FOSTERING ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

@ South Green Park, Mattishall, 10-12

16th November 2018

Present: Rachel Bartholomew, Laura Gavrila, Catherine Sutton, Julia Spinks (Chair), Tracy Collins (Vice Chair), Antonella Parker, Boo Dickens, Anne Ritchie, Mike Woodward, Sharon Donoghue, Alison Lees.

1. Introductions; and Welcome to Alison our Health representative.


3. Action points:
   • A media campaign is currently being developed to include children who foster. If ready by December FAP this will be presented.
   • FAP carer visit to Bromley is postponed to the New Year.
   • Venue and timings of FAP meetings to remain the same for next year.
   • SGO – rigorous tracking of assessments is taking place. SGO in general is being looked at to include a review of what is offered and what more can be done in terms of support such as including a 2 year review of the plan which would reflect changes in the Child’s needs and practical support and training.
   Activity completed by the Locality Teams from March 2018:-
   - Annual average is 100 Special Guardianship Orders per annum;
   - From January 2018 to the present day 76 Special Guardianship Orders were granted. Of these ¼ are for those who were previously foster carers.
   Over the county:-
   - Average 7 Viability Assessments per month;
   - Average 2 Connected Carers Assessments per month;
   - Average 6 Special Guardianship Assessments per month.
   These are all subject to some fluctuations throughout the year.
   • Skills to foster will soon include children who foster.
4. **Foster Carer Recruitment:**
Laura said that there were five events in October, which was a good opportunity to see which venues worked better than others and she is very excited about the coming months which will be busy. The buddy system will be expanded so that each new carer is allocated a buddy. Meetings have been held between workers and carers so that ideas can be exchanged.
All carers will receive a new identification card with lanyard. Laura wanted to pass on thanks to carers for all their help with this.
Compass reflective practice group – this is open to all NCC carers and can be applied for via your Supervising Social Worker.
Laura attended the Watton Network Group which was very well attended and extremely positive. All agreed that Helen Maund is brilliant. Carers took away recruitment packs to hand out to people they knew.
Scott is currently working on Fosca’s which will be held in April at Barnham Broom.

5. **New Network Group - Lincolnshire.**
Anne attended the new group and talked about FAP and training amongst other things. There were 10 carers attending. Helen Smith and Wendy McCaully have been integral in setting up the group and we all wanted to pass on thanks to them for all their hard work. It looks to be a very viable group which is in a good venue; Anne was thinking about how the venue could be used for training such as with Stepping Stones for these carers who live quite a distance from their nearest training venue. (Anne will mention this at the next CPD) One carer offered to have coffee mornings and another volunteered to attend FAP which is amazing given the distance involved.
Laura is working on a map of carers with hotspots so it is easier to identify where training etc, should be located. It will also include where children are attending schools.

6. **Network Groups:**
Dates and Venues have been booked for next year. Speakers need to be organised and suggestions would be welcome. The focus will be on carers wellbeing. Julia suggested contacting City College to see if students needed models.
CWD – the group was well attended with 11 carers
The CWD subgroup is working on passport to independence to make this more user friendly for children with disabilities. Tracy to contact IRO to see if feedback on passport to independence is available yet. Number of carers at this working group is low and they would welcome any new members. As far as we know the only venues with full hoist changing facilities for CWD in Norfolk are Chapelfield shopping centre and Troll Cart in Gt Yarmouth. Perhaps there are other interested groups that could group together and try to increase this, such as Hamlet Centre etc.

CPD and TAC meetings have not taken place. The next CPD meeting is on 28th November.

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7. **The conference** is now full with 300 delegates and 20 on the waiting list. 24 marketplace stalls. **REMEMBER** - it’s at Barnham Broom!

   Tracy and Ricky Cooper will be presenting which Tracy is very excited about and is looking to see if this can be filmed. Julia will also be speaking and will suggest visiting the FAP stand if workers or carers would like to be involved in FAP.

8. **Supervising Social Workers:**

   The team three positions are now filled and Martyn is due to return next week which is great news. The new staff are all very experienced and keen to start work. Two posts in Team 1 will be filled by Jan.

9. **Statement of Purpose/Foster Carers Charter/Foster Carers Handbook:**

   Tracy has recently attended the Children’s Committee to present a report of fostering statement of purpose. The committee are very positive about fostering and can see improvements are being made which they would like to thank everyone for.

   It was suggested that the above documents are revamped in line with the redesign of the statement of purpose and the new recruitment packs. To follow on from the rebranding, it was suggested that the Team Around the Child look at the colour, style and content of the Charter to see if any changes should be made. Sharon to speak with Stefan about this, including Antonella in the working group.

   It is hoped in the new year a website containing all the above documents and other important documents like the virtual school handbook would be used rather than paper documents to make it more interactive and easier to find the relevant information.

   The Handbook hasn’t been updated for a while, so a working group to be set up to coproduce the Handbook, including carers and workers looking at different sections of the Handbook.

10. **AOB**

   - Sharon mentioned that FAP should have an independent evaluation which was previously carried out by Fostering Network. This is due again so Sharon will contact Joanne from Fostering Network to see if she is available to do this again. **(Timescale for this not noted on the Aim of FAP)** The evaluation to include looking at the constitution of FAP and whether anything could be done differently or better.

   - Julia – Has been chair of the group for a while and wonders if anyone else will be keen to do this. FAP rules state that a chair should be chosen from current FAP carer members. **(Wording from FAP “How we Work” a. Foster Carer chair, maximum term three years, reselected every 18 months by voting of the membership of the Advisory Partnership members. Replacement to be selected from existing membership of Advisory Partnership. If more than one person stands for position a vote will take place of the AP members.)**

   - Anne and Boo and really pleased with the positivity in the room.

   - Alison – Just One Norfolk has now been launched and any feedback would be welcome [https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/](https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/)

   - Sharon – A number of carers were singing the praises of Juliet Stokes from Virtual School. We are reminded that any compliments can be passed through the website at [https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/have-your-say/compliments-and-complaints](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/have-your-say/compliments-and-complaints) Sharon to remind carers of this via Hub and Fostering Friends.
• Julia – Christmas Parties have been organised for Norwich, CWD and Kings Lynn.
• Anne - Queries raised school travel and the 15% for travel, should this be deducted by carer or do payments do the deduction? Mike to look at the wording when so that it is clearer in new payments document.