTMAS?

NEED A GOOD REASON TO HAVE A CLEAR-OUT?

WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO HAVE A CLEAR OUT?

THEN WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US?

WE'RE HAVING A

## Jumble Sale

on **Saturday 25th November**

At Baptist Church Hall, Nelson Rd, Westward Ho!

from 2 - 4 pm

Simply book and buy a table from us (*via Denise Lacey*) at the cheap (CHEAP (!!)) cost of only £3.50

and you set your own prices to sell your own stuff!

**ONLY 50p entry on the door**

tea and juices available at 20p each

(and each purchase includes a free biscuit! Can't say fairer than that. 😊).

**Sellers to arrive from 11.30 to set up** - it would be helpful to know numbers for the purposes of setting up enough tables, so please do get in touch and let us know beforehand.

*All donations to Associations funds will be used to help with costs of organising future events and activities agreed by members.*

As part of its Extended Use provision, Appledore School in North Devon has very kindly offered us access to their **Art Studio** (at discounted rates).

Their resident Artist is able to host bespoke and accredited sessions foster carers and their children in the studio during holiday and term-times.

If you're interested, do let us know.



# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

## DON'T FORGET

# NEXT MEETING

will be on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

at 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Oaklands Court, Tiverton

Hope to see you there



If you would like to raise anything to be included in the **Agenda** for our next meeting, please do let us know.

**REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION! Your views matter!!**

### How to contact us; -

- **via** any one of our committee (so far!) Trish Bagshaw or Leigh Strange (**North**), Lewis Crowden (**Exeter**), Mandy Heggadon (**Exeter**), Nicky Knight (**Mid & East**), Mike Gillard (**North**), David Leyland (**South**), Andrew Randall (**Mid & East**), Denise Lacey (**North**), Glyn Oliver (**Mid & East**), Sam & Stuart Penny (**Mid & East**), Caroline Maund (**North**) and Kim St. Barbe (**North**). Feel free to contact any of us (*via our Facebook page*) for any information about the Association and what we're doing on **YOUR** behalf or, if you'd simply like to get more involved.

If you're not already a member, simply search for any of our Committee (names above), via Facebook

- **via** Facebook. Simply 'friend request' Tris, Leigh, Nicky or Mandy (*full names and areas above*) on Facebook and, once we've checked you are who you say you are, we'll add you to the closed group. After that, you need simply look for Devon Foster Carer's Association and you should be able to find us, and join in the chat....

*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**

## Your views matter!

