**Meeting at Dereham Football Club – 30th September, 10-12.**

**Present:** Mark Buckle – Chair, Peter Ronan – Vice Chair, Carey Cake, Don Evans, Sarah Hunter, Anne Richie, Pam Weyer, Sharon Donoghue, Natalie Samways.

**Apologies:** Martyn Lovett, Kevin Martin, Antonella Parker, Anja Grau, Julia Spinks.

1. Minutes of previous meeting agreed and action points accomplished. We welcome the new members of the group, Carey Cake and Don Evans.

2. Support Groups:
   - Thetford group was cancelled. Norwich and Kings Lynn yet to take place. North Walsham was a great turnout of around 30 carers, there was no guest speaker which meant carers had more time to chat, and there were no issues.
   - Flyers for the Conference to be handed out at next week’s Norwich and Kings Lynn Support Groups.
   - Don talked about performance indicators; weekly data highlighting issues such as how many PEPs were completed. The group thought it would be a good idea if we could see these as they could help us measure improvement. Don to obtain and share the latest finding, which are used by the In-Care Council.

3. Conference 16th October 2015
   - Running order agreed.
   - Key questions, power points and anything else that needs to be copied etc, to Sarah by Wednesday.
   - Mark ran through his speech.
   - Sarah to talk to Julia regarding her Support and Social part as it seems she will be on her own for this.
   - Pam will be meeting with Ann McKendrick and Antonella next week to plan for their talk.
   - Pam to check with Antonella and Nina that they are happy to present the Charter.
   - There are 95 Carers and 57 Children Services staff attending so far.

4. A Draft Charter has been produced and various amendments were suggested. In the main, workers felt pleased with what had been produced so far. Carey will check on her team’s resolution policy to see if we can add any of this into the Charter. Carey to email this to the Charter Team.
5. Team Around The Child: A number of meetings have taken place in the last month as these have focused on the rewrite of the Charter. Also, due to ongoing maintenance work at County Hall, the Open Day will be postponed to next year.

6. Continuous Professional Development: A meeting took place on 17th September. It seems the numbers of carers on this team are going down and more are needed. However it was a good and productive meeting where organising the conference was discussed, and a draft Continuous Professional Development Document is being devised. There is a new course “Stepping Stones” which is designed for new carers but open to all. A mother and baby placements course will be taking place and so far has 12 delegates. The team is looking at Apprentiships for carers so that fostering careers can be developed and is also looking at training for those carers taking on Asylum Seekers.

7. Fostering Advisory Partnership - Make up and Participation: Peter will ask Charlotte Mullinger if she would like to join the team.

8. Signs of safety for Carers will be in the new year. Members of the partnership can access the two day course.

9. AOB: Next meeting 29th October which is half term week. Natalie will talk to Antonella regarding the availability of the Fostering Network who is attending on this date to see if they can change dates as some of the Partnership members cannot make the 29th. Natalie or Antonella to liaise with Rebecca.mcmorran@norfolk.gov.uk to agree a mutual date if possible.

The next meeting after the 29/10 is on 2nd December.

An email address needed for the partnership, Sharon to contact Rebecca.

Kerry Sumner to be invited to the next meeting – Peter.

Michael Rossen to add an introduction to the Charter after the conference.

Written by Sharon Donoghue 30/9/2015

Checked by Mark Buckle 14/10/2015