

Sandwell Foster Carers Newsletter

22 MAY 2020

Welcome to your weekly newsletter!

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well and enjoying the lovely weather that we're having again this week. I'm sure that you'll agree that a bit of sunshine certainly seems to help lift our spirits during this unusual period of our lives.

Half term holidays

As it's the half term holiday next week, we thought that it would be a good idea to ask children and young people to get creative. Whether they've painted a picture, written a poem or anything else, we would love to hear from them. Please email our [Participation Team](#) and there may be something chocolatey coming their way if they submit their hard work!

Staffing update

You may already be aware, but we've got a new Panel Advisor – her name is Claudia Gordon. Claudia joined us three weeks ago and we are delighted to have her with us. Claudia brings a wealth of experience as she has been a qualified Social Worker over 20 years and has undertaken various roles during this time. Some of you may remember Claudia from many years ago as she used to work in our Oldbury/Smethwick child care teams. Welcome back Claudia!

We have also got a new Team Manager for our connected carers team, her name is Angela Miller. Angela joined us a month ago and is settling in very well. The majority of our meetings with Angela have been virtually so we look forward to working together face to face very soon!

It feels that we've got a lot to celebrate in Fostering at the moment – did you know that we are 100% fully staffed with permanent Supervising Social Workers in both our mainstream and connected carers teams? We are really proud to be in this positive situation. This ensures that we can provide you with the support and consistency that you require to carry out your demanding role.

Foster Care Fortnight 2020

As we near the end of Foster Care Fortnight 2020 we hope that you have continued to enjoy our messages on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram. We've received some good feedback from Facebook and quite a few likes and shares on the other social media platforms.

You will be pleased to hear that we intend to do a lot more on social media in the future. We will continue to highlight the fantastic work that you do to care and support our children and young people every day not just during foster care fortnight.

Fostering Recruitment

Thank you so much to those of you who have taken the time to share your good news stories with us. We want to continue shining the spotlight on your stories so if there is anything that you would like to share with us, please do [email](#) us and we will ensure that your story is featured.

This week we wanted to share a lovely compliment that we've received for Yvonne and Andrew Gisbourne:

As you may well be aware C has been diagnosed with a condition effecting his skull and therefore has been under Birmingham children's hospital. C was due to have surgery today however this has now been cancelled.

I just wanted to offer my sincere thanks and praise for Yvonne and Andrew who have been amazing throughout C's journey consistently supporting him and overcoming all challenges with acceptance and willingness. C's condition is rare and there have been many questions and concerns raised regarding this and not at any point have Yvonne or Andrew faltered in the care and attention they have provided C. Both foster carers have approached appointments and surgery with the same love, support and questioning that any parent would for their birth child. They have been instrumental in assuring that C receives the best outcome possible and have approached this with nothing but care.

I just wanted to let you guys know what fantastic carers Yvonne and Andrew are and that C could not be in a better placement. They are a true credit to your service!



Here's Yvonne (Andrew was feeling camera shy!) - amazing people, I'm sure you'll agree 😊

Some more good news! We have agreed this week to undertake some advertising via a company called Clear Channel. We will be having our marketing on digital screens at five supermarkets in Sandwell:

- Sainsburys Blackheath
- Sainsburys Oldbury
- Asda Oldbury
- Asda Great Bridge
- Asda Cape Hill

We will also have adverts running on the following two screens:

- High Street before Dartmouth Street, West Bromwich
- High Street outside Kaleidoscope (the old West Bromwich Building Society building), West Bromwich.

We will tell you more about the timescales for these adverts over the coming weeks but in the meantime, please tell your family and friends our exciting news!

Fostering Support Groups

Please don't forget to get in touch with us regarding support groups. We would still love to hear from you with your ideas of how you would like us to run fostering support groups and coffee mornings 'virtually'. Please let your Supervising Social Worker know or send us your ideas via [email](#)

I hope you have a lovely bank holiday weekend and as always please take care and stay safe.



Eaves

Shanti Eaves
Head of Service, Children in Care, Care Leavers and Fostering

DON'T FORGET TO CONTACT US! IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

This is your newsletter, so do you know about any great fostering resources, or perhaps just an article or web link you want to share? Anything that could be useful to fellow foster carers – we'll help you let them know. Or if you have an idea, comment or request about fostering in general or what should be in your newsletter, contact your allocated Supervising Social Worker or email us at

Fostering_Info@sandwellchildrenstrust.org
