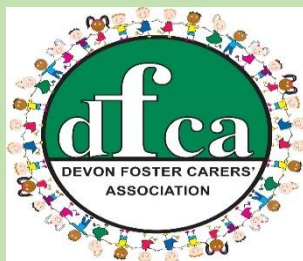


DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



NEWS

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

At our last meeting, Councillor James McInness explained that he Chairs the Corporate Parenting Board, that took part in the Summer Walkabout in which some carers also took part.

He explained the CPB were keen to hear the voice of foster carers in the County and asked whether any foster carers would be interested in sitting on the Board – along with Councillors, Children in Care, the Children and Mental Health Services team, Education and others. The Board meets once a term (i.e. 3 times yearly) in County Hall, Exeter

They are looking for no more than 2 carers to come forward, and have asked for the Association to nominate representatives from this Association to become involved in the Board.

If you would be interested in taking part in this unique opportunity, please let one of the Committee know as soon as possible (Details at the bottom of this newsletter, as usual).

The Committee will then choose 2 individuals from those interested to represent all carer members of this Association.

SATURDAY MORNING CLUB

SEN club run by the Autistic Society at Broomhayes, Kingsley House in Bideford. For more details check out...

<http://www.autism.org.uk/services/england/devon/daytime-hub.aspx>

Tarka Tennis in Bideford

offers lots to keep your child entertained. From mini tennis to regular tennis clubs to Wimbledon Fever it's a fantastic place to get them on their feet. They are also currently offering a Special Olympics session on Saturdays from 2 – 4. More details can be found at...

<http://www.leisurecentre.com/tarka-tennis/Tennis/page>

MID DEVON ALLIANCE FOR SEN

Offer Saturday morning activities from 10 – 4 at PETROC College in Tiverton. Check out <https://www.masctiverton.org/> for more details



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

IS YOUR CHILD IN CARE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL?

If so, there are lots of short breaks to be had with the Calvert Trust, and daily activities available with both Exmoor Rangers and Rosemoor Gardens.

We're keen to compile a list of all activities that could be accessed by carers of children who are excluded from school, as a learning opportunity – if they can't be in school, they could still be learning new skills.

Would **YOU** happen to know of any activities in your area that might be of use to other carers? If so, please let any of your Committee know (details at the end of this newsletter) and when we have enough ideas, we'll bring it to a meeting of the Association to discuss a way forward. Our Grants and Fundraising Committee are keen to raise funds for any activity or learning experience for our youngsters, but they need **YOUR** help in identifying which things **you** feel would be useful to you and your child. 😊

UPCOMING EVENTS: MID & EAST

Nicky Knight (carer in Mid & East Devon)

...has arranged a **Coffee Morning** at her home on

Wednesday 13th December

to think about organising events in that area for carers and their children. If you have any ideas, can offer any help, or just fancy having a coffee and meet up with other carers for a natter, why not pop round?

She'd be glad to see you, just let her know you plan to arrive



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 OTHER EVENTS TAKING PLACE NEAR YOU, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL HELP BROADCAST IT FOR YOU!



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS: NORTH



SANTA IS COMING TO THE NORTH

(of Devon! - See what we did there? 😊)

To our CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 10th December,

At Fremington Parish Hall

from 5 pm -7:30 pm

Entertainment from Merlin, party tea & a visit from main man himself! To ensure Santa brings enough gifts for ALL children (including your birth children) please let Kim St. Barbe know that you will be coming by texting 07709862430

Come join in the fun!



MUSIC
SOCALIZE
CRAFTS

NORTHAM (TOP) HALL

Disabled Disco

Every Wednesday 11.30 - 1.30
£5 entry (carers free)

HOT DOGS DRINKS TEA & COFFEE
CRISPS SWEETS

Refreshments from 20p - £1.00

As part of its Extended Use provision, **Appledore School** in North Devon has very kindly offered us access to its on site

Art Studio

(at discounted rates).

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

If you're interested, do let us know and we'll see if we can organise a taster session 😊

REMINDERS

We're still looking for some help from carers in **South** of the County to help **organise some events for carers** in that area to create opportunities for them and their children to meet others in the same area who are in the same boat.

If you're interested, or know someone who is (or who might be 😊), then please do let us know. We all need a little fun in our lives and we're keen to help find it (or make it) wherever we can.



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!

DON'T FORGET!

OUR VERY OWN David and Marion Leyland are offering a **trip to Kenya** for those who'd like to visit a Secondary School for children in poverty during **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



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Fostering Service is looking for some foster carer who might be willing to volunteer to help with the following;

- Help work through the “mechanics” of opening Bank Accounts for our children in care
- Help with the planning and organising of future events for carers

If you're interested and willing to help or would just like to know more, why not contact Luke Chapman direct on luke.chapman@devon.gov.uk

The National Association of Therapeutic Parenting

Provides support, education and resources for ALL 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! 😊

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?)



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

REMINDER

For a quick resolution of any problem or issue, don't forget you can forward any concerns and queries direct to Luke Chapman at

childsc.fosteringoperationsmanagermailbox@devon.gov.uk

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

RESOURCES AT MEETINGS

The Table Top Sale at every meeting enables you to sell or exchange items you no longer want or need, *(for a small donation in our collection box)* and, perhaps, pick up just the thing you've been looking for 😊

Our Library resources (also available at every meeting) allows members to borrow and share any of the books and publications listed on our library lending list. Happy reading 😊

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!!



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



AS THIS WILL BE OUR **FINAL NEWSLETTER** BEFORE CHRISTMAS

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a

very peaceful and Merry Christmas! 😊

Don't forget, during the festivities, that our NEXT meeting will be on

10th January 2017 at 10.30, in Oaklands Court, Tiverton

See you in 2018!!

Hope to see you all there.



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!

