**Barnsley Foster Carers Association**



Barnsley carers looking after Barnsley's children

**Minutes of meeting –** 11th June 2024

**Present:** Shirley Platts, Lisa Hewitt, Stacey Sands, Duncan Bagshaw

**Dept staff:** Natalie Purdy

**Apologies:** Mark Hewitt, Anne Marie Banks, Gemma Ellis, Lucy Sheward

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Agreed as a true record.

**Matters Arising-**

**Natalie Purdy SSW - Assessment/Recruitment** is our guest today.

She came along to the meeting to discuss updates from their team with the different recruitment activities they are trying out where they would appreciate help from foster carers to speak with potential new carers.  If anyone is able to attend events in the daytime or early evening please get in touch with the team at  FosteringRecruitmentTeam@barnsley.gov.uk There is a list of events on the Facebook page pinned post and a monthly newsletter from the recruitment team will be sent out also.

They are also currently going through a rebranding process for a new logo, website and marketing strategy which will be complete by August/September 24, say goodbye to the green T-shirts!!

**Foster Carers going on to adopt – Remaining for July meeting -** Foster carers and children’s individual circumstances being considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Fostering Section:**

An update/information on service actions from previous meetings from the service representative

**Transition Plans** – Ongoing - these need to be created in advance with foster carers not just presented to them. Any expectation for foster carers to be on standby and receive payments or not, clearly noted in advance, so everyone’s roles, responsibilities and expectations are agreed and set.

Anne Marie agrees foster carers should be included in this, it needs to be discussed as well as the payments that will be made during this period. If we need to be on call for the weekend, payments need to be looked at, but foster carers need to be realistic about what Service can pay for.

**Communication and information sharing:** Ongoing -Foster carers having access to visit notes consistently and/or all documentation held with regard to foster carers, in particular around allegations and/or LADO.

The first step after an allegation is a strategy meeting with the Children in care team, Lado & police. Information cannot be shared until this stage is completed but after this carers should be told what the allegation(s) are. This needs to be consistent for all carers.

Anne Marie will look at training for workers and carers on Lado/allegations.

**Allegations timescales:** Ongoing - pending training rollout over summer.

**Unannounced Visits –** Clarification and outline of what will be checked when an unannounced visit takes place, especially when done by someone other than your own SSW. Some comments made have been of concern and the privacy of our birth children’s only ‘me space’ needs to be considered.

To include expectations around:

* Birth children’s rooms (adult or younger child)
* Sensitivity to a stranger visiting for our children or our birth children (for medical reasons or not)
* Communication of the changes

A number of comments posted from a discussion on BFCA webpage were shared verbally only and anonymously by Shirley, enabling Anne Marie to hear exactly what foster carers concerns and feeling are.

Anne Marie told us it was best practice to have 2 unannounced visits per year, one by our own supervising social worker and one by an independent SSW.

Anne Marie is going to bring the guidance to our FCA meeting so we can have a read through this.

She also said all social workers should have their fostering badge and if carers are still unsure who they are they can close the door and contact duty to check if any unannounced visits are happening that day.

**Action Plan** – Ongoing - post foster carer conference.

**We still need contact numbers** and emails for CSW’s, FSW’s and for a nominated person to contact at Cudworth. Ongoing.

**Specialist Premium Fee** – How much of the criteria needs to be met before payment is awarded? Ongoing pending further work.

**Remittances** – Ongoing - Some carers are not receiving their remittance which is causing issues.

News Flash sent to foster carers -speak with their SSW if they are not receiving remittances via email. SSW’s will ensure that the payments team have these details to send these out.

**Activities**

**Fostering Association 2024 events.**

* **Weekly Play Group – Thursday 20th June, Norman Inn, Monk Bretton 10.00am to 12pm**
* **Twisted Teapot Event – (Our 1st group of Carers) Friday 14th June starts promptly at 12noon - 2pm**
* **Twisted Teapot Event – (Our 2nd group of Carers) Monday 24th June starts promptly at 12noon - 2pm**
* **Flamingo Land – Saturday 20th July – If you haven’t already done so, please make your payment to secure your tickets.**

If you would like tickets for Flamingo Land on Saturday 20th July, please reply to the email with attached flyer sent from BFCA recently.

As usual tickets are £10 each for Flamingo Land entry, to be paid once places are requested, once payment is received your tickets are confirmed. The £10 will be non-refundable after the 30th June.

You need to state:

* How many adults, children and any 3yrs or under.
* Are you driving or do you require coach seats (all children travelling on the coach will require their own age appropriate travel seats, no exceptions can be made)
* Which pick up/drop off point you require.

Pinfold Hotel, Cudworth - 8.20am/leaving at 8.30am

Regent Street, Barnsley - 8.50am/leaving at 9.00am

To arrive at Flamingo Land at 10.30am and leave at 4.45pm prompt to avoid 5pm closure traffic.

**Funding**

We received our money from the National Lottery Community fund-we look forward to hosting events throughout the year.

**Treasurer’s Report**– Mark Hewitt (Treasurer)

Bank £20,860.35

Petty cash £ 661.35

Outgoings- Cannon Hall Farm Visit

 £ 740.90

Income- Cash back £ 2.59

Flamingo Land

@ £10/ticket £790.00

**Correspondence**- Lisa Hewitt (Secretary)

Microsoft word email it will need to be renewed by the 15th June 2024

**Safeguarding** – Lisa Hewitt (Safeguarding)

* Accident/Incident Log in place and completed.
* All risk assessments are up to date.

**Any Other Business-**

**Chair persons final address**

Shirley thanked everyone for attending.

**Date of the next Meeting**

Foster Carers Association Meeting – 9th July 2024, 12-1pm St Paul’s Church Hall, Monk Bretton, S71 2HQ

As usual there is no Association Meeting in July

If you’d like to come to meetings but either can’t or don’t feel comfortable but would like something raising, you can contact us at our email address, leave your name and contact number and we will get back to you-

*Email: barnsleyfostercarers@gmail.com*

*Website –* [*www.barnsleyfostercarers.co.uk*](https://barnsleyfca.wixsite.com/bfca)

*(password for minutes and events BFCA2022)*

*Shirley Platts (Chair)*

*Lisa Myers (Vice Chair)*

*Mark Hewitt (Treasurer)*

*Lisa Hewitt (Secretary/Safeguarding)*

 *Regular meetings are usually held as follows:*

**Fostering Association**– 2nd Tuesday of every month throughout the year (except August)

**Fostering Play Group** – Every Thursday 10am to 12pm throughout the year. We will let you know if any are cancelled through our Facebook page.

**Fostering Association Dates**

Jan 9th AGMFeb 13th

March 12th  April 9th

May 14th  June 11th

July 9th  Aug n/a

Sept 10th  Oct 8th

Nov 12th Dec 10th