Fostering Advisory Partnership

15th MARCH 2019 10-12

PRESENT: Julia Spinks, Tracy Collins, Stef Rice, Anne Ritchie, Keeley White, Alison Utting, Rochelle Brophy, Scott McKay, Catherine Sutton, Mike Woodward, Roni Kingston-Miles, Sharon Donoghue, Craig Secker, Antonella Parker, Boo Dickens.

APOLOGIES: Pam Weyer, Ricky Cooper, Irene Kerry, Owen Garrod, Vicky Hogg.

1. Welcome and introductions. Minutes of last meeting checked and agreed.

2. Action Points:
   a) Disruption meeting next week to finalise wording for document.
   b) Passport to Independence, Stefan to contact Karen Searle.
   c) Charter – Template from Fostering Network and new document produced, Mike handed out copies. FAP views were mixed therefore Mike will forward an electronic copy to Sharon to be distributed and feedback to be given at next meeting once everyone has had a chance to digest the new Charter.
   d) Child Friendly Profile – Tracy to contact Irene to agree a meeting date.*
   e) Bromley – Carers still keen to visit but have found agreeing a date difficult with commitments of fostering as well. Sharon to forward contact details of Kim to Julia.*

3. Conference:
   Date agreed of 30th October 2019 at John Innes, Norwich. Theme Mental Health – Sharon and Sarah know of two previously looked after children who are now adults who might be in a position to speak. Workshops will be available for the afternoon; Yoga, mindfulness, havening, drumming, art therapy, Thera play, sensory play. Any further ideas should be emailed to Sarah.
   It is also hoped that as well as Sara Tough we will have Compass play some part in the day. The conference will be for carers, workers and residential.

   Keeley said that she is running practical training on Attachments at Schools including strategies which we thought was superb and needed.
4. **TAC update:**
   See minutes.
   Laura said work is progressing well on the Handbook. Mike added that we are using Brent County Council’s format which will provide an introductory paragraph for each sections and links.
   Stef mentioned ‘Pet G’ which is internet training that could be used for carers who feel unsure about accessing things online. Keeley said that this would be a really useful approach to use not just in relation to the handbook but wider to include Maths and English for children. Keeley and Tracy to look into this.*

5. **Contact:**
   12 more copies of the Fostering Network Guide are required.
   Sally to attend the next TAC meeting – Tracy/Stef to liaise.*
   Meeting to be organised to brainstorm ‘Contact’ – Ricky or Tracy to facilitate. Stef to contact TAC members to see if they wish to be involved.*
   
   Anne mentioned that there has been a mix of workers attend Stepping Stones course. The 7 new supervising workers will be attending. Stepping Stones will now take place in Lincolnshire – Anne to provide dates for Antonella.*
   
   The Bright Spots questionnaire for looked after children to complete has been put on the hub and fostering friends. Sharon to feedback that there is no option for parent and child placements.*

6. **Fostering Network Visit:**
   Discussed the previous visit from Jo Adande and the action points. All agreed that a self-assessment should be carried out before Jo attends again and a quarterly assessment scheduled quarterly. Sharon to email to all the details of the last visit and add to next agenda.* At the next meeting separate group to be split by Sarah each given a task to measure the effectiveness of the group.*

7. **Children with Disabilities:**
   A launch event will be held on the 4th April at 11 am at 10-14 Plumsted Road East, Norwich. Lunch will be provided by Craig. This will be an informal chat so that carers can decided long and short term plans.
   Tracy to find out who the CWD representative is for Gt Yarmouth, and forward the invite on to them.*

8. **AOB:**
   
   **Health, under 5’s** are not being invited to LAC reviews and do not receive the paperwork. Tracy to find out what is going wrong with a view to resolving this issue.*
**Foscas** – A batch of invitations have gone out in the post. The event is to celebrate commitment of carers to Norfolk Fostering Service and awards are given to those who achieve 5, 10, 15, 20 years services and a long service award to 25 and 30 years’ service. There will be entertainment including Avengers characters, an Easter egg hunt, a magician and a photo booth. There will be two buffets one for children and one for adults. Carers can bring something for their children to do whilst the awards are being given out.

A card will be issued annually to carers to say thank you.

Those carers who are in their first year will receive three invites to tea at County Hall where they can get to know the Managers.

A welcome pack will be given out to all new carers including a photo ID and lanyard. In time all carers will receive and photo ID and lanyard.

- SGO carers should be compiling daily recordings and attending training.
- Retired carers and those who have left the service but still wish to be members of Fostering Network will have to fund the £15 fee.
- Keeley is creating a com’s team for looked after children which involves training at the UEA for writing and media. This is for school years 9, 10, 12 and following their training the com’s group will report on their events. Poster to go to Sharon to be distributed.*

Meeting ended at 12pm

Next meeting 26th April 2019

Written by S Donoghue
Checked by J Spinks