Meeting @ Dereham FC 25th May 2016 10-12.30

Present: Julia Spinks Chair, Peter Ronan Vice Chair, Mark Buckle, Stefan Rice, Anne Riches, Antonella Parker, Pam Weyer, Sharon Donoghue, Juliet Stokes, Carey Cake, Ann McKendrick, Mike Woodward.

Apologies: Keeley White, Cathy Mouser, Rachel Bartholomew.

1. Minutes of 4th agreed. Action points reviewed and points of further discussion below:

- Open Day for Norwich went very well all carers were enthusiastic. Peter suggested repeating the Norwich open event by the end of the year.
- Anne Ritchies and Suzy have almost finished their review of the Recording Book. Carers recording has been an issue for a long time and until a new online system is purchased we will continue to use “Our Life Together” to carry out daily recordings. With regards to disclosures, these should be sent to the child’s social worker separately, and noted on “Our Life Together”.

This subject sparked much debate with some of the questions listed below:
Mark suggested “logging the date/time/title on the daily recordings so that each can be traced and married up”.
When a child moves from one carer to another or onto adoption could/should the recordings go with them on stay with the child’s file?
Is the recording for the child or case management?
Other organisations use clouds, why can we?
In cases of allegations where the event is historical can carers obtain a copy of their recordings from the file?
Where a child has moved on to adoption and an allegation is made against the carer can the carer received copies of their recordings?
Stefan asked “Why can’t we have a button somewhere to request a secure email to enable disclosure matters to be sent confidentially to the social worker?”
To take this forward - Ann/Suzy to meet discuss this matter further with Teresa, to find out the legalities of the complex issue.
2. Network Group Feedback:

Norwich: Guest speaker Sally Gallop, went well.

North Walsham: Michelle LAC Nurse, ADHD nurse didn’t make it. **Carey to check if there is a new LAC Health representative to be a go to person for any health issues, and feedback to the group.**

Reports from Gt Yarmouth and Watton were that even though just two attended it was well received. A new representative must be found for Watton area.

Kings Lynn: Next meeting 1st June.

CWD: Guest speaker dietician, went well.

Kinship: feedback from Anja, who last week had a meeting regarding the new group. Anja wanted to thank all those who attended. Anja was excited to share that there will be a special guardianship group monthly commencing in Norwich and the next month in Kings Lynn. Depending on the uptake this will be rolled out to Kinship Carers too.

3. TAC:

**This is me!** : A template for Social Workers to complete and send to children through the post whenever the take on a new child, is now being used in the Breckland Area. **Ann Mckendrick will provide feedback to the AP in the next two months on how this is being received by our Children and Young People.** The view is to then roll it out though out Norfolk Children’s Services.

Ann commented that the aim is for stability of social workers so that the child doesn’t have to keep experiencing new workers. New social workers will be utilised within the LAC teams. Mark asked if changes in social workers are logged, so that stability can be measured. **Peter will speak with Simon Scott with a view to providing data for ongoing analysis.**

Communications Strategy: A group is being set up to ensure excellent communication through the service. This is to also include where consultation is required from carers. Mike has already begun work for this group by changing the template of the newsletter so that it is more like Improving Times and more user friendly. Also he has started to set up a wordpress page, the idea being that all forms of communication a carers would need are on the site, Such as any changes or new things NCC or AP want carers to know about. We were all very excited by this news as it seems exactly what carers had wanted, although this needs approval at the current time.

4. Continuous Professional Development:

A meeting will take place on the 22nd June. Three new carers have come forward to join the group which is very pleasing. The training plan for this financial year has gone out to all carers and feedback is that it is very thorough and professional.
5. **Support Groups and Social Events:**
   There is no chair for this group so a meeting has not been held.
   *Julia will speak to a carer to see if they are interested in taking on this role.*

6. **Mockingbird Presentation:**
   Feedback was very positive, all thought the model would work well especially for our more challenging children. We liked the whole extended family/holistic working together for our children ethos and could see the benefits, with the only drawback being the initial cost.
   *Peter will set up video conversation with Fostering Network to find out more information relating to costs and feedback to the group at our next meeting.*

7. **Conference 2016/1:**
   The annual Adoption conference took place last week. A few AP members were lucky enough to participate in the day and were extremely impressed. It was aimed at adopted children in the Education setting and Teachers, Senco workers or other involved from the school were also invited along. The guest speaker talked about attachment and how a child early traumatic experiences impact on the their social and emotional wellbeing. During the afternoon a school which has been termed an “attachment friendly school” presented. This school provided a key “go to” person for a child to help regulate him. The emphasis was on picking up on the childs signals with the (who is a caretaker) intuitively responding to the childs mood. Providing comfort and support which could take the form on gardening or looking in the childs calm down box. Rather than focusing on learning. In time the child has become calmer are more able to participate in class.

   We all felt that we would like our next conference to follow on from this as our looked after children who have also suffered trauma share the same challenges. A workshop is being held in September for the schools which participated in the adoption conference. After the workshop we will be much better informed in respect of which schools we might use as good examples at our conference, and would hope to include schools from each of the key stages. The participants can share strategies with other schools. Juliet would like separate “breakout” rooms targeted at key stages, for discussions. Sarah will give regular feedback to the group on how this is developing.
AOB:

- Fostering away day 24th May. Members of the CPD group presented the new CPD folder and this year’s joint Training Plan. The Team Around the Child Charter was also presented. Also discussed was that carers should always be provided with a hard copy of the risk assessment, the placement profile as a minimum. The placement plan should always take place within two weeks of the start of a placement.

- The local authority strategy and vision – Peter will devise a statement of purpose to include improvement plan for AP to view and comment on. (by September AP)

- Pupil premium plus can be used to purchase laptops.

- Swat analysis – items to improve upon from the 4/5/16 fostering network meeting. To be discussed at next months AP meeting.

- TAC will begin to look at Health and Wellbeing in respect of the Charter.

- AP flyers are at the printers.

- Ann was troubled that not much is happening with Support Groups and Social Events, as there is no chair and only a small number of carers are attending groups. This will be discussed at the next TAC meeting and a plan formulated.

- Antonella to ask Rebecca McMorran if the pull up advertising board has been ordered.