

FOSTERING



Barnet Peer Support Newsletter - Carer to carer – October 2017

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Welcome to our October edition



BAFCA Next Coffee Morning with a Difference

Coffee mornings are on the first Tuesday of the month. Let's Use it as an opportunity to discuss any issues we have good or bad and offer advice and ways forward in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere amongst friends and colleagues.

Toasted Bagel Breakfast with various fillings to suit all tastes As well as the usual biscuits, cakes and juices. All Carers welcome and don't be afraid to bring the children.



Time: 10am -12pm.

Date: Tuesday 3rd October 2017.

Venue: St Pauls Church, 50 Long Lane, Finchley.

Applicants' and New Carers' Group – Topics for Discussion

Date: Monday 9th October 2017

Time: 7pm – 8:30pm.

Venue: 34-35 Woodhouse, North Finchley, N12 0RG.

Subject: Caring for other Children.

Guest Speaker: Martine Whittaker – Foster Carer.

Under 12's and Teen Support Group

This month's support group will be held for 2 separate groups.

Date: Wednesday 11th October 2017

Time: 10am – 12 noon.

Venue: St Pauls Church, 50 Long Lane, Finchley N3 2PU.

If you have any interesting news please email: fostering.peer.support@barnet.gov.uk. This newsletter is for all Foster Carers and members of the Barnet Fostering Team.

Reminder: Annual SENDIASS

Parent/Carer Conference

Tuesday 31 October 2017

The conference is for parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The aim is to give parents/carers the opportunity to find out more information in the area of special needs, network with other parents/carers and professionals and discover what services are available both for parents/carers and children within the Borough.

There will be workshops to attend, information stalls and keynote speakers. If you would like a booking form please contact shade.adesanya@barnet.gov.uk or call **0208 359 7637**. Alternatively check the SENDIASS website for more information www.barnet.gov.uk/sendiaass

Finance Portal

We have made changes to how you access the portal to look at your payments. The link has stayed the same:

<https://csproviderportal.barnet.gov.uk>

Enter your email and password and then you will be asked to set up a 6-digit passcode.

You will then be asked to set up a security code:

- The code should be 6 digits long
- Using 0-9 numerical characters
- You cannot use the same digit more than 4 times
- No sequences of more than 3 consecutive digits so you will not be allowed to enter 123456 or 654321

If you have any trouble setting the password or forgetting your password – please call the Barnet Service Desk on

020 8359 3333

If you'd like help accessing and viewing your Portal you can call **Amanda Graham-Kingdom on 07956 204 239**.

She will be able to talk you through the stages over the phone or visit you in your home to show you the various stages.

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#MORETOGIVE Campaign Launch

We are looking to recruit more foster carers to ensure that we have the placements available for our sibling groups, teenagers and children/young people with complex needs. There are currently 335 looked after children and young people, and we have 115 foster carers within our network.

To this end, tomorrow we are launching our **#MORE2GIVE campaign**, which is focusing on the recruitment foster carers with the abilities to care for these children and young people. We would be delighted if you were to join us in the campaign to ensure this campaign reaches our residents and allows us to successfully recruit these much-needed foster carers.

As foster carers, what can you do to get involved?

1. **Reach out to anyone you know who might have #MORE2GIVE.** If you refer someone who is approved, we'll pay you £500!
2. **Support the campaign on social media:** There's lots of ways that you can support the campaign on social media:
 - a. Follow us on social media platforms:
 - i. www.facebook.com/FosterBarnet
 - ii. Twitter: @BarnetFostering
 - b. Use #MORE2GIVE when posting content on social media. For example:

Did you know there are 335 children in care in Barnet? Do you have #MORE2GIVE as a foster carer?

I had #MORE2GIVE as a foster carer, do you too?

I'm getting behind #MORE2GIVE, the new fostering campaign. Find out how you can get involved to www.barnet.gov.uk/fostering

3. Like, Share or Repost Barnet Fostering content on Twitter and Facebook. This will help to spread the word about the campaign.

4. Email charlotte.barlow@barnet.gov.uk with your quotes on why you decided to become a foster carer when you had #MORE2GIVE
5. Email charlotte.barlow@barnet.gov.uk if you'd like to be filmed for a short clip on why you had #MORE2GIVE as a foster carer.
6. Get involved in our outreach sessions. Do you think you'd like to do paid work to talk to people about fostering? Email charlotte.barlow@barnet.gov.uk to find out more.

#BOP - #BOP members were given an opportunity to develop and deliver their own fun summer program which took place over Jul/Aug. #BOP members created a list of activities through discussions and research and it was great to see that 7 fun activities over the summer break took place, including meals out, trampoline park visits and a trip to the theatre to see 'The Play That Goes Wrong' - with many young people saying it was a real highlight.



#BOP members and the Voice of the Child Team would like to thank everyone for your participation and support for the summer program. We would love to get children & young people involved in making a difference and voicing their opinion on how we can improve their experience in care. #BOP members recently had the chance to give their opinion on the LAC (Looked after child) reviews and their input into the reviews will be the catalyst for change in near future.

In December children and young people will be meeting with senior managers at CPOG (Corporate Parenting Officers Group) to discuss the results of the bi-annual Survey that took place in March 2017. The recommendations and actions from this meeting will be taken forward to improve the service for children and young people with care experience. If you have any enquires or want to get involved please do not hesitate to contact me, **Chris Parillon 020 8359 3156 – haveyoursay@barnet.gov.uk**.

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New School Year - New Healthy You!

Join Alive 'N' Kicking's **FREE** Activity & Nutrition Club

Alive 'N' Kicking is a **FREE** healthy lifestyles programme for children aged between 4-12 years and their families, who together want to lose weight, eat healthier and get more active!

In our Clubs you will:

- Play games and sports
- Learn more about healthy eating and nutrition
- Make smoothies, healthy wraps and fruit kebabs
- Get more active as a family
- Get weekly recipes to make at home
- Discover healthy snack options

The Clubs take place at these locations around the borough:

The Orion Primary School, NW7 2AL - Mondays 5.30-6.30pm

St Paul's Church Hall, N3 2PU - Tuesdays 4.15-5.30pm

All Saint's Church Hall, N20 9EZ - Wednesdays 4.30-5.45pm

St Mary and St John CE Primary School, NW4 3SL - Thursdays 4.30-5.45pm



Contact us on: **0208 102 0530**

or email: barnet@ank.uk.com

to book a place



Stay Healthy!
The Alive 'N' Kicking Team



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Barnet Virtual School – PEPs



Personal Educational Plans are essential tools improving Educational outcomes for the pupils in the Virtual School. They are a termly opportunity to discuss any barriers to learning, strengths and challenges to share how well a child is doing academically and socially and to write a robust Action Plan to plan for future progress. It is vital that Foster Carers play an active role in the meetings and the decisions that are made in the Action Plan which follows.

A PEP meeting usually takes place in the Education Setting and should be Person Centred. It can happen at the same time as a LAC review or Statement Review as long as the relevant paperwork is completed.

Barnet Virtual School uses an EPEP supplied by Welfare Call which is an external portal. Due to the security measures around the portal we are unable to allow Foster Carers to have direct access to the document. The document can be printed and it is reasonable to ask for a copy of the Action Plan from the school or education setting, at the end of the meeting. It is the task of the child's Social worker to collect the views of the Foster Carer before the meeting. The sections on the form are broad and ask that you are as detailed as possible so at the meeting there is all of the relevant information to make the best plan for the student:

- What you like and admire about the child/young person
- What are their current strengths/interests/talents inside and outside of school (subjects, clubs, activities, Aim Higher)?
- What else do we need to know about? (Views and wishes of carers/barriers to learning)?
- Significant changes since the last PEP

This is a great opportunity to let the school know your child's strengths.

At the PEP meeting previous targets need to be reviewed and at least 75% of the meeting should be planning for Educational progress during the following term based on previous educational attainment and progress and any identified barriers to learning.

It is at the PEP meeting that everyone decides on the best use of Pupil Premium in order to meet the identified targets. The Virtual School is responsible for administering Pupil Premium and we will only sanction what is written in a PEP. We generally give £500 per term per child. The yearly allowance is £1900 and we keep some back for our "high level needs" students who may need expensive alternative provisions. However, there is an opportunity at a PEP meeting to request additional funding, which will always be considered.

Pupil Premium Plus is to improve the educational outcomes for children in care. Therefore, requests for interventions, one-one tuition, laptops will usually be successful. Strategies to overcome barriers to learning or raise attainment especially in English and maths will be received favourably.

It is not for school trips or Breakfast/After school clubs or travel to school – unless this is specifically meeting a Social and emotional need which has been identified in the rest of the PEP. The Head or Deputy Head of the Virtual School Quality Assure all PEPs so each child's needs are analysed before decisions are made.

We hope the PEP meeting is a real opportunity for you to advocate for your child/young person and plan with their Social Worker and school to improve their educational outcomes and therefore life chances.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Virtual School for clarification or questions on

Barnet.virtualschool@barnet.gov.uk or 0208 359 4534

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Secondary Transfer 2018 Applications

To Do List:

- Visit schools on their open days with your child
- Read the school prospectuses
- Visit the school websites
- Read the admissions criteria for the schools you are interested in
- Get advice from the admissions team



- Once you have submitted your application successfully you will be taken to a 'Confirmation' page and you will also be sent a confirmation email with a summary of your application
- Make a note of your application reference number

Registering Online

Before you can register online you will need an email address:

- Register your admissions at www.eadmissions.org.uk
- You will be sent an email with your login details
- Make a note of your username and password

Beginning Your Application

You are now ready to start your application:

- Login to your account
- This will take you to the "My school admissions" homepage
- Select 'Start Application for New Child' and follow the on-screen instructions
- Have your council tax reference number ready as you will need to provide it

Submitting Your Application

The closing date for applications is **31st October 2017**.

When you have added your child's details and school preferences:

- Use the 'save and continue' button to continue to the 'Check and Submit' page
- Check all the details entered on your application
- Complete your application by using the 'Submit Application' button



Health – Cervical Cancer Injections

All girls aged 12 to 13 are offered HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccination as part of the NHS childhood vaccination programme.

The vaccine protects against cervical cancer. It's usually given to girls in year eight at schools in England.

The HPV vaccine is delivered largely through secondary schools, and consists of two injections into the upper arm spaced at least six, and not more than 24 months apart (girls who began vaccination before September 2014 receive three injections).

Permissions are needed for this injection and it should be advised that a discussion with the child's social worker needs to take place as well as the child.

October Half Term Positive Activities

24th October – 26th October 2017

Do you know a young person aged 8 years – 19 years old who wants to keep busy, entertained and active this half term? Barnet Youth Service have put together an action-packed programme of fun and exciting activities across the Borough.

For details of all the activities and to book your place, go to www.barnetyouth.uk.

Booking opens on **Friday 6th October**. If you have any queries call our contact centre on **020 8359 3100**.

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