

# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



## REMINDER ! DEADLINE APPROACHING! 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!

(Eek! 😨 ... Yup, 😊 that's this Friday, this week!)

You'll remember from our last newsletter, there are awards for young people who are, or have in the past, been fostered, our sons and daughters, social workers and foster carers. 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 can submit the nomination on your behalf.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Carers' Social Day

at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton EX17 6DF

on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June from 11 am – 4 pm.**

(Swimming pool booked from 11-12 and 3-4, so bring your swimsuits 😊)

Meet for Lunch at 1 p.m.

Contact Mandy Heggadon to confirm numbers, please, and for more details.



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For a fun, family day out why not come along to

## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK 14th July 2018

Just turn up and meet from 10 a.m. onwards at Haddon Hill Car Park, TA4 2DS. This offers a perfect opportunity for our youngsters to explore the natural world with activities all day, including fireside cooking, den-making, bug hunts and lots more.

Don't miss out!

**DON'T FORGET YOUR PICNIC & WELLIES** (*it may be summer, but this is Britain, after all!*)



## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Our AGM this year will take place on  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 – 1.30 p.m.  
at The Kenn Centre, Kennford  
followed by a support group

*(Further details to follow shortly)*



## Your young person wants to attend University, but you're worried about fees?

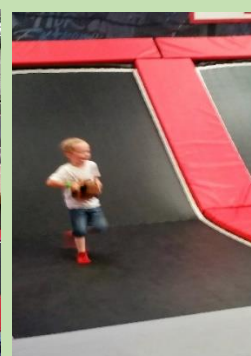
*Too few young people estranged from family or leaving care realise their potential at university but **Unite** want to change that. Their scholarships award students free purpose-built Unite Students accommodation for three years of study, supporting them to succeed while knowing that they have a place to belong at university. Together with their university partners and supporters, you can help make sure your child in care can have the opportunities to thrive at university - and beyond. For more details;*

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=626687357683987&id=100010281843397](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=626687357683987&id=100010281843397)

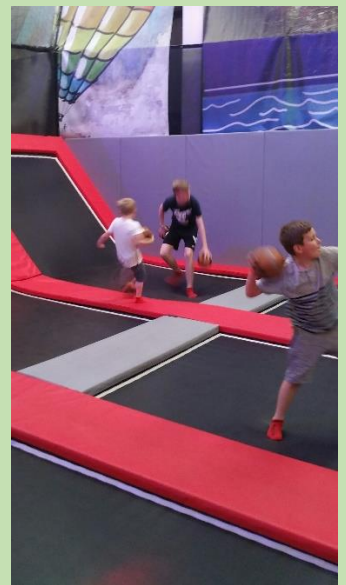


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Our AIR EXTREME event at the Trampoline Park in Barnstaple on 10<sup>th</sup> June was a great success...and we thought you might like to see some photo's... 😊

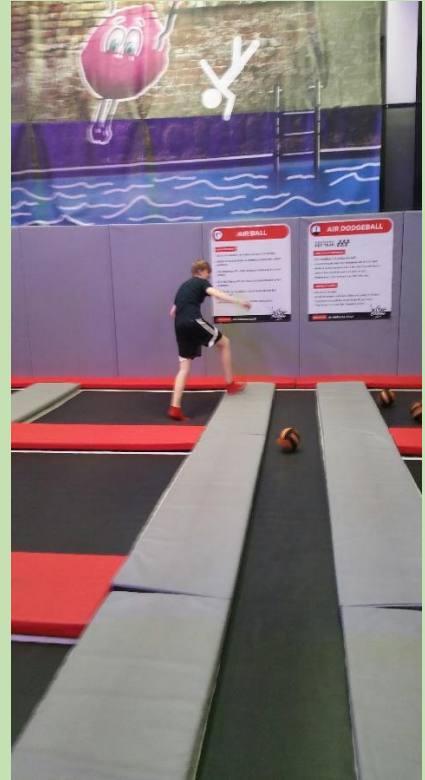


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From big ones...



...to little ones...



# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

...and even the grown-ups

(Rather fetching socks there, Mike 😊)

(Loving your technique here, Lisa 😊)



(Not quite so easy to get out, was it, Kim? 😊)

... even our Chair had a go!

But, it's hard work all that bouncing and, before long, everyone needed a break.



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FINALLY, JUST SOME OF THE BEST SMILES OF THE DAY!



**NOW, FOR THE MORE SERIOUS STUFF...**

## **NATIONAL UPDATES**

**SARAH is coming to Town (!!)**

Sarah Naish, founder of The National Association of Therapeutic Parenting (NAOTP) will be the key speaker at the Fostering Carer's Conference on 31<sup>st</sup> October (more details in the Fostering Devon newsletter) and will talk about, among other things, compassion fatigue. Not to be missed!

Most of you will already know that NAOTP provides support, education and resources for ALL therapeutic parents (including us!). They offer real strategies around effective interventions and information around compassion fatigue and the effects of early life trauma.

You can find out more on their website at [www.naotp.org.uk/](http://www.naotp.org.uk/) or their Facebook page (NAOTP). NB: Members can take part in Listening Circles and receive a whole range of information and resources.



# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

## SOUTH WEST FOSTERING FORUM

### REMINDER NEXT MEETING

21<sup>st</sup> 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. 😊

### Fostering Network Update!

- The Children's Commissioner for England, published her second Stability Index, an annual report which tracks the experiences of children in care, on 1<sup>st</sup> June which can be seen here.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2018/06/01/childrens-commissioners-annual-stability-index-for-children-in-care-warns-thousands-of-vulnerable-teenage-pinball-kids-are-pinging-around-the-care-system/>

The Index gathers data from local authorities in England to assess how frequently children in care are 'pinging' around the care system – changing home, school or social worker over the course of a year. She stated...

"It is very concerning that the number of children having to move around the system has hardly changed over the last year. Over one in five children in care are not in the good or outstanding schools they should be, and I am worried that the system has given up on the hundreds of children bouncing around from one poor school to another. I want all local authorities to make reducing instability a priority and to measure it. I would also like to see Ofsted assessing the stability of children in care as part of their inspections and for the Department for Education to start asking for data on this in their annual returns from Local Authorities.

"The care system does work for many thousands of children but our ambition should be for every child growing up in care to have the same chances to live happy, healthy and rewarding lives as any other child. We put that at risk if we are expecting some children to constantly change school and home."

- Fostering Network believes that more than 8,000 new foster families across the UK need to be found in the coming year to ensure that all fostered children can be found the right foster home first time.





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## FREQUENT FREEBIES AND REGULAR REMINDERS!!

### 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](http://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](http://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/>

### 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](#)

### 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/>

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

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

### FN INFORMATION!

We have acquired some more **Information Leaflets for Carers from Fostering Network** around the subjects of;

1. **Inland Revenue & Tax for foster carers, and**
2. **Entitlement to Benefits for foster carers.**

These will be freely available at our DFCA meetings.

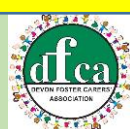
If you'd like information on other topics, please do let us know.

### 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>



# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

## 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.

Remaining dates for this year; 18<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 19<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December (Xmas lunch).

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

### REMINDER

**SOUTH – Support Group**

26<sup>th</sup> June Kingsteignton / Newton Abbot

### REMINDER

**EXETER – Support Group**

2<sup>nd</sup> July (SW led), 10am-12 noon at St Mark's Church, Pinhoe Road, Exeter

*NB; Please check before attending, as information provided suggests this has been cancelled.*

### REMINDER

**MID & EAST- Carer Led Support Group**

Colaton Raleigh Village Hall -20<sup>th</sup> June 11 – 1p.m.

### REMINDER

**North – Support Groups**

15<sup>th</sup> June – Holy Trinity Church, Barnstaple (SW Led) 10.00 – 12.00

19<sup>th</sup> June - Freedom Centre, Barnstaple (Carer Led) 10.30 – 12.30

## CALLING ALL CARERS, IN ALL AREAS!

Walks around Devon and days out at a local park are simple family events that all ages seem to enjoy.

Would you like to organise walks in your locality? You know the best places in your own areas and, hopefully, you'll know which carers in your areas would join in with you if a walking event was planned. We'd be happy to help with arrangements, planning and broadcasting, but would need input from carers who know places in their area, so please get in touch if you would like to be more involved and help with creating events in your area.

The more that get involved, the better the events (and, consequently, the support we can offer to one another) will be).

Contact Mandy Heggadon if you have some good ideas or would like to get more involved. 😊



# DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

## TO ALL NEW CARERS,

...if you'd like to join our Facebook page (where you can meet other carers in your area (and in other parts of the County) an access a wide range of information, guidance and knowledge from other foster carers, just like you, just send any one of the Committee (details at the end of this post) a 'friend request' and (after checking you are who you say you are – we are a closed group, after all ), we'll add you to the group. **SIMPLE!**

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

...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?)*

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

# DON'T FORGET! ...

## NEXT MEETING – TO BE CONFIRMED

### AGM (Followed by support group)

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

From 10.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

**At The Kenn Centre, Kennford, Devon EXEX6 7UE**

**(Please note venue!)**

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!**

