

DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



UPCOMING EVENTS

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 13th September 10.30 – 1.30 p.m.
at The Kenn Centre, Kennford
followed by a support group**

(Further details to follow shortly)



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Our last social event at The Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum proved to be a lot of fun

(...and the weather wasn't too shabby either. 😊).



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NATIONAL UPDATES

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 1st 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/). <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.
- Every two years The Fostering Network conducts a survey of foster carers throughout the UK and they publish their State of the Nation report based on the survey findings. In 2016 Fostering Network received a record 2,530 responses which has given a unique insight into the issues facing foster carers across the UK. It is vitally important that policy makers both listen to foster carers and then act on what they hear, and since publishing the report in February 2017 FN have been using the findings to deliver improvements in the areas carers said were of most concern. The FN impact report highlights the key action taken with the 2016 survey results and can be viewed at https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/policy-practice/policies/state-nations-foster-care2016?utm_source=Communicator&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Link709&utm_campaign=June%20e-newsletter%20for%20foster%20carer%20members#impact

Look out for the 2018 survey which will be opening next month!



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SOUTH WEST FOSTERING FORUM

REMINDER NEXT MEETING

22nd November 2018

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. 😊

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 31st October (more details in the Fostering Devon newsletter) and will talk about, among other things, compassion fatigue. Not to be missed!

**WATCH OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS FROM THE FOSTERING SERVICE ,
COMING OUT SOON! 😊**

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

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 to book your check.



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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>

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; 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

...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 😊



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

REMINDER

**SOUTH –
Support Group**

**12th July
Plympton**

REMINDER

EXETER – Support Group

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

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

REMINDER

MID & EAST SUPORT GROUP

**18th July- Colaton Raleigh
Village Hall 11 – 1 pm**

REMINDER

North – Support Groups

10th July - Frithelstock Village Hall, Frithelstockstone 10 am – 12 noon

**17th July – Carer led (Run by carers with experience of managing complex
behaviours) at The Freedom Centre, Barnstaple 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 you'll know which carers in your areas would join in with you if a fun walking event was planned. We'd be happy to help with arrangements, planning and broadcasting, but we need input from carers like you who know places in their area, so do get in touch if you would like to be more involved 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. 😊**

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)



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DON'T FORGET! ...

NEXT MEETING –

Thursday 19th July

From 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

At Oaklands Court, Tiverton

(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!

