Fostering Advisory Partnership

13th Dec 2017 10am start at
South Green Park, Mattishall NR20 3JY

Present: Julia Spinks (Chair), Peter Ronan (Vice Chair), Sharon Donoghue (Minutes), Stefan Rice, Sally-Anne Sinclair, Anne Ritchie, Lori Ong, Roni Kingston-Miles, Michaela Fysh.


1. Welcome all. Sally-Anne introduced herself. Other introductions not needed.
2. Previous minutes: Debbie Burrell gave apologies at the last meeting which was not noted in the minutes of 22nd Nov. The November minutes are now online.
3. Action Points:
   • ‘This is me’ document is the social worker profile which is intended to be given to children and young people when they get a new worker. It is to be sent in the post to the child/young person prior to the initial meeting. This was devised so that the child can see who their new worker is, provide contact information, and give a little information about them. Roll out of this has been patchy so Sally-Anne will ensure that all LAC departments across Norfolk are now using this. (Sharon to add to 2018 action points)
   • Carers’ views at social workers reviews – feedback from carers is always welcome. Carers can give feedback to IRO’s (carey.cake@norfolk.gov.uk ), CAFCASS (Vincent.callaghan@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk )too by emailing either the worker or their manager (as above in brackets).
   • Media Training – Anne appeared on TV last night. Everyone who watched thought she came across very well. Peter will check with Kate from Communications Department if any training is coming up in the near future.
• SGO – A carer raised concerns that information clarifying what an SGO is was not provided to the parents or child where an SGO was happening. Sally said there is a website http://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/special-guardianship/ which provides information for parents and children. Peter will ask Mike to look at this and see if anything further is required. Julia would like to help with this. In addition, there has been a delay in a carer receiving paperwork for the SGO from the solicitors. Peter will contact MP Law to request that they send the SGO paperwork to the foster carer's solicitor in a timely way.

• Prevent and CSE will be compulsory training for next year and is per household, rather than each adult in the fostering home.

• Mental Health wish list – Pam and Peter have met to discuss this. It was agreed that it should be recognised that a social worker can delegate meeting in relation to mental health to carer’s, to save time. A further meeting to include Stef will take place in the New Year.

• Deprivation of Liberty – Peter to invite Sarah Whitworth to FAP to clarify the situation in respect of use of mobile phones and other technology.

• Training on technology – Michaela will find out if there could be training for carer’s.

• Anne will ask for a delegate list to be issued prior to booking a course, on the learning hub, so that delegates can see who is attending before they book.

4. Peters Update:
   - The letter from Ofsted will arrive on the 22nd December for fact checking and will be published on the 19th January 2018. Peter provided a brief update to the group on how the inspection went from his point of view.
   - The new finance document is being worked on at the moment.
   - A foster carer long service certificate will be implemented soon.
   - An achievement/award ceremony for foster carers was discussed.
   - Staying put payments of greater than £250 are to be agreed by the assistant director.

5. Groups update – Updates were received and emailed to attendees last week from; Kings Lynn, Watton and general feedback from Duty Workers. This has been added to appendix A. In addition to this, feedback has now been received from;

Norwich Network Group - speaker was Keeley White Head of Virtual School. It was a very informative chat and the five carers that attended were able to get answers to burning questions and find out about the numerous resources that virtual schools can offer. Carers reported that the help and guidance Keeley and her team offer is invaluable. Sharon held a crèche with two children.

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Fostering Friends feedback - Christmas Parties in the Kings Lynn and Norwich area took place and feedback from those attending was very good. Both parties had a Father Christmas. Norwich wish to thank Peter for his visit, the children very obviously enjoyed seeing Santa.

A big thank you to Anita Howard for organising the Kings Lynn party and for Tina Nobbs for organising the Norwich party. Thank you to everyone who helped with these parties on the day. We have a great group of volunteers, without their support these events would not take place.

We continue to have breakfast clubs in the Norwich & Kings Lynn areas. Friday therapy included a guest from Harford Manor who gave a talk about Zones of Regulation. We were very impressed with this. Maybe this could be shared at network groups too?

The first foster carer Toddler group will take place on 10th January 12.30-14.30 at The Surestart Training room in Bowthorpe.

There seems to be some inconsistency regarding SSW views on what items of equipment and furniture can be funded. Please could we have some clarification regarding this?

The new secure email system seems to have had some teething problems. It appears to be more accessible if you are using a computer or laptop and have a Microsoft account. With smart phones/ipads we have discovered that using MS outlook for emails and downloading OME reader it is possible to open attachments.

Gt Yarmouth Network Group was held yesterday and the speaker was The Girls Friendly Society. Carers thought this was an excellent service for young ladies especially useful for those mother and baby placements. The service aimed at young ladies aged between 5-25 encourages skills such as cookery, confidence building and positive self-image.

Points discussed from the feedback:
Following on from this feedback we discussed Gt Yarmouth breakfast club will probably stop and take place at a toddler play area.

The Friday Therapy group will be holding a mindfulness demonstration which follows on from the course that some carers recently attended and were very positive about. At the last Friday Therapy a teacher from Harford Manor School presented ‘Zones of Regulation’ which was very well received by carers.

CPD for next year: to hold workshops on Mindfulness and Zones of Regulation this will follow on from the conference themes. Anne to take this forward.

Equipment – a list was devised in 2015 which states what carers are entitled to. A new mattress to be purchased at each change of placement; Michaela will check if this applies to car seats too and feedback. After this Michaela will then reissue the list on the hub and email to all supervising social workers.
Secure email – there have been some teething problems. Mike is willing to invite carers to county hall so that he can show them how to use it, in groups of 10-15 carers at a time.

AOB – Social worker inconsistencies are still apparent. If a carer is experiencing problems they can contact the social worker’s manager or the head of locality. The list of managers was recently added to the hub. *Peter will reissue this list every three months so that accuracy is maintained.*

A new CWD sub-group will meet on the 17th January – if anyone is interested in attending please contact Julia. Craig Secker has kindly offered some refreshments and a venue for this.

Fostering Friends – this Facebook page was set up for the sole use of Norfolk County Council kinship and foster carers. We discussed complications which might arise if a carer is no longer fostering but does not remove themselves from the group. *Lori will ask carers what their opinions are on this matter and perhaps hold an annual stocktake to ensure that all who use this page are still fostering.*

Sally kindly offered her support to the group in whichever way was needed. Sharon suggested that it would be helpful if she could find another social worker for the Team Around the Child group. *Sharon to forward the dates to Sally.*

Julia kindly presented Sharon with an Orchid for her work for FAP. Thankyou all very much for the lovely flower – I promise to look after it!

Appendix a.

**Watton NWG**

We met on the 23rd Nov17. We had 10 carers present and a supporting social worker. Our speaker this time was Emily Wilkens, Clinical Psychologist from the Compass Outreach Service. Emily gave an overview of the Compass Services as a whole. It was a very well received talk with lots of information. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michaela Fish for all the hard work she has put in over the last year to make the Watton support group successful.

See you next week.

Roni

**King’s Lynn Network Group Meeting**

Tesco Community Hub Wednesday 6th December 2017

A very informative morning with guest speaker Dale Willimott. He is part of the team at the Matthew Project in Kings Lynn (Providence Street) working with young people aged up to 19 who have problems around drug and alcohol misuse. Although the majority of carers in attendance were caring for young children, there were some very interesting and useful
information that could be helpful when dealing with drug using parents of babies. Dale left informative booklets with Michaela Fysh for any carers who would like these.
3 members of CS were present for part of the meeting – Michaela, Helen (SSW) and a guest from short term breaks scheme.
6 carers attended including a newly approved carer – information was passed on to her regarding the hub. Leaning pool, Fostering Friends, Christmas activities etc and she is very keen to take part in all of these.
There were 4 preschool children present. From - Anne Ritchie.

Network Groups – general

The Groups are continuing to go well.
Since the last FAP Meeting we have had Emily Wilkens from Compass speaking at the Watton Group. This group is going from strength to strength with new Carers coming into the Local Authority around the Dereham/Watton area and attending the group.
We only have three more Groups to take us to the end of the year.
December 6th – Kings Lynn – Matthew Project – Substance Misuse.
December 6th – Norwich – Keeley White – Virtual School & PEPS.
We are in the process of completing our Calendar for next year, this will be sent out towards the end of December.
We are always looking for ways to boast our numbers. We advertise on the Foster Carers Hub and on December 14th we will be presenting at the Recruitment Information Evening.
On Saturday 2nd December we held our annual CWD Christmas Party. This was very well attended.
Although it is a busy time for Father Christmas, he did come along to hand out presents to all of the excited Children. Good food and music and the chance to meet new Carers. A good time was had by all and feedback has been very positive.
We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas
Kind Regards, The Duty Workers Norfolk Fostering Service.

Written by Sharon Donoghue 13th Dec 2017
Checked by Julia Spinks 13th Dec 2017