

DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



You'll notice a change in our newsletters from now on!

At our last meeting, it was decided to combine ALL the activities and news as one Countywide invitation, rather than separating news and events by area, as previously.

Hope you like the new 'look' 😊

We'd be really interested to know what you think.

NEWS

INSURANCE FOR MALICIOUS DAMAGE

Where a foster child deliberately causes damage to the property of a foster carer, carers can seek reimbursement for the cost of that damage through an insurance policy provided by the Fostering Service to cover just that eventuality. There is no need for carers to first apply to their own insurance companies. It is a standard claims process and should be quite straight forward. It covers all property (excluding vehicles).

Incidents need to be reported within 30 days of the damage and the claim should be made via the child's' SW. If any difficulties arise, refer to Luke Chapman (Operations Manager), without delay.

Do you know someone amazing?

The Fostering Excellence Awards shine a spotlight on some of the exceptional people in the fostering community and nominations for this year's Fostering Excellence Awards are now open, but they close on **Friday 15 June!**

There are awards for young people who are or have, in the past, been fostered, sons and daughters, social workers and foster carers and here's some ideas to help you consider who you might want to nominate;

- *Have you fostered a young person who has gone on to flourish despite having a difficult start to life?*
- *Does your son or daughter go out of their way to make the children you foster feel welcome and at ease in your home?*
- *Has your social worker gone above and beyond their everyday job to support you?*
- *Do you know a fellow foster carer who has gone the extra mile for the children in their care or made a real difference to their fostering community?*

If you'd like to nominate anyone, (and you can nominate more than one person) simply contact us and one of the 6 holders of the Fostering Network memberships will submit the nomination on your behalf.



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

FREEBIES!!!

FREE / DISCOUNTED HOLIDAYS FOR CARERS

Many of us are already aware that **Timpson Trust** offers **free holidays** to foster carers (more information and application form can be obtained from any Timpson outlet OR at our DFCA meetings) but many are not yet aware that **Ilfracombe & District Lions Club** have been running Holiday Homes for the disabled at The Golden Coast Holiday Park in Woolacombe that they are willing to offer to foster carers at **discounted rates!**

For more information, and application form, contact www.e.clubhouse/sites/ilfracombe

(Happy Holidays 😊!)

SAFETY FIRST!

Devon & Cornwall Fire Service offer a **Free Home Safety Check** for families

simply contact them direct on 0800 0502 999 or via www.dsfire.gov.uk to book your check.

DON'T FORGET...

...your **MAX Card** offers all foster carers discounts to a variety of entertainment venues. If you haven't received yours yet, speak to your SSW asap, so you and your children

DON'T MISS OUT!

For more information about what's on offer check out... <http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk/>

...AND...

Watch this space! We'll keep you posted of any more **FREEBIES!** that come to our attention. *(If you happen to know of any, why not let us know and we'll broadcast it for other carers?)*

REMINDERS!

TO ALL NEW CARERS,

If you'd like to join our Facebook page (where you can meet other carers in your area and access a wide range of information, guidance and knowledge from others carers – or add your own advice), just send any one of the Committee a 'friend request' and (after checking you are who you say you are) we'll add you to our closed group.

(Committee; Trish Bagshaw, Leigh Strange, Lewis Crowden, Mike Gillard, Glyn Oliver Denise Lacey, David Leyland, or Andrew Randall)

SIMPLE! 😊



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

CABARET EVENING FOR CARERS & THEIR FAMILIES

Why not come and join us at

The Waterfront Inn in Westward Ho! on Friday 18th May (5.30 – 9 p.m.)
for a fabulous evening of music, dance and mayhem with the awesome

Sarah Devonshire and her Duplicate Diva Show!

(A multi-tribute show to stars like Madonna, Katy Perry, Freddie Mercury and LOTS more!), followed by raffles and FOOD!

Contact Kim St. Barbe with numbers, and for more details, on
07870842241

Promises to be a riot of fun for the whole family – **DON'T MISS OUT!** 😊

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,

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/exeterlibrary>

BSL/ Makaton Practice Group
Last Tuesday of every month.

No fee

Beginners welcome

Waterfront Inn, Westward Ho!

For more information, telephone
Sandy Buckley on 01237 425454

Tarka Tennis in Bideford

Is still offering 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 their Special Olympics session on Saturdays from 2 – 4. More details can be found at...

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

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/>

Foster Carers, caring for Children with Disabilities

This Support Group meets on Mondays from 10 - 12 at Welland House, Chaddiford Lane, in Barnstaple every Monday.

Dates for this year; 14th May, 18th June, 16th July, 24th September, 15th October, 19th November and 10th December (Xmas lunch).

If you're interested in going along, please contact Helen Woolway (social worker) on 07967176713



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL UPDATES

Don't Forget!
Fostering Network
FOSTER CARE FORTNIGHT
(14th - 27th May) this year

DON'T FORGET, Fostering Network will be running their 'I'm...and I'm #ProudToFoster' theme e.g.

- I'm a baker and I'm #ProudToFoster.
- I'm over 60 and I'm #ProudToFoster.
- I'm a parent of three and I'm #ProudToFoster,

(If you'd like to get involved with the campaign on social media visit their website)

https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/get-involved/foster-care-fortnight?utm_source=Communicator&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Link722&utm_campaign=Members%27%27+February+e-newsletter

And, Fostering Network have produced the attached publication entitled '**REVIEWING THE APPROVAL OF A FOSTER CARER**' as guidance for foster carers who find themselves in the position of having their fostering approval reviewed. **Well worth a read.**

The National Association of Therapeutic Parenting (NAOTP)

...provides support, education and resources for ALL therapeutic parents (including us!) They can offer strategies around effective interventions and information around compassion fatigue and the effects of early life trauma.

Find out more on their website at

www.naotp.org.uk/

or their Facebook page (NAOTP). Members can take part in Listening Circles and receive a whole range of information and resources.

SOUTH WEST FOSTERING FORUM

(Minutes of last meeting attached to this Newsletter)

REMINDER NEXT MEETING 21st June

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.



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

REMINDER

North – Support Groups

Tuesday 8th May 10.30 – 12.30
Carer-Led at Freedom Centre, Barnstaple

Wednesday 16th May 7 – 9 p.m.
at The Village Hall, Frithelstockstone

REMINDER

EXETER – Support Group,

14th May (SW led),

10am-12 noon

At St Mark's Church, Pinhoe Road, Exeter

REMINDER

SOUTH – Support Groups

10th May at
Plympton

DON'T FORGET to check out all
the other events on our Calendar
(attached). There's bound to be
something on there that's right up
your street 😊

REMINDER

MID & EAST-
Carer Led
Support Group
Colaton Raleigh
Village Hall
16th May from
11 – 1 pm

NEXT MEETING

7th June 2018

From 10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

AT

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!

