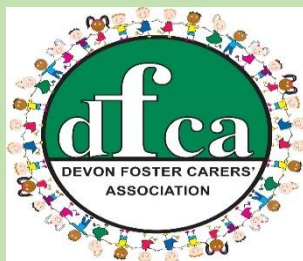


DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



COUNTYWIDE NEWS

INSURANCE POLICIES

Some carers have recently found themselves in the situation of their insurance provider refusing to pay out where a child in their care has caused 'wilful damage'.

In such situations, do remember that Devon's Fostering Service has a corporate insurance policy that carers can claim against.

Simply contact your SSW to ask for more details.

DO REMEMBER...

...it's **always** worth informing your household insurance provider (**AND** your car insurance provider) that you're a foster carer, **BEFORE** you join, so that you can have peace of mind that you'll be fully covered in the event your child in care causes ANY damage.

STAYING PUT

If you have a young person who wants to stay with you why not take a look at Devon's Staying Put Policy –

<https://www.fosteringindevon.org.uk/guide/types-of-fostering/staying-put/>

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 could benefit other carers, please **do** let us know and we can 'get the word out there'. What you know might be just the thing to support a colleague carer with their placement.



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

REMINDERS

REMINDER!

THERAPEUTIC USE OF 'CONSEQUENCES' WITH TRAUMATISED CHILDREN

CONSEQUENCES: A CHEAT SHEET

Natural Consequences

Happen automatically, not decided or imposed by a person

BEST CHOICE, WHEN POSSIBLE (not everything has a natural consequence)

If bedtime is delayed, you're tired the next day. If you throw your food, the food is on the floor.

Logical Consequences*

Imposed by a person, directly related to the "offense"

BEST CHOICE WHEN NATURAL CONSEQUENCES ARE UNAVAILABLE

If bedtime is delayed, there might not be time for a story. If you throw food, mealtime is over.

Illogical or Unrelated Consequences aka "Punishment"

Imposed by a person, unrelated to the offense

INEFFECTIVE, PRODUCE MORE NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR - AVOID

If you don't go to bed, you lose all TV for the week. If you throw food, you have to sit in time out.

***IMPORTANT: LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES, WHEN IMPOSED OR SAID IN ANGER
OR IN A SPIRIT OF PUNISHMENT, BECOME PUNISHMENT (THUS INEFFECTIVE)**

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.fosteringoperationsmanager@mailbox
x@devon.gov.uk](mailto:childsc.fosteringoperationsmanager@mailbox.x@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

REMINDER of forthcoming meeting dates; -
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.

FOSTERING NETWORK are looking for brave individuals to take part in a tandem **SKYDIVE** and raise funds for their life-changing work transforming fostered children's lives. You can jump at a number of airfields across the UK – so you could even invite your family and friends to watch! You would jump from at least 10,000 feet, and at a maximum speed of 120mph!

- Registration fee: £70 (You'll be able to reclaim your deposit from your offline sponsorship donations so you can jump for free).
- Fundraising minimum: £395 in England and Wales or £450 in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Why not check out Fostering Network's website – Are YOU brave enough?

https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/fundraise/ways-fundraise/challenge-events?utm_source=Communicator&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Lmk557&utm_campaign=Members%27%27+January+e-newsletter

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! 😊



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

NORTH – EVENTS AND NEWS



HALF-TERM WALK (NORTH)

INSTOW

Wednesday, 14th February

Start Time: 1.00pm. Approx. Finish Time: 4.00pm.

Meeting at the entrance to the Marine Parade Car Park

Length of the walk 2 miles, along the beach and the Tarka Trail, ending with refreshments at the local café.

Wellies definitely required!

Any queries, please ring Kim St Barbe on 07870842241 or

Lindsay Hartley Russell on 07970721746



Half Term Activity (NORTH) Thursday, 15th February, from 11.00am onwards

The Fostering Service (North) will generously pay for admission for foster carers, children in your care and also carers' own children to **The Big Sheep in Bideford** during February half term break (*NB; Grandchildren are also welcome, but will have to pay for themselves, please as the budget doesn't quite run to include everyone.*)

If you're interested in going along, please contact
fosteringnorthmid-mailbox@devon.gov.uk with numbers



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

SOUTH - EVENTS AND NEWS

DON'T FORGET

TAVISTOCK SUPPORT GROUP – 20th February, and
KINGSTEIGNTON / NEWTON ABBOT SUPPORT GROUP – 27th February

DFCA 'DOWN SOUTH'

While our next meeting (2nd March) is scheduled to take place at Oaklands Court, Tiverton, the DFCA Committee have been working hard to find a venue to host the subsequent meeting in South Devon.

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

You can contact us via our Facebook page or by email (details on the newsletter)

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)

SEE YOU SOON!



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

Or, perhaps you'd like help to try to organise something to 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 can help!



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

EXETER – EVENTS AND NEWS

EXETER LIBRARY

organise lots of fun activities, including their
Minecraft Red Ticket Day, Time Travelling and Discovering Nature

PLUS lots more! 😊

Why not check out their website for more details,

www.exeterramm.admit-one.eu/?filter%5B%5D=SPECIAL+EVENTS&s=EXETER+RAMM

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 them for you?

MID & EAST – EVENTS AND NEWS

DON'T FORGET!

MID & EAST Support Group

at Colaton Raleigh Village Hall (11 – 1 pm) - 21st February

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

Saturday morning activities from 10 – 4 at PETROC College in Tiverton. For more details, check out

<https://www.masctiverton.org/>



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

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

- Table Top Sale at every meeting enables you to sell or exchange items you no longer want or need, and, perhaps, pick up just the thing you've been looking for 😊
- Our Library resource (also available at every meeting) allows all members to borrow and share any of the books and publications listed on our library lending list (attached to this newsletter). Happy reading 😊
- Childminding can also 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 us with 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.

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

NEXT MEETING

2nd MARCH 2018

From 10.30 a.m. – 1.30p.m.

AT

OAKLAND 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**), 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**) and Caroline Maund (**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' admin' members, Trish, 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

