



Foster Carers Newsletter

January/February 2022



Welcome to your January/February newsletter!

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter... we've re-timed it so in future we can include the latest updates from the Foster Carers Forum

Registered Manager update

We want to say a 'massive thank you' to Jayne Figgett who has covered the Registered Manager position since the previous manager left.

Although we have tried to recruit a permanent Registered Manager, we have not had any successful applications and therefore we have made a decision to appoint an interim agency Registered Manager whilst we continue to recruit a permanent manager.

We are pleased to inform you that Natalie Lohneis will be commencing on 21 February 2022 as the interim Registered Manager for the Fostering Service.

Natalie has a wealth of experience in fostering and adoption and she will be based at the Wellman Building with the Fostering Team.

Connexions Sandwell – careers advice for young people

Sandwell Connexions recognises that it's a difficult time for many Sandwell young people who are in care/former care and are anxious about their career opportunities.

Connexions are operating a full 'Careers' service for your young person aged between 12 and 18.

The free service includes:

- Impartial careers information, advice and guidance virtual interviews
- Help with reviewing and updating their CV's
- Job search and interview techniques
- Help with changing career path and identifying skills and strengths
- Liaison with colleges and training providers who are offering online training/apprenticeships
- Exploring virtual work experience within Sandwell Council

Connexions Sandwell continued...

In addition, Connexions Sandwell is offering: -

- The annual New Year New Start careers show which offers a wealth of advice, information on Post 16 Education and employment opportunities from a wide range of Colleges/training providers is aimed at 14 – 19-year olds and carers/parents

This year's event, in partnership with Apprenticeship Works, will now be held on:

Saturday 26 March 10:00-14:00 at West Bromwich Albion Football Club, The Hawthorns, 9 Birmingham Rd, West Bromwich B71 4LF.

The event aims to motivate and inspire; to explore next steps and career ideas; to meet employers and other opportunity providers.

Sandwell young people and parents/carers can book their free tickets for March through the Connexions website: connexionssandwell.co.uk

They are also planning:

- A parents/carers event providing appointment times for parent/carers to attend 1:1 Careers interviews with Connexions Sandwell personal advisers in June 2022
- A Sandwell Careers Expo event in July 2022

All events will be advertised on the Connexions Sandwell Website as the year progresses

To find out more about our services or future events please call 0121 569-2955 between 09:30-16:30 Monday to Friday or email sandwell_connexions@sandwell.gov.uk.

Alternatively, please contact your assigned Sandwell Connexions Adviser.



March coffee morning – we're back!

Foster for
Sandwell
Children's Trust

foster carers
Coffee Morning

Friday 4th March 10.30am

at

The Coneygre Centre
Tipton

Foster for
Sandwell
Children's Trust

www.sandwellchildrenstrust.org/fostering/

Finally, we have a date for a real, live face to face coffee morning – **and we can't wait!**

We'll be back at the Coneygre on Friday 4th March for tea, coffee, cakes (and samosas of course) and lots of catching up to do.

It will be fantastic to see you again. If you know that you are coming could you drop Lynn an email, to help us with knowing how many cakes we need 😊

lynn_jones@sandwellchildrenstrust.org

Ofsted
Good
Provider

Foster carers support group



The next mainstream foster carers support group is on Wednesday 9 March from 10:00 – 12:00 at Coneygre

Connected Carers support groups are held on the first Wednesday of the month and the next group will take place on 2 March from 10:00 – 12:00 via MS Teams

If you need any further information, please contact Lynn Jones
lynn_jones@sandwellchildrenstrust.org

We look forward to seeing you there!



Foster Carer Forum

Each month we hold a foster carer forum. The group is made up of foster carers, fostering managers, health and education representatives.

The purpose of the forum is to ensure that we share important updates and information across the service areas as well as our wonderful foster Carer representatives, bringing forward your views and opinions.

We would love to see more foster carers at the forum (connected and Mainstream), where you could make a real difference in changing the shape of your fostering service.

If you would like more information, please speak to your supervising social worker



Fostering Forum January 2022

This month we had updates from the support teams as well as the recruitment team.

Andrew Kapaso spoke about a new support offer that has been introduced to support connected and mainstream carers who are considering Special Guardianship Orders. We are currently in the process of recruiting a support worker to assist with the new project.

Our new 'Fostering Friendly Employer' Policy is ready to be signed off by senior managers and will support Trust employees with their fostering role.

Our guest speaker – Claire Martin, Adolescent Service Manager, provided us with an informative presentation on the role of the family support team and the family group conference service

We discussed internet safety and social media in the foster home and are looking at how we can support carers manage devices that are accessed by the children they look after.

If you would like to be involved in our next fostering forum, please speak to your supervising social worker.

Blue Light Card

Good news! Foster carers now qualify for the amazing
Blue Light Card!

To find out more about the card click [here](#)



BLUE LIGHT CARD™

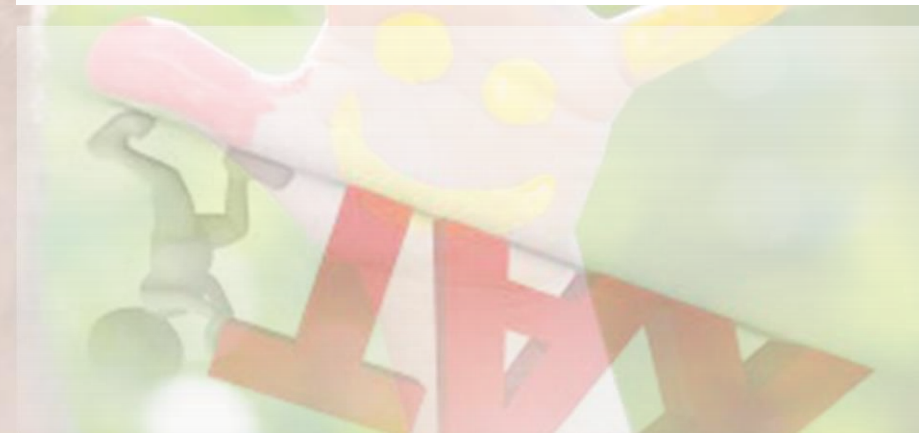
You will need an ID card to apply. If you don't have a Trust ID card yet, please send your passport photo (or a headshot photograph against a blank background) to Lynn Jones and she will organise your ID card for you so you can apply for your amazing discount card.

Tax webinars from Foster Talk

Please see below Tax Webinar dates for the first half of the year along with the registration link

- [Tuesday 8th March 10.00am](#)
- [Thursday 17th March 7.00pm](#)
- [Tuesday 22nd March 10.00am](#)
- [Tuesday 29th March 10.00am](#)
- [Thursday 7th April 7.00pm](#)
- [Thursday 28th April 7.00pm](#)
- [Tuesday 24th May 10.00am](#)
- [Tuesday 7th June 10.00am](#)
- [Thursday 9th June 7.00pm](#)
- [Tuesday 28th June 10.00am](#)
- [Thursday 30th June 7.00pm](#)
- [Thursday 14th July 7.00pm](#)

[Registration Link](#)



Half-term at Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery



Our friends at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery have a couple of brilliant events for SEND children over half-term. (see next page for details)

To book tickets just go to <https://rb.gy/vrxnwt>

To see all of their half-term activities keep an eye on their Facebook page, as they've always got good stuff going on!



Half-term at WM&ArtG

Foster for
Sandwell
Children's Trust

Marvellous Craft Day for SEND Children

Join us at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery on Tuesday 22 February. Where we are getting all crafty with our teddy bear workshops.

Junior Workshop (up to age 11) 11. 12:30
Senior Workshop (11-25) 1. 2:30

£3 per child (parent/carer goes free)
Tickets available on Ticketsource
<https://rb.gy/vrxnwt>
Booking is essential

Designed for young people with learning disabilities, autism and their families.



 **Sandwell**
Metropolitan Borough Council



Join us at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery for our Marvellous Disco!

This is a SEND event, designed for young people with learning disabilities, autism and their families.

Wednesday 23 February
Juniors (up to 11) 11. 12:30
Seniors (11-25) 1. 2:30

£3 per child
Tickets available on Ticketsource
<https://rb.gy/vrxnwt>


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Foster Carer training



We've attached the latest Learning and Development 'Info Burst' for your information.

Inside you'll find details of all the latest training available to you.



Pearlina is retiring!



We say a fond farewell at the end of the month to our longstanding colleague Pearlina Lindsay who is retiring after 22 years with Sandwell. I am sure you will join us in wishing her well.

Pearlina wanted to thank everyone within the Fostering Service; carers and colleagues alike as this is where the majority of her working time has been spent making memories with many of you!

We wish you a very happy retirement Pearlina!!!

LGBT+ History Month - February 2022

- **What is LGBT+ History Month?**

LGBT+ History Month is an annual event organised by the UK LGBT charity, [Schools OUT UK](https://www.schoolsoutuk.org/). It recognises the current struggles faced by the LGBTQ+ community as well as events throughout history that have shaped society today, like the Stonewall Riots.

The achievements of LGBTQ+ figures are often overlooked, particularly in the school curriculum. In response, LGBT+ History Month aims to recognise the sacrifices made by the community which have led to historic milestones like the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967.

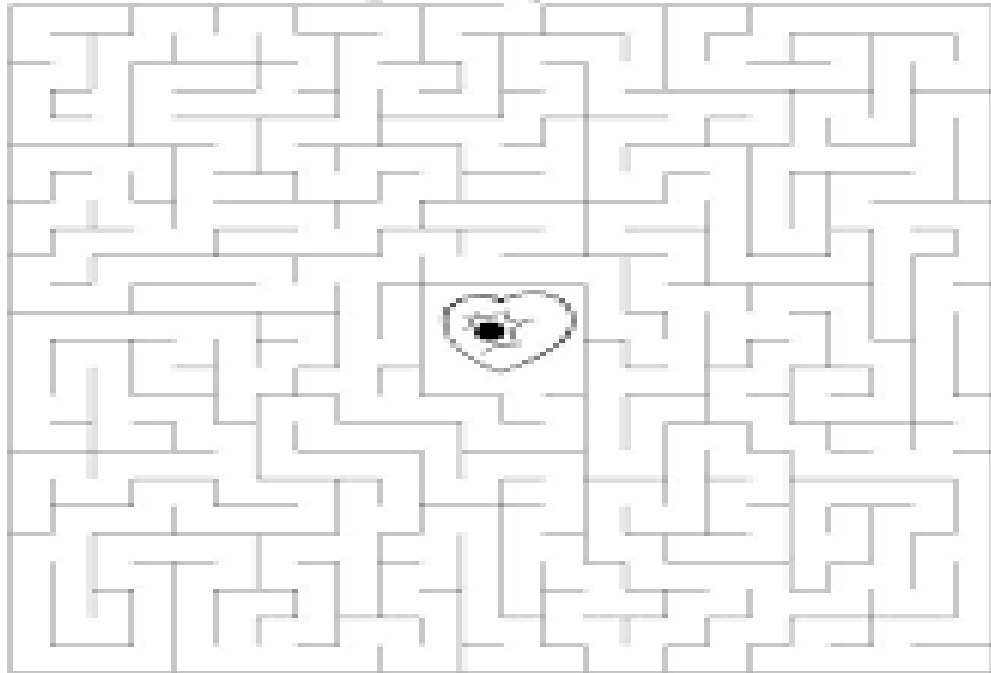
*Proud to support LGBTQ+ History Month
February 2022*



Sandwell
Children's Trust

Coffee Time Fun

Valentine's Day Maze



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Valentine's Day Word Search

K	S	Q	S	J	I	V	R	T	D	S	R	Q	G	K
R	Q	Q	T	D	M	A	B	X	U	F	N	Q	J	J
K	G	D	A	S	N	L	Y	E	U	S	F	S	N	S
S	V	E	E	M	B	E	R	I	G	C	E	V	O	L
Q	W	Q	R	Q	Q	N	I	A	W	R	A	O	C	G
T	E	E	T	G	R	T	E	R	E	Y	I	N	Q	T
D	O	I	E	E	O	I	K	E	F	D	R	E	D	J
H	O	B	N	T	P	N	W	N	O	E	F	T	G	Y
X	U	T	H	C	H	E	H	V	X	E	A	L	A	T
N	A	G	B	P	R	E	E	Y	B	M	T	C	B	H
F	O	M	G	T	U	S	A	R	L	R	K	U	T	Q
I	M	T	M	Q	S	K	U	R	A	U	N	P	E	H
C	A	R	D	S	K	A	A	E	T	W	I	I	G	U
M	C	D	I	R	R	M	H	H	X	E	P	D	P	N
W	Q	K	L	Y	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	J	O	J

CANDY
CARDS
CUPID
DEAR
DOVES
FEBRUARY
FLOWERS
FRIENDS
HEART

TREATS
VALENTINE
SWEETHEART
RED
LOVE
KISS
PINK
HUG



JINNYKIDS.COM

That's it for this month!

We hope that you've enjoyed this month's newsletter and as always, don't forget that we would love to hear from you! If you know about any great fostering resources, articles or web links just let us know via email at:

[Fostering info@sandwellchildrenstrust.org](mailto:info@sandwellchildrenstrust.org)

or contact your allocated Supervising Social Worker.

We look forward to hearing from you
See you next month!



Do you know anyone who is interested in becoming a foster carer?



If you do, why don't you 'Refer a Friend'?

We will pay £50.00 to the referring carer once we have received the ADM and the new carers are fully approved.

When the newly approved carers receive their first placement they will receive £150 and the carer who referred their friend will also receive £150!