

2020

Family First Fostering Winter Newsletter

Happy Winter Everyone! What a crazy year it has been!

We want to say a huge thank you! You have all done an amazing job during such uncertain times. As we approach another season of uncertainty please do not hesitate to let us know if you need anything.

Updates

New Staff

We would like to welcome Senior Practitioner, Deborah and SSWs Caroline and Atiya to the team!

New Carers

We have also had a few new carers join the agency too. We would like to give M&ST, H&AN, R&BC and GC& AZ a huge welcome and we look forward to joining you on your fostering journey!

Giving Back to the Community

We have donated £1050 to Make a Wish, £1050 Young Minds and we filled 100 Christmas Boxes for the Samaritans. Thank you to all those who donated.



Placements Updates

Currently we are getting a mixture of placements coming in, there is a high need for parent and child placements and sibling groups up to three and four young people. Please remember siblings can only share a room if they are young and the same gender. Currently we are not getting many UASC coming through due to the weather, which is normal for the time of the year.

Many local authority social workers are still working from home and therefore trying to maintain placements instead of moving young people. They are still moving challenging placements due to placement breakdowns. We are hoping in the new year some more standard placements will be coming available.

COVID-19

With London being placed in Tier 3, our office will be closed from Wednesday 16th December 2020 until the tier is lowered. Calls to the office will still be answered should you need to contact the team.

Keeping on track of Government guidelines and their changes can be difficult however, it is important we all follow guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We will be sending regular updates and are just a call away!

Visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus for up-to-date guidance.

We will be holding virtual training, panel and meetings for the foreseeable future. Some Social Workers will continue to carry out home visits in line with legislation. Please let them know if anyone in your household displays any symptoms or comes into contact with anyone who has.

If you have symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus you must inform your SSW straight away. You will usually need to self-isolate for at least 10 days. You'll usually need to self-isolate for 14 days if:

- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- you've been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace

We would like to say a big thank you to all the Lockdown Heroes, Key Workers and Volunteers!



Who's on Call During the Christmas Period?

Monday 21st December - Sunday 27th December
Gary 07932400666

Monday 28th December – Sunday 3rd January
Deborah 07939 231 807

If you unable to get through please call
Shabeer on 07985 426 285

Some SSWs will be on annual leave over the Christmas Period but they will let you know the dates.

As usual Noor and Geeta are contactable on their mobiles.



Contact Centres

During the Coronavirus Child Contact Centres have found themselves in unprecedented territory. Contact Centres can remain open, where appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that they are safe.



"Hope is a renewable option: If you run out of it at the end of the day, you get to start over in the morning."
- Barbara Kingsolver

Thank You
FRONTLINE WORKERS



Notices

DBS & Health & Safety

The following people must have a DBS if at a fostering household

- Household members
- Regular visitors
- Back up carers
- Support network
- Staying put young people

Having a valid DBS for anyone who is around a young person is extremely important, which is why we are constantly chasing this up with carers. DBS applications must be completed 3 months prior to your existing one expiring. Please email Bayley if you have any questions.

Training

We will be holding virtual training until further notice. The Training Schedule for 2021 has been issued – please discuss this with your SSW.

You are required to complete a minimum of 5 (8 for new carers) trainings per year.

New Foster Carers must complete Safeguarding training within their first 12 months.

Paediatric First Aid Training Certificates are valid for 3 years. Please contact your SSW or Louise if your certificate has expired.

Coronavirus Training is compulsory – this must be completed by 31st December 2020.

Dates for your diary

Chinese New Year – Friday 12th February
Valentine Day – Sunday 14th February
Strove Tuesday – Tuesday 16th February
Mothering Sunday – Sunday 14th March
St Patricks Day – Wednesday 17th March

Festive Season

Please bear in mind that whether you celebrate Christmas or not, this time of the year could be hard for some young people therefore it is important to keep them busy.

Over the Christmas Period the main office will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day but we have an On Call System so there will always be a member of staff available to assist in times of emergency!

Unfortunately, due to Government restrictions we are unable to hold our annual Christmas Party, but Christmas isn't cancelled!

You should have received Christmas Hampers for all your hard work – we hope you enjoy!



Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11th December

Send us your pics!

There are so many creative activities you can do at home

- Table Games (Forehead Detective & Jungle Speed etc)
- Online Free Games (Among us and Heads Up etc)
- Movie Nights
- Winter Walks
- Make homemade hot chocolate

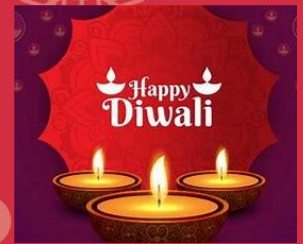
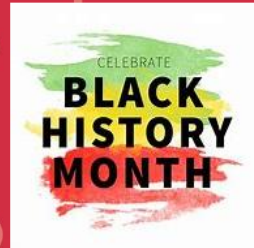
Send lots of photos to the office for Life Story Work!



Massive Thank You

A massive thank you to all our carers for another amazing year, especially with how hard it has been, you have done an incredible job!

Celebrations Since our last Newsletter



Beat the festive rush and get all your letters and parcels in the post on time

Friday 18th December
2nd Class & 2nd Class Signed For
Monday 21st December
1st Class & 1st Class Signed For
& Royal Mail Tracked 48
Tuesday 22nd December^d
Royal Mail Tracked 24
Wednesday 23rd December
Special Delivery Guaranteed

Emails

Bayley:

admin1@familyfostering.co.uk

Louise:

admin2@familyfostering.co.uk

Placement Information or Queries:

admin@familyfostering.co.uk

