

Kent Foster Care Association



Newsletter

The KFCA has had a busy time since the last newsletter. The Christmas Extravaganza proved a great success for carers and families. Santa proved a focus point but face painting, the magician, games etc followed by a live band, kept us all busy. We would like to thank all those who helped make this a fun event

Project 2011 – Transition to Independence

The Transition to Independence Conference was held on 18 January and concluded a year's work for the KFCA. We would like to thank the speakers who provided interesting and in-depth coverage to the topics. Sue Clifton provided an outline of the Catch22 services, Hazel Solly outlined the services of Connexions and Patricia Perolls presented the role of the LAC Nurses. Following lunch, John Short (an independent tax and benefit expert) told us about the new rules for taxation and benefits particularly when LAC stay beyond their 18th birthday. Sarah Roberts from Canterbury University presented information on help available to LAC who attend higher education. The last session was a discussion on how we, as foster carers, can prepare the young people for independence.

You will find on the KFCA website (www.kfca.org.uk) under the 'Projects' heading the project report and copies of the presentation slides. Further reading provided by John Short will also be available.

Foster Carers Conference and AGM – 07 March 2012

Our 7th annual Foster Carer Conference will be held on 07 March 2012 at Lenham Community Centre. We are devoting this conference to looking at the major improvement program being undertaken by KCC following a critical report by OFSTED. Foster Carers need to know about the many activities being undertaken to meet the targets set by KCC and OFSTED. We have invited Liz Totman to speak about the Corporate Parenting group which is co-ordinating the activity. Paul Brightwell will present the KCC Strategy but we will use the afternoon for foster carers to question a panel of managers from the primary service providers including Children & Families, CAMHS, Fostering, Catch22, Virtual School / education, Connexions and Upfront.

We look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

KFCA invested in training and research related to Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). We now have the opportunity to start up a support group in Kent in conjunction with the FASD Trust. The aim of the support group is to increase awareness of FASD to parents, carers and other professionals and provide support to those living and caring for young people with FSAD.

Venue and dates to be announced shortly; anyone who is interested should contact Sue Hope
Telephone No: 01303 279942 or Email suesea2000@ntlworld.com for further information.

FosterTalk

Following a review of the support services offered by FosterTalk, it has been agreed that KFCA will organise two presentations by FosterTalk to ensure we are all aware of the depth of the package available to KCC foster carers. We will have an overview of the services on offer and in particular look at the excellent education package. A taxation and benefits expert will be on hand to answer your questions. The presentations will take place on:

Wednesday 18 April 2012 at Comfort Inn Ramsgate

&

Thursday 19 April 2012 at Lenham Community Centre.

Please contact Maria Dobner to book your place.

Email: treasurer@KFCA.org.uk or phone: 07882597457

Other News

The KFCA Committee continues to work hard to support KCC foster carers. We would always welcome any assistance you can offer. Why not contact a committee member and come along to one of the meetings – you never know you just might enjoy yourself!

Together we can make a difference.