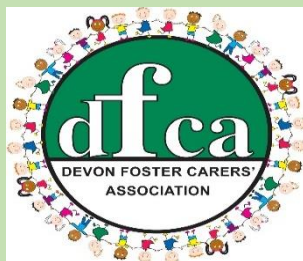


DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



COUNTYWIDE NEWS

CHILDREN IN CARE AWARDS

23rd March 2018

Don't forget **the deadline** to nominate your Child in Care for the Celebrating the Achievements of Children in Care is the **31st January 2018**. You can download the form from;

<https://www.fosteringindevon.org.uk/children-in-care-awards-2018/>

Simply complete it and email before the deadline to Kate Clarke at ; -

childrenincareawards-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

NSPCC

TALK(s) PANTS!!

NSPCC has a great online resource entitled "Talk Pants" to support carers and parents in teaching young people about how to safe from sexual abuse.

The resource is a colourful set of rules, introduced by the friendly Pantosaurus that can help us all in teaching our youngsters about how to keep safe and about what is appropriate from them, too, in terms of touching others.

You can get your own information pack from

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

REMINDERS

CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MILEAGE / BUS JOURNEYS

Don't forget, mileage claims should be submitted **EVERY MONTH** to avoid delay in reimbursement. Any claim more than 3 months old will need approval by senior managers before being paid! 😊

DISC PLUS

The DISC Plus information service provides information and advice to all families with a child or children with additional needs in Devon. The service is also available to any professional working with families or directly with children. For more information, take a look at;

<http://devon.integratedchildrensservices.co.uk/discplus/>

SPREAD THE WORD

It's worth knowing that while not all DFCA members are active on our Facebook page, ALL do receive a copy of our Newsletter so, if you have any news you'd like to share, or know of any events or activities taking place in your area that other carers could benefit from, please do let us know and we can 'get the word out there'.

Remember, some of the activities you know about might be just the thing to support a colleague carer with their placement.

DON'T FORGET...!

The Operations Manager for Fostering, Luke Chapman, is keen to try to help resolve any queries, problems, concerns or issues you might have quickly and you can send them to him via

childsc.fosteringoperationsmanagermailbox@devon.gov.uk

for a quick response!

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

...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

NATIONAL UPDATES

SOUTH WEST FOSTERING FORUM

You may have seen information from these meeting cascaded through Minutes of DFCA meetings.

If you'd like to know more, or may be interested in becoming involved, the dates for this year's meetings will be 22nd March, 21st June, 27th September and 22nd November.

Please note; All meetings are held in Taunton (as they involve carers from all over the South West Region).

If you're interested in coming along, let one of us know.
We can arrange to accompany you, so you wouldn't feel at a disadvantage.



DON'T FORGET...

The National Association of Therapeutic Parenting (NAOTP)

...provides support, education and resources for ALL therapeutic parents (including us!) and supporting professionals relating to therapeutic parenting, effective interventions, compassion fatigue and the effects of early life trauma.

You can find more information about them by searching Facebook for their page, NAOTP, and taking a look at their Facebook forum - it carries a wealth of information and advice from people just like us, who are caring for children struggling with trauma and attachment disorders - or by checking out their website at www.naotp.org.uk/.

Highly recommended by other carers who are already members. Well worth a look! 😊

FOSTERING NETWORK – UPDATE

(most recent update can be found here
enews@enews.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk)



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

NORTH – EVENTS AND NEWS

NOAH'S PLACE

is a registered charity Noah's Place is a registered charity set up to provide people with learning difficulties a place to enjoy some fun activities, make new friends in a safe environment, while developing skills that may help them later find work. Built upon Christian values, it provides a safe, healthy and fun environment and is well worth considering if your young person has learning needs and is approaching 18.

Further details can be found at <http://www.noahs-place.co.uk/home/>

They're organising a Valentine's Ball on Saturday 10th February from 7 pm (*black tie optional*), including a 3-course meal, followed by an auction and disco – looks like it good be great fun!

If you're interested in going along, let Lesley know on 07828217119

REGULAR EVENTS

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 currently offering a Special Olympics session on Saturdays from 2 – 4. More details can be found at...

<http://www.leisurecentre.com/tarkatennis/Tennis/page>



Helen Woolway, social worker, is running a regular support group for **Foster Carers caring for Children with Disabilities**

The group meets on Mondays from 10 - 12 at Welland house, Chaddiford Lane, in Barnstaple. Dates vary and we'll update our Calendar of Events with year's dates very soon, so watch this space. If you're interested in going along, **contact Helen on 07967176713**

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>

Come join in the fun!

MUSIC
SOCIALIZE
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



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

SOUTH - EVENTS AND NEWS

Would you like help to publicise some events you (or someone you know) may be **organising for carers in South** that might help them to meet others in the same area?

Or, perhaps you'd like help to try to organise something or get it 'off the ground'?

If you're interested, or know someone who is, or who might be, or who might already be doing it, then why not let us know? We're keen to help find creative and fun ways we can support carers across all areas of the County, so if there's nothing going on in your area, why not start something? We could help!

DFCA Committee are aware of the challenges many carers in South have that prevent them being able to attend Association meetings in Tiverton, so we're exploring ways (along with venues) where we can bring Association meetings to YOU!

Perhaps you could help us? If you know of a suitable venue (at very little – or, preferably, NO – cost) perhaps you could let us know?

It would be helpful to know which venues would be the most accessible for the most carers (sadly, we're aware we likely won't be able to find somewhere everyone can reach, but we are willing to try)



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

EXETER – EVENTS AND NEWS



Saturday 27th January 2018
1-3pm
Emmanuel Evangelical Church
Exminster EX6 8BR

Join us to hear from Phil Green, Chief Executive as he speaks on the work of Home for Good and how the church can support foster carers and adopters.

REGULAR EVENTS

If you know of any regular events that other foster carers might like to make use of for their children why not let us know and we can broadcast it for you?



MID & EAST – EVENTS AND NEWS

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY NEWS HAPPENING, OR EVENTS TAKING PLACE, IN YOUR AREA, THAT OTHER CARERS MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT WHY NOT LET US KNOW, AND WE'LL HELP BROADCAST IT FOR YOU?!

REGULAR EVENTS

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

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!!

DON'T FORGET THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL 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 😊

Childminding can be made available – if we know in advance – that carers require this resource to be able to attend meetings. The more notice given the better the chance of securing a room and a childminder, so please provide as much notice as possible. 😊

Freebies available at every meeting – from biscuits and coffee to things like books, information leaflets and donated toys. 😊

If you'd like us to consider having anything else available, please let us know.



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY 2ND MARCH 2018

From 10.30 – 1.00 p.m.

AT OAKLANDS COURT, TIVERTON

Hope to see you 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

