Meeting @ Dereham Football club: 17th April 2015

**PRESENT:** Chair – Mark Buckle, Vice Chair – Peter Ronan, Natalie Samways, Anne Ritchie, Pam Weyer, Julia Spinks, Sharon Donoghue, Anja Grau, Antonella Parker, Mike Woodward, Cathy Mouser.

**APOLOGIES:** Sheila Locke, Michael Cox, Kevin Martin, Steve Ginn, Martin Lovett.

*Welcome Cathy to the Fostering Advisory Partnership.*

1. **Minutes of previous meeting agreed.**
2. **Action points from previous meetings:**

At the February Norwich Network Group carers said that payments are slow to be paid and when a payment is lumped together it is difficult to identify what it is actually for. Peter will talk to Chris Upton to help resolve this problem. Also Peter has agreed that mileage is to be agreed by child’s social worker but paid by supporting social worker to speed up the process.

Carers are reminded that there is a breakdown of codes in the back pages of the CH13, which we all recently received.

Greater Social worker representation on groups – Cathy in her new role of Head of Social Work will resolve this within the coming months. Currently restructuring is affecting this issue at the present time.

Kinship carers – training and support: A letter/invite has been devised for the friends and family carers to attend a support group get together on 6/5/15 at Dereham Football club. Invite to be sent out next week.

Obtain a copy of map of foster carers in Norfolk: Mike has devised a new map, which we all viewed and we decided that it is a really useful tool for the planning of training and the conference. A further use would be so that carers can link up with other carers who live in the area to provide support to each other. Mike and Mark to discuss the use of the Map further.

3. **Support group feedback**

Thetford – took place in Easter Holidays and attended by one person – Norfolk library services and children’s centres were guest speakers.
North Walsham – discussion took place around the amount of nursery time a child should have if they are in the process of adoption planning. The general opinion was that each case would be different and decisions would be dependent on each child’s needs. Peter will look further into the research in this area and bring back to meeting.

Kings Lynn – Norfolk library services were guest speakers, a very worthwhile session. A list of recommended reading for carers was handed out amongst other useful information. Carers are also reminded that there is a button specifically for carers to view the collection on the Library website which is well worth a look. There is also a form should you wish to review a book. Story sacks (books with puppets e.t.c.) are a useful resource and a list is also on the website. Looked after children can register with the Library using Corporate Guarantor Scheme where the child can borrow up to 15 books for 3 weeks, any fees, loss or damage to be funded by NCC under this scheme.

Norwich – took place in the Easter break and attended by one person – Norfolk Library service and Children’s Centre were guest speakers. This was really informative and positive; Hilary Shaddock the early years LAC Adviser talked about Virtual school, free child places at nursery, The Norfolk In Care Council NICC, Sure Start Centres, and PEP’s for children at Nursery and School. Hilary can look at PEP’s and see if they can be improved upon. All carers would have learnt something new and benefitted from the presentation.

Gt Yarmouth – Julia texted carers in the Yarmouth area the night before to remind them of the support group and probably because of this reminder 16 carers attended which is a very good turnout. Autism Anglia attended and was interesting.

Other questions were raised by carers and due to the confidentiality nature of the points raised the carers will be answered directly.

Task centred placements can offer short breaks too. However, carers would need to have the places available i.e. number of bedrooms and approval for numbers involved.

The point was raised that if the support groups was taking place within the holiday period, could it happen at a more child friendly venue i.e. the park. Steve to talk with Teresa about this and to see if holiday times can be avoided when planning the event.

Adolescent Support Group – carers were disappointed that tickets for the Banham Zoo event went quickly and many lost out. Mike to investigate whether this could be organised differently so that any tickets are more fairly distributed.

Carers were interested in finding out places where they could meet up and freebies on offer, such as Vue cinema where the carer gets in free and free Museum entrance for carers and their family. Steve and Mark are already working on this.

4. Team Around the Child

Meeting held on 12th March 2015, minutes of this meeting can be located on the NCC website under Fostering Advisory Partnership.
The BAAF booklets have now been received and are in the process of being handed out with a covering letter by Supervising Social Workers. Teresa also has copies which will be taken to support groups. Children’s Social Workers have seen these and are also interested in obtaining copies.

Best Practise – we talked about the idea of a possible service level agreement between the child’s social worker and carer where expectations of each other were formalised for example, what is the preferred method of communication? Further discussion needed regarding this point with social workers at the next TAC meeting on 23rd April.

5. Continuous Professional Development C.P.D.

A list of dates from Training the Trainers courses have been given out therefore those who do this training will then be available to carry out sessional training.

6. Support Groups and Social Events

A good turnout for the meeting on the 15th April. Minutes for the meeting can be viewed separately on the NCC website. The first meeting was well attended and the group discussed how the support Groups currently work. There were lots of ideas about how the group could develop. Actions will be developed at the next meeting. There is still a requirement for further members.

Update on Signs of Safety

Foster carers will be communicated to next week with a letter detailing procedures. Carers can call a signs of safety meeting if they feel the placement is in danger of breaking down. This will allow assessment and planning to take place within 30 days.

Peter will look at increasing the numbers of carers for the two day course.

7. A.O.B.

There is a Corporate Parenting meeting on the 4th June 9.30-12 at County Hall. Fostering Advisory Partnership will attend the meeting and give a presentation on the role of the partnership. A planning meeting for this will take place on 30th April 11.30 at County Hall.

Recording It has been highlighted a different support groups over the past few months that careers record in a variety of ways. An email was recently sent out to clarify electronic recording.

A reminder from Antonella Parker the Advice and Mediation worker, that she is available for a wide range of aspect of fostering covering; finance, legislation, approval, allegations, etc, if in doubt give her a call.

Minutes prepared by Sharon Donoghue 17.4.2015

Checked by Mark Buckle on 22.4.2015