



# Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association

Foster Carers Supporting Foster Carers

## **Agenda Item No: 9 – Appendix 1**

Fostering allows us to make a real difference to a child's life. As foster carers we provide children a safe home, stability, security and consistency. This is often challenging and we all need support.

### **About Our Association**

The Cambridgeshire Foster Carer' Association (CFCA) is a voluntary organisation set up and run by foster carers to provide support for all our carers and the children we look after.

The association was founded in November 2018 and started to become a functional group in early Spring 2019.

We have created our Website and a Closed Facebook Group to improve communication, encourage discussion groups, promote events and involve all in our wider foster carer community.

We have a formal signed joint agreement and constitution with our Local Authority, including funding. The document clearly describes the partnership arrangements between our association and the Fostering Service.

### **Our Aims**

We want to raise the profile of foster carers and ensure we are viewed as professionals. Work with the Fostering Service to improve our support, services and remuneration. Providing the best possible care for all the children we look after.

Being part of our Association gives carers the opportunities to; raise issues about our ability to foster children successfully. Build a partnership with our Fostering Service so carers views are shared with senior managers. Help organise events for our children and young people to meet and have fun.

### **Membership**

CFCA membership is open to Cambridgeshire County Council foster carers living in Cambridgeshire and those who live outside the County, including;

- Foster Carers
- Short Term Kinship Foster Carers
- Family Link Carers
- Supported Lodgings Carers
- Remand and Specialist Foster Carers

There are now 139 combined registered Website Users and Facebook Group members

### **What we have achieved since January 2019**

- Created a secure website for CFCA members which holds forms, information, Foster Carer handbook events and much more. Our 'One Stop Shop' for Foster Carers
- Created a closed Facebook page for CFCA members to communicate
- Assisting in the Foster Carer Recruitment Events
- Formal signed Agreement with FS & Our Constitution
- Attending the Corporate Parenting Meetings
- Worry Packs for young people (part CFCA funded)
- Worked with RAPS and Clinician Team to improve services & training
- Attending Skills to Foster as the voice of the Foster Carer
- Working with the Participation Team
- Children's Christmas Party
- Babysitting Circle
- Single Carer Groups
- Arranging child care at Fostering Support Groups

### **Still Working on these Initiatives & Ideas**

- An initiative to improve foster carer - CiC social worker relationship
- Passwords for the CiC to improve security for both carers and children
- Review of the foster carer Mentoring process
- ID badges for foster carers
- Foster Carer Charter

### **Initiatives & Ideas on our Immediate Agenda**

- Creating a library of resources for carers
- Adding a new section on the website to enable more diverse content
- Comfort Packs for young people when they come into care
- Work with FS to review 16 + care
- Telephone directory of the most important numbers
- Reviewing concessions at Leisure facilities in Cambridgeshire for carers