

Welcome to the 2018/2019 Training Programme

Never Stop Learning As Life Never Stops Teaching

Welcome to the 2018/19 Training Programme for Foster Carers. The programme has been put together to provide courses that will stimulate you and support you in your fostering role.

We have listened to your feedback and I am pleased to say that we have done away with the fine for cancelling at short notice or not attending training. However, I would ask that if you book on to a course and you then discover you cannot make it you let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer the place to someone else.

We have also been able to do away with the fees for the First Aid course.

Other changes in 2018/19 include a reduction in the number of courses that form the core of your learning as a foster carer.

We have also looked at ways of learning and, in recognition that not everybody can attend a training course, we will continue to roll out “E Learning” opportunities during the year.

How to book onto a course:

- When you contact us about a course we will register your interest and will confirm places on the course closer to the date – no later than four weeks notice. We will often only put one member of each fostering household on each course as we want to make sure as many households as possible can access the training we offer.
- Confirmation of your place will go out by email we will also send an attendance list that usually contains your email and telephone number to help with car-sharing and other practicalities. We will also email you if you haven't been allocated a space to see if you are interested in going on the waiting/cancellation list.
- Please also note that there is not enough interest in a course we will cancel it, again we will do this with four weeks notice.

Also; a reminder that as a Devon Foster Carer you can also access training provided by the Devon Children and Families Partnership, who provide a range of learning

opportunities around safeguarding, that include courses and “E Learning”. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.devonchildrenandfamiliespartnership.org.uk/>

Get involved

During 2018/19 we will be undertaking a review of our learning offer with the aim of launching a refreshed programme in 2019.

Do you have view about what you need to learn, or how you would like to learn. Please email any suggestions or comments to fosteringservicetraining-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

To book onto a course please email as above or by telephoning 01392 383000 and asking for Fostering Training.

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TRAINING CALENDAR 2018-2019

April		
Tuesday 17 th April	Induction Day	Exeter
Wednesday 18 th April	Induction Day	Totnes
Thursday 19 th April	Induction Day	Barnstaple
May		
Friday 11 th May	Working with Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and Interpreters	Exeter
Tuesday 22 nd May	Child Sexual Exploitation	Barnstaple
June		
Wednesday 6 th June	Working with Young People who have experienced Domestic Violence	Exeter
Thursday 7 th June	Child Sexual Exploitation	Totnes
Friday 8 th June	First Aid	Exeter
Wednesday 13 th June	Supporting Children and Young Adults who are at risk of Self Neglect	Barnstaple
Tuesday 19 th June	Working with Young People who have experienced Domestic Violence	Barnstaple
Tuesday 26 th June	Helping Children and Young People with Loss and Bereavement	Exeter
July		
Monday 2 nd July	Equality and Diversity	Barnstaple
Monday 2 nd July	Supporting Children and Young Adults who are at risk of Self Neglect	Totnes
Tuesday 3 rd July	Helping Children and Young People with Loss and Bereavement(FIG)	Barnstaple
Wednesday 11 th July	Working with young people who have experienced Domestic Violence	Totnes
Thursday 12 th July	Equality and Diversity	Exeter
Friday 13 th July	First Aid	Totnes
Tuesday 24 th July	Helping Children and Young People with Loss and Bereavement(CFIG)	Totnes
September		
Thursday 6 th September	Equality and Diversity	Totnes
Wednesday 12 th September	Safe use of Internet Including Social Media	Barnstaple
Monday 17 th September	First Aid	Totnes
Monday 24 th September	First Aid	Barnstaple
Tuesday 25 th September	Working with Birth Families	Exeter
Wednesday 26 th September	Life Story Work	Exeter
Friday 28 th September	Working with Birth Families	Totnes
Friday 28 th September	First Aid	Exeter
October		
Tuesday 2 nd October	Working with Birth Families	Barnstaple
Friday 5 th October	Working with Sexualised Behaviour	Barnstaple

Wednesday 10 th October	Safe use of internet including Social Media	Totnes
Tuesday 16 th October	Sexuality Identity and Disability	Exeter
Wednesday 24 th October	Working with Sexualised Behaviour	Totnes
Wednesday 31 st October	Conference	Cullompton
November		
Thursday 1 st November	Working with Sexualised Behaviour	Exeter
Tuesday 6 th November	Sexuality Identity and Disability	Barnstaple
Thursday 8 th November	Recognising and Responding to Bullying	Exeter
Thursday 15 th November	Recognising and Responding to Bullying	Barnstaple
Friday 16 th November	Working with Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and Interpreters	Totnes
Tuesday 20 th November	Life Story Work	Totnes
Thursday 22 nd November	Supporting Children and Young Adults who are at risk of self-neglect	Exeter
Friday 30 th November	Recognising and Responding to Bullying	Totnes
December		
Tuesday 4 th December	Child Sexual Exploitation	Exeter
January		
Wednesday 9 th January	Dealing with Children missing from Care	Exeter
Wednesday 16 th January	Dealing with Children missing from Care	Barnstaple
Wednesday 16 th January	Sexuality Identity and Disability	Totnes
Tuesday 22 nd January	Life Story Work	Exeter
Thursday 31 st January	Dealing with Children missing from Care	Totnes
February		
Wednesday 6 th February	Autistic Spectrum Conditions – Awareness	Barnstaple
Monday 11 th February	First Aid	Exeter
Tuesday 12 th February	Practical Support for Children and Young Adults with Mental Health Issues	Barnstaple
Tuesday 19 th February	Working with Sexually Abused Children and Young People	Totnes
Monday 25 th February	First Aid	Totnes
Thursday 28 th February	Working with Sexually Abused Children and Young People	Exeter
March		
Tuesday 5 th March	Practical Support for Children and Young Adults with Mental Health Issues	Totnes
Wednesday 6 th March	Induction Day	Exeter
Friday 15 th March	Induction Day	Barnstaple
Tuesday 19 th March	Practical Support for Children and Young Adults with Mental Health Issues	Exeter
Wednesday 20 th March	Induction Day	Totnes
Friday 22 nd March	First Aid	Barnstaple
Wednesday 27 th March	Autistic Spectrum Conditions - Awareness	Totnes

Core Training

This training needs to be completed within the first year of fostering.

- Induction Day for New Carers
- Safeguarding Training
- Attachment Training
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- First Aid



Induction day

Trainer: Fostering Devon

Learning Outcomes:

- To introduce newly approved foster carers to the structure of Devon's Fostering Service
- How placements are made
- Information on Recording Skills and data protection.
- The role of the Independent Reviewing Officer
- To explore working in partnership with parents, children and young people's services, education, health, and others involved in the care and well being of children and young people in care.

Start/finish: 10.00 to 14.00

Tuesday 17th April

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Drive, Exeter EX2 7AY

Wednesday 18th April

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Thursday 19th April

Barnstaple -North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Wednesday 6th March

Exeter -Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Friday 15th March

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Wednesday 20th March


Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Equality and Diversity

Trainer: Spectrum Management

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the session participants will have an understanding of:-

- What is Equality and Diversity?
- The legal framework
- Thinking about inclusive language
- Developing inclusive environments
- Reflection on own inherent bias and its impact



*"Really interesting
and informative"*

Start/finish: 10.00 to 13.00

Monday 2nd July

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Thursday 12th July

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Thursday 6th September

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Working with Birth Families

Trainers – Helen Reed & Debbie Tidmarsh, Fostering Social Workers

Learning Outcomes – To enable carers to explore the practical and emotional issues concerned with working with birth parents and other people involved with the fostered children in their care.

- To have an understanding of the barriers to effective working together.
- To be aware of practical tips to promote better working relationships.
- To identify personal strategies and ideas for working with people directly involved with children in care.

Start/finish: 10.00 to 13.00

Tuesday 25th September

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Friday 28th September

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Tuesday 2nd October

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Inter Agency Child Protection Training



Trainer: Devon Children and Families in Partnership

Learning Outcomes:

- Working together to identify, assess and meet the needs of children where there are safeguarding concerns.
- The impact of parenting issues such as domestic abuse and substance misuse on parenting capacity.
- Recognising the importance of family history and functioning.
- Working with children and family members, including addressing lack of co-operation and superficial compliance.

Dates: **Dates/Venues are put up throughout the year and can be found at;**

<https://www.devonchildrenandfamiliespartnership.org.uk/events/?cat1=group-3-core> . If you would like to book onto any of these courses please email; safeguardinglearning-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Please be aware that there is a £90 cancellation fee if a place is booked and then cancelled less than 2 months before the course date unless the place is filled by another carer.

Autistic Spectrum Conditions; Autism and Asperger's Syndrome

Trainer: Spectrum Management

Aim -

To provide participants with an opportunity to refresh and extend their knowledge, skills and confidence in the supporting children, young people and families who are on the Autistic Spectrum. Specifically developing awareness of the issues affecting young people in foster care.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course participants will:

- Be aware of practice guidance and the legal framework
- Know what is meant by the Autistic Spectrum / Conditions
- Have a greater knowledge of the Triad of Impairments
- Associated difficulties
 - Epilepsy
 - Anxiety
 - Learning Disability
 - Sensory challenges

- Be aware of the role and importance of the environment when working with individuals
- Be aware of challenges with social interaction and perception

Start/Finish: 10:00 to 13:00

Wednesday 6th February

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Wednesday 27th March


Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5N

Sexuality Identity and Disability

Trainer: Spectrum Management

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the session participants will understand:

- The legislative framework
- How we learn about relationships
- Basic knowledge of human sexuality
- How to support individuals in their personal relationships
- The effect that personal belief, culture and preferences have on personal relationships



"Good to listen to carers experiences"

Start/finish: 10.00 to 13.00

Tuesday 16th October

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Tuesday 6th November

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Wednesday 16th January

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Helping Children and Young People cope with Loss and Bereavement (Exeter)

Trainer: Balloons Charity

Aims and objectives –

By the end of the course participants will:

- Understand the services that Balloons Charity can offer and how to refer to them.
- Draw on and further develop your own skills set in supporting bereaved children and young people in your professional settings.

- Gain a deeper understanding of loss and grief and its effects on children and the consequences of denying grief.
- Consider the 'difficult questions' that children may ask about death, and how we might answer them, and to consider the need for clear and honest language around death.
- Explore practical ideas for interventions to use when supporting bereaved children and young people.

Start/Finish time: 10:00 to 13:00

Tuesday 26th June

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY


Helping Children and Young People cope with Loss and Bereavement (Barnstaple)

Trainer: Families and Grief

Aims and objectives –

By the end of the course participants will:

- Have a wide range of thoughts and feelings children and young people have after the death of someone close to them.
- Understand the impact death can have on a child at home or at school
- Understand how a child views death, depending on their age or stage of development.
- Know practical ideas, to use when supporting a bereaved child or young person, including how Families in Grief works
- Be able to discuss specific children the carers may have in their care
- Look at practical resources available to them



"Useful information about appreciating how children feel"

Start/Finish: 10:00 to 13:00

Tuesday 3rd July

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Helping Children and Young People cope with Loss and Bereavement (Totnes)

Trainer: Children and Families and Grief

Aims and objectives –

By the end of the course participants will be able to:

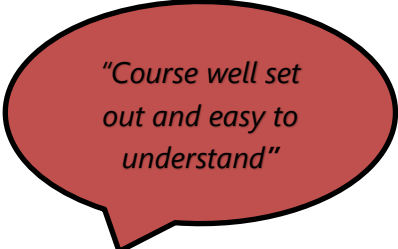
- Raise awareness of the services that Children and Families in Grief can offer and how to refer.
- Explore & reflect on your current practice/policy when working with bereaved children and young people.

- Explore loss for children in general and social terms.
- Recognise physical and emotional responses to grief.
- Gain a deeper understanding of loss and grief and its effects on children and young people and the consequences of denying grief.
- Identify what children and young people experiencing grief may require in terms of support.
- Consider the ‘difficult questions’ that children and young people may ask and how we might answer them.
- Understand the need for clear and honest language around death.
- Explore practical ideas for use with children and young people.

Start/Finish: 10:00 to 13:00

Tuesday 24th July

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5N



"Course well set out and easy to understand"

Safe use of the Internet including Social Media

Trainer: Spectrum Management

Aim -

To provide participants with an opportunity to refresh and extend their knowledge, skills and confidence in the area of online safety. Specifically developing awareness of the issues affecting young people in foster care.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course participants will:

- Have an understanding of the importance and potential benefits of the online world for young people
- Be aware of practice guidance and the legal framework
- Be aware of the risks children and young people face online
- Understand increased online vulnerabilities
- The foster carers roles and responsibilities
- Develop skills for building online resilience

Start/finish: 10:00 to 13:00

Wednesday 12th September


Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Wednesday 10th October

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Practical Support for Children and Young Adults with Mental Health Issues

Trainer: Spectrum Management



"Balanced content"

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the session participants will:

- Have an understanding of the continuum of wellness and ill health
- Know key information of the most common forms of mental ill health
- Have practical tips to maximise the young person's physical and mental health
- Know sources of self help
Know when to seek help and from whom
- Understand legal framework and good practice guidance

Start/finish time: 10.00 to 13.00

Tuesday 12th February

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Tuesday 5th March

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Tuesday 19th March

Exeter -Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Supporting Children and Young Adults who are at risk of Self Neglect

Trainer: Spectrum Management

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the session participants will:

- Be clear about the definition of self-neglect
- Recognise the early signs of self-neglect vs personal choice
- Have an awareness of the most common triggers
- Be able to work with and alongside the young person
- Know when to seek help and support and from whom

Start/finish time: 10.00 to 13.00

Wednesday 13th June

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Monday 2nd July

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Thursday 22nd November

Exeter -Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Working with Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and Interpreters

Trainer: Anil Lee

Learning Outcomes:

- Reasons why unaccompanied children flee their homes and make that horrendous journey to UK
- Understanding some of the cultural misunderstandings and how it can be avoided
- Immigrations issues and solicitors that are specialised in this field in Devon.
- How foster carers can help the children with their English
- How to access interpreting services and the booking procedure
- What type of meetings are interpreters are generally booked for.
- Signposting- organisations that can help BME population in Exeter and Devon


Start/Finish: 10:00 to 13:00

Friday 11th May

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Friday 16th November

Totnes -Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE



"Lovely to meet up with other foster carers"

Working with Young People who have Experienced Domestic Violence

Trainer: Ringway Training

Aim –

Provide professionals who work with children and young people who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse with knowledge of the way their experiences may have affected them, the impact and their feelings.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the effects of domestic violence
- Understand characteristics of perpetrators
- Understand feelings of young people who have experienced domestic violence
- Understand safeguarding requirements *to*
- Understand safe working practices
- Understand ways of providing support

Start/Finish – 10:00 to 13:00

Wednesday 6th June


Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Tuesday 19th June

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Wednesday 11th July

Totnes -Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE



"Great presentation"

Working with Sexualised Behaviour

Trainer: Ringway Training

Aim –

Provides learners knowledge of the meaning of sexualised behaviours and the difference between healthy, problematic and harmful behaviours, discusses the possible influences which may have caused these behaviours to be displayed and provides ideas for supporting and signposting children and young people who present sexualised behaviours and their family and support teams.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the meaning of sexualised behaviour
- Understand types of sexualised behaviour
- Understand indicators of sexualised behaviour
- Understand legislation and regulations relating to sexualised behaviour
- Understand causes and influences of sexualised behaviour
- Understand ways of providing support
- Understand ways of obtaining additional support

Start/Finish – 10:00 to 13:00

Friday 5th October

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Wednesday 24th October

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Thursday 1st November

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Recognising and Responding to Bullying

Trainer: Ringway Training

Aim –

Define what bullying is, considers the effects for vulnerable children and young people, discusses the possible reasons why bullying happens and recognises how different types of bullies ‘operate’.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand what bullying is
- Understand reasons why bullying happens
- Understand methods of bullying
- Understand types of bullies
- Understand different bullying environments
- Understand ways of working with perpetrators of bullying
- Understand ways of working with people who have been bullied



Start/Finish – 10:00 to 13:00

Thursday 8th November

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Thursday 15th November

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Friday 30th November

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Working with Sexually Abused Children and Young People

Trainer: Ringway Training

Aim –

Provide knowledge and skills required to support children and young people who have been sexually abused and challenge this sensitive subject in a way which includes learners in a way which they feel comfortable and focuses on a positive approach to providing support.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand what child sexual abuse is
- Understand why sexual abuse can happen
- Understand how sexual abuse can happen
- Understand the impact of sexual abuse

- Understand barriers to disclose
- Understand challenges of sexually abused children
- Understand how to provide support

Start/Finish - 10:00 to 13:00

Tuesday 19th February

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Thursday 28th February

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Dealing with Children Missing from Care

Trainer: Ringway Training

Aim -

Consider how organisations must ensure confidentiality and data protection is maintained and how to deal with issues including working with the police and dealing with enquiries from the press.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand what 'missing from care' means
- Understand reasons why vulnerable children and young people may go missing from care
- Understand sector regulations and legislation for protecting children missing from care
- Understand the procedure to follow in reporting cases of children missing from care
- Understand ways to assess risk and safeguard vulnerable children
- Understand how to prepare for the return of a missing young child or young person once located

Start/Finish - 10:00 to 13:00

Wednesday 9th January

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Wednesday 16th January

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Thursday 31st January

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Life Story Work

Trainer – Polly Baynes

- What life story work is
- The right time for doing life story work
- The role of the foster carer/adopter
- How it feels to be asked to remember, and the support a child needs from you
-
- Caring for children who have idealised view of their birth family

"I will take away lots of ideas to help towards building a story for my foster children"

Start/finish: 10:00 to 14:00

Wednesday 26th September

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

Tuesday 20th November

Totnes - Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Tuesday 22nd January

Barnstaple -North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Child Sexual Exploitation

Trainer – Spectrum Management

- Prevention and promoting and maintaining a 'listening household'
- Staying involved, keeping up communication
- Life skills that reduce risks in the virtual and real world
- Understanding the increased risks of young people in care
- What is exploitation and child sexual exploitation?
- What can you do if you are concerned? Others that can help, sharing information.
- What is MACSE and how can it support you?

"Case studies were relevant and helpful"

Start/Finish: 10:00 to 13:00

Tuesday 22nd May

Barnstaple - North Devon Leisure Centre, 7 Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple EX31 2AP

Thursday 7th June

Totnes -Follaton House, Plymouth Rd, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Tuesday 4th December

Exeter - Newcourt Community Centre Blakeslee Dr, Exeter EX2 7AY

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be made via email to fosteringservicetraining-mailbox@devon.gov.uk If you have any questions please contact the above mailbox email or by telephone on 01392 383000 and ask for 'fostering training'.

If you have any special needs in relation to sight/hearing/mobility/use of written materials please inform fostering training.

Places will be allocated on receipt of your application email and details of your confirmed places will be emailed back to you. If a course is full you will be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted should a place become available. In the first instance, we will allocate, 1 place per household.

If you do not wish your contact details to be shared with other carers please indicate this on your application. Approximately 2 weeks prior to the course date details of the course will be sent out. **It is very important that if your email address changes you inform us** as you may miss out on vital information (e.g. venue changes) and any new training which may be added to the program.

As per Ofsted policy certificates will not be awarded unless the whole training session is attended.

Thank you for your application and we hope you enjoy your training.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND

Once you've booked onto a course, you should try your hardest to attend. We run waiting lists for each one - but if you cancel too near to the date, or simply don't turn up at all, then it's impossible to fill your place - and this means that you are effectively preventing another carer from taking advantage of the training opportunity.

Inter agency child protection training - please be aware that there is a £90 cancellation fee if a place is booked and then cancelled less than 2 months before the course date unless the place is filled by another carer.

Fostering is full of unpredictable events, but an empty seat on a course costs money – so only cancel if you have to, and do it as soon as you know you can't attend by calling 01392 383000 or email the training mailbox at fostertraining@devon.gov.uk

TRAINING WORKSHOPS IN YOUR SUPPORT GROUPS

Following on from previous year's success in delivering training workshops using **carers' support groups**, we have continued with this programme.

Workshops will run for up to three hours from either 10am to 1pm, or 7pm to 10pm and are being arranged by the fostering supervising social workers.

Please contact your fostering social worker who will be able to let you know more about the training and the areas in which support groups take place

If specific training is delivered these workshops are certificated.

SMALL PRINT

GENERAL INFORMATION

We hope that you will find the courses being offered for 2018/2019 useful and enjoyable. If you are interested in a course which is not being included this year but has been in the past please let us know as it may be possible to run it at a later date.

Occasionally we will also offer training opportunities in addition to this programme. Details of these courses will be circulated via your local newsletters or other mailings for the fostering teams, so please keep an eye open for them!

CONFIDENTIALITY

Carers who participate in the training programme will be encouraged to discuss children in their care as part of the training. However, all participants must respect confidentiality of this information outside of the training session.

Due to the remodelling of the fostering service there may be some core training courses attended by carers before approval at panel and occasionally carers from another local authority. Please bear this in mind when discussing children and young people in your care.

Where there are any concerns arising from information shared on a training programme in respect of any carer's practice, this will be referred by the trainers to the relevant manager in the fostering service. A carer will always be informed that this action is being taken and that concerns are being raised.

If you need to discuss issues of confidentiality further, please contact your Supervising Social Worker who can provide you with advice, guidance and support.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are able to reimburse foster carers attending training events described in this brochure, for mileage to and from these events and out of pocket expenditure on child care costs. Claims for all expenditure must be made using the form **CIC3a, Foster Carer Expenses Claim Form for Non Child Specific Expenditure**. Copies of this form can be obtained from the training clerk on 01392 383000.

Please try to complete and submit one form per month. **Remember to sign it** before sending it on. In the *Reason for Journey* section, please indicate clearly the date, venue and name of the course you have attended. Where child care costs are being claimed, please attach receipts. Under normal circumstances mileage will be paid at the current Volunteer Rate. Carers are also entitled to an extra 1p per mile if they carry a passenger who is attending the same training course. Wherever reasonably possible we would expect foster carers to share transport.

For all training outlined in this brochure, please send your claim forms to Room 248, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD

Please note: claims for any other expenses in relation to children placed with you, should be submitted to your Fostering Supervising Social Worker.

VENUES AND TIMINGS

We have tried to make the courses as convenient to carers as possible by locating them in venues across the county and at times which do not clash with school delivery or collection. Some courses are also delivered via support groups which operate at various times throughout the week some of which are run during the day and some in the evening.

FOSTER CARE TRAINING STRATEGY

Purpose of the Strategy

- To ensure that foster carers and their families are trained in the skills required to provide high quality care and to meet the needs of each child or young person placed in their care
- To meet the requirements of the training, support and development standards for Foster Care.
- To ensure that our foster care training strategy contributes to the five outcomes for Children in Care from 'Every Child Matters':

- 1) **Being healthy:** enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle
- 2) **Staying safe:** being protected from harm and neglect
- 3) **Enjoying and achieving:** getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood
- 4) **Making a positive contribution:** being involved with the community and society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour
- 5) **Achieving economic well-being:** not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life

Our Aims

- To provide pre-approval, induction and ongoing training for each carer approved by Devon County Council's Children and Young People's Services
- To create opportunities for carers to benefit from the experience and knowledge of existing carers and young people who have been in care.
- To deliver training which fits into the framework of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice
- To deliver training in a way which facilitates attendance by offering accessible times and venues, and by meeting childcare costs and other reasonable expenses
- To create opportunities for carers to achieve nationally recognised qualifications
- To create opportunities for foster carers to experience training with social care staff

How we will achieve this

- Produce an annual training programme for foster carers
- The carers' annual fostering review will include an appraisal of training and development needs and take into account those arising from new legislation and policy developments
- Each training course is evaluated individually as well as in conjunction with the annual evaluation of the whole training programme with involvement from carers and fostering supervising social workers
- By listening to and responding to feedback about our training programme

LEGISLATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE

All fostering work with looked after children is governed by a number of key pieces of legislation and guidance. The courses in this programme are not intended to make carers experts in law, but are designed and presented within the spirit, context and responsibilities of this legislation and guidance.

PORTFOLIOS AND INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT

Portfolios

We encourage carers to use the training opportunities which are provided as part of their learning and development. To make the most of the training opportunities which are available, your fostering supervising social worker will discuss your learning and development needs as part of their ongoing work with you and as part of the foster care review process. This information is used for our review of the training programme to see how we can better meet carers' needs.

All carers will have their individual development portfolio and TSD workbook.

For foster carers wishing to pursue a Level 3 Qualification the keeping of a portfolio is very relevant as once you have enrolled on the Level 3 programme your Assessor will guide you as to how the evidence can be used.

REFLECTIVE LEARNING LOG

Please complete this REFLECTIVE LEARNING LOG following attendance at any training event, and discuss this with your fostering supervising social worker. It is helpful for them to have a copy of this on your foster carer file, and for you to keep in your personal training portfolio.

Consider the following questions in whatever order suits you.

Evaluation of the Training

- ❖ Date of event

- ❖ What was the event?

- ❖ What was I expecting to learn (if appropriate)?

- ❖ What have I learned?

- ❖ What was significant about this learning for me?

- ❖ How does this learning link to competencies for fostering?

- ❖ How will this learning change my practice?

Putting it into Practice

- ❖ How you are going to put your new knowledge into practice?
- ❖ What support or permissions may you need to implement your plan?
- ❖ Who will agree as to how you put this new knowledge gained from attending this training into practice?
- ❖ In general how did putting the above into practice go?
- ❖ What went well whilst doing it?
- ❖ What didn't go so well?
- ❖ How did the other people involved feel about how you put it into practice? e.g. children, parents, colleagues?

FOSTERING DEVON

WITNESS RECORD

Name.....

Date.....

Written Account of Involvement with Foster Carer

The above meets these Standards.....

Signed:.....Foster Carer

Signed:.....Social Worker

FOSTERING DEVON

PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION RECORD

Foster Carer.....

Social Worker.....

<p>Areas to be covered within the discussion</p>	<p>Foster Care Standard</p>
<p>Outline of Discussion Content</p>	<p>Counter reference (if recorded)</p>