

DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



FOSTERING NETWORK - CAMPAIGN

Did you know that **fostered children** in England are being **denied** 15 hours free childcare that's been available to all other children since September 2017? All other children in England are now entitled to up to 30 hours a week of free childcare. This exclusion is discriminatory and inexplicable. We all know that our foster children will thrive when surrounded by, and given equal opportunities as, their peers. These early years before school are crucial to their development. This Government and previous Governments have all encouraged people to foster by saying that fostering can be combined with working outside the home, but foster carers often have to pay for the additional 15 hours out of their own pockets, or enter into difficult negotiations with their fostering service. We all know that foster carers are already under immense financial pressure, with [barely 10 per cent earning the equivalent of the national living wage](#) for a 40-hour week.

If you want to help, write to your MP and make them aware - take action by writing to your MP and asking them to raise it with the children's minister, Robert Goodwill. To find your MP, simply log onto <https://www.writetothem.com/> and follow the simple instructions. Then, simply click on your MP's name, write your message and send.

Let's help right a wrong!



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

As mentioned in the Minutes of our meeting of the 28th September, we were informed carers worries have been heard with regard to the opening of bank accounts for our CIC and it's now been agreed that Bank accounts will be opened with Barclays Bank direct through the Fostering Service. Further discussion needs to take place on the 'mechanics' of this and the Operations Manager (Luke Chapman) has asked for a **volunteer** carer to help with this work. If you're interested in helping develop this, contact Luke direct on

luke.chapman@devon.gov.uk

Did you happen to attend the free information workshop around

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

At PETROC College on 20th November?

If so, why not share what you found out with other foster carers and help them to understand what the **SEND** system in Devon might mean to them and their families and what it can offer their children in care?

Simply email us with the details and we'll help to make sure your friends and colleagues are as well informed as you.



CAN YOU HELP????

The Fostering Service would really appreciate help from foster carers in the planning around organising some events for carers. Would YOU be interested in helping create something special for your fellow foster carers?

If so, Luke Chapman would love to hear from you and you can contact him direct on

luke.chapman@devon.gov.uk



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS: MID & EAST

DON'T FORGET –

Mid and East Fostering Team would like to invite all carers in
Mid and East to attend a

Christmas lunch

at **Sampford Peverell Village Hall**
on **Friday 8th December 2017**

More details and times to follow, but lunch will be provided. If
you are planning to attend, please do let them know, so they
have an idea of numbers.

Please email Ben.Scott@devon.gov.uk with your name(s) if you
want to go (and let him know any allergies/dietary
requirements).

(Christmas cheer guaranteed! 😊)



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS: EXETER

Christmas Party! For Exeter Children

Sunday 10th December

3-6pm

The Deepway Centre, Exminster, EX6 8ST

Entertainment provided by Mark the Amazing Disco Man!

There will be a visit from Father Christmas with gifts for all children in care and the children who help to care for them!

RSVP (by 24th November) with names and ages of all children attending
to Sarah Denton (via messenger or mobile 07707 998518)
or Sarah Turner (sarah.turner@talktalk.net)

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANY EVENTS TAKING PLACE
NEAR YOU, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL HELP
BROADCAST IT FOR YOU!**



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS: NORTH

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.



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



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 for foster carers and their children in the studio during holiday and term-times.

If you're interested, do let us know.

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?)

...come jumble for
...ALE being held
...mber (details
...to let one of us
...to get it from

...nt will be used to

REMINDER

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

childsc.fosteringoperationsmanagermailbox@devon.gov.uk

...we're assured the mailbox is

DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

REMINDERS

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)

If you're interested in finding out more, **contact David or Marion direct** at davidleyland@hotmail.com

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/

Well worth a look! 😊

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

DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

DON'T FORGET **NEXT MEETING**

will be on 14th 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



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

- **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!

