Meeting: 9th September 2015 @ Dereham FC 10 -12

Present: Mark Buckle – Chair, Peter Ronan – Vice Chair, Pam Weyer, Anne Ritchie, Julia Spinks, Natalie Samways, Kevin Martin, Anja Grau, Antonella Parker, Sharon Donoghue.

Apologies: Cathy Mouser, Sarah Hunter, Martyn Lovett

Conference

1. Timings:

10.00 – 10.20 Peter (Abraham Lincoln) and Cathy – Set the scene for the day and talk about the recent restructuring and Ofsted Report.

10.20 - 10.30 Mark – Fostering Advisory Partnership. 10 mins.

10.30 - 10.40 CPD - Anne Suzy and/or Sarah. 10 mins.

10.40- 10.50 Support Groups and Social Events, Kinship Foster Carers – Julia Martyn and Anja. 10 mins.

10.50 30 minutes allocated to TAC, Charter. - Pam Antonella Nina and/or Ann.

TAC – Who is on the group, what the group’s objectives are, what has been achieved so far and what are the future plans?

Charter – Why the Charter is being revamped (a working document, visually appealing, wording more positive, working together etc.).

11.20 Questions and Answers – Peter.

11.30 Coffee

12 – 1 Discussion at tables – Charter and Support Groups. (Key themes from each table to Peter for discussion at plenary.)

1pm Lunch

PM Rennie Marks followed by plenary.
2. **Discussion Groups**

a) Charter – 30 minutes. Draft Charter to be available on tables to view. Thoughts and ideas on how we can improve the draft.

b) Support Groups and Social Events - 30 minutes. What kind of events would be interesting to you, children and teenagers? Should support groups be task related, i.e. 0-5’s, teenagers? How do we get people on board?

A member of Fostering Advisory Partnership on each table to facilitate and take notes. Key themes from each table to Peter for discussion at plenary at lunchtime.

3. **Packs**

A who’s who is the Fostering Advisory Partnership, with photos (Sharon to action).

Pens – Julia may be able to obtain some Barclays Bank pens (Julia to action).

Feedback forms for Fostering Advisory Partnership “Bright Ideas”.

4. **Stand/Stall at Marketplace**

A small unmanned stand would be needed to house a box for the “bright ideas” feedback forms. Antonella volunteered to make the box with logo. An A3 who’s who to be positioned behind the box. (Sharon with help of Sarah if possible).

5. **Booking Forms**

So far 40 carers and 20 staff have replied. Peter will invite other groups such as Children’s services committee, In-care Council, recruitment team. More supplies of application forms needed so that these can be completed at support group etc.

Further meeting to plan for the conference on Wednesday 16th.

**TEAM AROUND THE CHILD**

The last full meeting took place on the 16th July and focused on Foster Carers Profile, the Open Day at County Hall, Social Workers Profile, the new Recording System and the Charter. A further meeting took place on the 10th August to commence work on the new charter. The main priority at the moment is the charter and booking a date for the open day.

**CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

A meeting will take place on the 17th September.
SUPPORT GROUPS FEEDBACK

Norwich – Guest speaker was Karen Searle. Liza was the only carer attending and reported that even though she was the only one there she found it really informative and would go again.

Gt Yarmouth – A good attendance even though it was during the holidays.

North Walsham – No issues, all happy and well attended.

Kings Lynn – Even though it took place in the holidays it was well attended. No issues raised.

Thetford – poorly attended, which is possibly due to the location. Would Attleborough be a more central venue?

AOB

The In-Care Council mentioned that some carers are not taking up all the training opportunities. This issue is being addressed with Continuous Professional Development.

The Fostering Networks Mockingbird Model: Helen Keaney from the Network will attend our meeting of the 29th October and will be able to discuss this in greater depth. We will look at whether this is something Norfolk could offer in the future, and in this respect Suzy and Sarah from Training will be invited to this meeting.

A central email address is required for the partnership so that we can be contacted with any issues. This should be on the County Council website. (PR)

The Fostering Advisory Partnership logo should also be on the website. (PR)

Written by Sharon Donoghue 9th Sept 2015

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