



LATEST NEWS

Lets meet Jo - Our new Registered Manager



Hello and thank you to everyone for the warm welcome I have received to The Fostering Foundation, I am really excited to be your new Registered Manager and am thoroughly enjoying my role.

Whilst I am new to the agency, I am not new to Fostering having previously been a Registered Manager for another IFA and also an Appointed Manager (equivalent to RM but in Wales), so have many years' experience of working in Fostering. I have been a Social Worker for more years than I care to admit (when did my age creep up so quickly?!), and have worked with children and families for even longer, having originally trained as a Nursery Nurse then working in nurseries and in Family Centres as a Social Worker. I came into Fostering because I wanted to be a Foster Carer myself - I really hope to do so one day, when the time is right for my own family.

I absolutely recognise and value the incredible and much needed role that all you Foster Parent's play, I take my hat off to you all for the care and commitment you show to the children and young people you offer a welcoming home to. So a massive THANK YOU from me and I look forward to meeting you all soon. I was so disappointed not to be able to join you in August for what I understand was a fabulous day. I look forward to the next one in 2025!

Lets meet Lindsay - Our new Service Manager



Lindsay Penney is in the role as our new Service Manager working closely with Jo Killick the Registered Manager to actively manage, lead and promote the Fostering Foundation Service. Together they want to ensure the growth of in-house Foster Carers through focussed and targeted recruitment and retention activity.

As service manager Lindsay will be working alongside Jo, to manage the operational activity of the Service, embedding best practice throughout the fostering foundation, promote and maintain the professional standards of our whole service, striving for the best outcomes for our children, young people and foster families.



Lets meet John - Supervising Social Worker (Exeter)



Hello everyone!

After 24 years in social care, working in various roles including residential child care and with the Local Authority fostering/placement team, I joined the TFF family in early September.

About 18 months ago, my wife, two children, and I moved from Southampton to a smallholding in Devon. Our family has grown since then!

We have a variety of animals on our smallholding. Boris and Fern are our pet goats (Boris has three legs), we have eight laying chickens, six Kunekune pigs (like the one in the picture), and we're hoping for piglets soon. We also have three cats, a rescue kitten, and a golden retriever named Loki.

I'm getting familiar with Devon and look forward to meeting the carers and teams across our regions.



Lets meet David - Supervising Social Worker (Bristol)



Hi my name is David Phipps and my first experience of fostering was as a foster child many many many years ago. My fundamental belief is, it is what the foster carers do - building trusting relationships with children and young people that makes the difference. My role is secondary but if I can support foster carers in their essential role then the lives and outcomes for each foster child will be improved.



Therapeutic update from Rich

As most of you know, Molly our support worker has now gone off on maternity leave! Molly made a significant impact on our team and the children and young people she has supported. Her contributions, will surely be missed. Best wishes to Molly for some exciting few months ahead, welcoming her new baby to her family!

It's a proud moment for me to announce the launch of our therapeutic support service. Using tools like the SDQ Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and the Brief Assessment Checklist (BAC-C/A) to identify and address attachment and trauma issues is a proactive approach. The Foster Carers Questionnaire will also be a valuable tool to recognise the support foster families provide.

In addition to this work we have also created a Therapeutic Resources Document that will be a fantastic resource for you as foster carers and colleagues. Ensuring that everyone has access to the right support and research is crucial. If you need any help with accessing or using these resources, feel free to ask!

See you all soon - **Rich**



THANK YOU!

Children of Foster Carers

To all the amazing sons and daughters of foster carers, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your kindness, patience, and willingness to share your home and family with young people in need is truly inspiring. You play a crucial role in creating a welcoming and supportive environment, helping foster children feel safe and loved. Thank you for your generosity and for making such a positive difference in their lives.

BETTER TOGETHER

Can you help us find more amazing foster carers to help another young person in need?



The demand for foster carers is growing, and we're exploring creative ways to inspire others to join this incredible journey, just like you have!

Would you be willing to help us spread the word by using magnetic car signs or placing a 12x12cm sticker in your car window?

Imagine, while you're in traffic or driving around, you could be making a huge difference by encouraging others to learn more about fostering.



Application complete
YOU Receive £150

Approved by panel
YOU Receive £500

Placememnt made
YOU Receive £500

Regional News

Tavistock News

I hope you have all had a lovely Summer Break. Over the past few months, we have had much to celebrate from the many outstanding outcomes for so many of our children, to reflecting on the brilliant work our foster carers do. Please see below some of the celebrations for our children and foster carers:

Well done to SF who has joined the cadets.

Well done to LW who commenced Secondary School in September, and is thriving.

Well done to KN who after a successful interview now has a part-time job in hospitality.

Well done to BU who has completed a Princes Trust Residential Week.

Well done to ZB who displayed her very good swimming and snorkeling skills whilst on her holidays over the summer.

Well done to RT who has commenced a new Primary School, and continues to make really positive progress.

Well done to EB who is a regular participant for TFF's Young People's Panel. Your efforts and attention to detail is noticed by all.

Well done to KB who showed off very good football skills over the summer whilst playing for his local football club.

Well done to D&RG for receiving praise from the Local Authority about being wonderful foster carers to the young person in their care.

Well done to F&CBG for being proactive and advocating for their young person's educational outcomes.

Well done to AC for doing a brilliant job with KB, and for being proactive and supportive with transition plans.

Well done to C&DG for their hard work, and how well BU is developing in their care, plus the praise they have received from the Local Authority.

Thank you to JR for supporting regularly the young person SF on respite. Your commitment to S is recognised.

Well done to AC for being supportive with their young person and also helping them transition with moving with new carers.

Well done to S&TW who have secured formal permanence for PL, plus the praise they have received from the Local Authority for the dedication and commitment to all the children in their care.

A huge well done to our children and our foster carers on their celebrations and achievements. Well, done to you all!

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to the foster carers who have joined us since our last newsletter. We have gained households from various areas over the last few months and we know that some of you have had the chance to meet each other or indeed already know each other.

We would like to take this opportunity to say an official hello to D&RG, and to offer congratulations on being approved as new foster carers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to show appreciation to those Foster Carers who are celebrating important milestones with TFF. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to D&MA who are celebrating 10 years of Foster Caring, D&CG and C&NI, who are celebrating 15 years of Foster Caring, and S&AW, who are celebrating 5 years of fostering.

Thank – you for all you do, and the dedication and care shown in welcoming children into your homes, and into your families. Your commitment to our children is very much appreciated by all at The Fostering Foundation.

Exeter News

Our wonderful carers have been doing great things over recent months. It is amazing seeing the relationships between carers and young people whether new young people joining your families or long standing relationships.

Each of these situations present with different challenges for carers. You are brilliant in supporting young people manage life events such as returning to school or starting a new college. Our children are so resilient but this is in large part down to the time and energy you invest in them, being there each step of the way with them. It has been really great to see the attendance at the Kenn Centre support group and also having Rich, our therapeutic lead, attending on occasion.

We have welcomed new carers to TFF and to our region. We are excited to be part of your fostering journeys with your families. It is of especial note to acknowledge our carers who have retired from fostering and moved on to Shared Lives (adult social care) when their young person turned 18. They have been incredible and we look forward to keeping in contact and hearing about the 18th party!

We will be welcoming a new support worker to the team shortly – which is exciting – whilst Molly is to become a new mum! Molly has been spending time with our young people explaining her exciting news. We will keep you updated when we receive news of Molly's new arrival!

We welcomed John to the team recently which is a fantastic addition. John has lots of social work experience and he is getting to meet everyone.

There are lots of events coming up including Dynamis de-escalation training which is a great training opportunity. We look forward to spending some time together looking at strategies – the trainer always comes with lots of experience and makes it a really interesting day. There will be a lot of events in the coming months so we look forward to spending time together!

Bristol News

It has been a really busy period. It has been brilliant to see all the photos of the family holidays and trips that you went on over the summer. Many of these trips would not have been possible a year ago however through your support, encouraging young people to gradually keep pushing outside of their comfort zones they are able to successfully manage many new situations. This is fantastic to see!

You have all been busy supporting young people manage transitions in various forms – for example, starting school and college – some of whom have been gradually transitioning into college for more than six months and is really progressing well. It is incredible to see and hear how attuned you are to your children often anticipating in advance situations and events that they will need additional support and reassurance to manage. We have young people starting education in a second language which can be daunting.

It has been great seeing carers at the Park Centre support group – welcoming Rich, the therapeutic lead and specialist workers on sanctuary seeking young people, at recent groups. It is important to have this melting pot of ideas and experiences to help us to care for our young people.

We have new carers who are starting their fostering journey so being around experienced carers is a massive benefit!

Izzy, our support worker, has moved onto a full time position elsewhere which is a loss. However we have appointed a new support worker who will be announced shortly.

Lindsay, has moved role to become the Service Manager – we are all sad that she is not directly supporting households but we will be keeping her knowledge, expertise and overwhelming care for all of you within the organisation. We will be calling on her a lot no doubt and she is remaining based in the Bristol office, so come by for a cup of tea! Jo Killick, the new registered manager, is also Bristol based so you might catch her at the same time!

We have welcomed David to the team. He has a lot of experience and is a great addition to the team. He has been starting to get to know your families and all of the many complexities involved with supporting your children!!

I think we are all in awe of the amazing levels of care and support you provide! There are a lot of events coming up and there has been a great response to the carer meal (Shaban, it is definitely halal this year so no need to have the veggie option 😊) We are incredibly proud of all of you, keep up the incredible levels of care you are providing!

YOUNG PERSON'S

PANEL



**WE
NEED
YOU!**

- HELP INTERVIEW POTENTIAL NEW FOSTER CARERS
- TRAINING PROVIDED TO GIVE YOU THE SKILLS YOU NEED
- EACH INTERVIEW LASTS ABOUT AN HOUR
- GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CV



**£15 AMAZON VOUCHER FOR
EVERY PANEL COMPLETED**



INTERESTED? CONTACT KAREN
[KMAXWELL@FOSTERINGFOUNDATION.CO.UK](mailto:kmaxwell@fosteringfoundation.co.uk)

Be a Safe Bike Driver...



Riding your bicycle can be great fun. But do you know how to "drive" your bike?

Riding your bike is just like driving a car--there are rules for bike driving. Here are a few tips from the Bicycle Coalition of Maine

1 Wear Your Helmet the Right Way

It's the law in Maine to wear a helmet correctly if you are under 16. Do the "Eyes, Ears, Mouth Test™"

- First put on your helmet so it is level and snug--if it slides around, you need to insert thicker pads
- **EYES** - you should see the very edge of your helmet when you look up past your eyebrows
- **EARS** - the straps should meet right under your ear lobes to form a Y
- **MOUTH** - the strap should be loose enough so you can breathe and insert a finger between the buckle and your skin, but tight enough that if you drop your jaw you can feel the helmet pull down on the top of your head

If you need help, go to a bike shop. Never throw your helmet or leave it in a hot place because it will get damaged (even though you cannot tell). Replace your helmet if it is damaged, no longer fits, or if it is over 5 years old.



Check Your Bike for Safety

Have your bike checked at least once a year at a bike shop.

Check it yourself before biking with the ABC Quick Check:

- **AIR** - pinch the tires, they should be hard
- **BRAKES** - make sure they work and aren't rubbing the tire
- **CRANK/CHAIN** - if there are problems with your gears or if the chain is loose, take your bike to a bike shop
- **QUICK** - check "quick release levers" and other bolts to make sure they are tight



2 Dress Bright for Safety

- Wear light- or bright-colored clothing so you can be seen
- Tuck away shoelaces or other strings or cords so they don't dangle--they may get caught in the moving parts of your bike
- Loose or baggy clothing can also be dangerous--so make sure you wear snug clothes
- Never wear headphones



Obey the Rules of the Road

- Ride on the right
- Ride single file
- Obey traffic signs, signals, and laws
- Ride straight--no surprises!
- Look back and signal before turning
- Yield to people walking
- Use lights if riding at night (remember to ask your parents for permission)
- Always stop at the end of your driveway--look left, right, then left again before entering the road
- Feel unsafe? You can always walk your bike

When we all drive safely and follow the rules of the road, it is easy to be safe and have fun!