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| FC Reps Meeting |
| Date – 18th July 2025 |
| **Attendees:**  Andy Elvin – Chair CEO AE  Scott Ruddock Operational Director of Children's Services UK SR  Bekky Ryan Head of Marketing & Communications BR  Kayleigh Wilshaw Innovation and Continuous Improvement Manager KW  Sarah O’Leary Walters Marketing & Communications Manager SOLW  Katrina Smethurst Foster Carer Rep for Wales KS  Chris Slowley Foster Carer Rep for Wales CS  Carol Sloan Foster Carer Rep for Yorkshire CS  Nicky Carpenter Foster Carer Rep for East Midlands NC  Eileen Stringer Foster Carer Rep for East Midlands ES  Duncan Ashley Foster Carer Rep for Scotland DA  Lorraine Halley Foster Carer Rep for Scotland LH  Irene Guild Foster Carer Rep for Scotland EG  Faye Watson Foster Carer Rep for London & SE FW  Samantha Sartori Foster Carer Rep for West Midlands SS  Lisa Reid Foster Carer Rep for South-West LR  Steven O’Reilly Foster Carer Rep for London & SE SO  **Apologies:**  Sharntel Powell Foster Carer Rep for Carers with Children with disabilities SP  Cath Brewer Foster Carer Rep for North-West CB  Michelle Reynolds Foster Carer Rep for North-East MR  Pauline Graham Foster Carer Rep for West Midlands PG  Karen Holmes Foster Carer Rep for North-West KH  Gemma Edwards Foster Carer Rep for Wales GE  Steven Ashton Foster Carer Rep for South-West SA  Nicola Criticos Foster Carer Rep for London & SE NC  Adebimpe Odediran Foster Carer Rep for London & SE AO |

## Discussion Log

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| Item under discussion | Summary of Feedback/Consultation | Actions *Action; Owner; Timescale* |
| Welcomes & Apologies | AE welcomed all to today’s meeting. |  |
| Matters Arising | To remind all carers to complete the Carer Satisfaction survey if they haven’t already done so. Open until 25th July 2025 |  |
| Carer Support Project | KW – Carer Support Offer – September - working groups to be held – any foster carers who wish to join, please let KW know.  Will be looking at utilising the results of the Carer survey and what challenges carers face. How we can develop wrap around support.  Looking at carer wellbeing/support packages.  Focus on short breaks and well-being. All reps reported that short break cover urgently needed in all of TACT’s teams, reps challenged were we actively recruiting for short break carers. Frustration that that short break not available and this was putting huge pressure on carers  Initial timeline will be within 6 months initially however it was felt by reps that action on short breaks is needed now, not in 6 months. Needs to be sooner.  Looking at who can the child/ren stay with – short breaks – down to delegated authority & length of stay , some clarity would be appreciated as carer reps feel there is a lack of consistency  Delegated Authority should cover parental rights.  More opportunities to get together.  Allegations – where can we help? Where do we utilise FC Reps. National pilot being planned to shorten and improve allegations process. In TACT we are looking at how we improve our support to carers facing allegations and be involving carers through focus groups.  Fees for children with complex medical needs needed, what I threshold for complex fee. AE explained that the practical threshold is if the LA will agree to pay a complex fee.  Discussed ongoing issue of Information not shared/withheld on placement by LA. All info needs to be shared needs, carers will take children with higher needs if LA is honest and agrees the right support package. | **KW taking forward, reps to email Kayleigh to get involved**  **AE will share this view with the Directors, area managers and carer recruitment team**  **AE will update reps as Pilot proceeds**  **AE will raise at DfE Fostering advisory board** |
| Serious Case Reviews | KW shared a serious case review for discussion. Please see attached for information.  Discussion on what we can learn from these. Do carers always know who they can approach for information & support? Again issue of partial information from LA’s was raised.  Some Reps gave their experiences and thoughts. KW clarified that TACT will be looking into these case reviews and the ones shared were external cases and not those from TACT. |  |
| Evaluating Bids for Health Service (Carers to attend groups) | SR shared that TACT are advertising for providers for the TACT Health Service and will be appointed via a valuation Panel. SR has asked if any foster carers will be interested in joining the Panel.  We have experts on the panel and will need experienced foster carers as well.  CS will be joining the Panel, and we will need 1 more carer.  Date to be arranged – SR clarified that we need experience and stories from the carers. Please let SR know if anyone else is interested in joining the Panel. | **Foster carers to forward name to SR if interested in joining the panel.** |
| AOB | Myopia: Chris S raised Myopia and how expensive and difficult it is to be referred. Not funded by NHS – may be funded/part funded by TACT on a case-by-case basis. Currently research on its benefits is inconclusive Please see attached view from Mechelle Holley.  Voting: AE shared good news – voting age has been lowered to 16 plus, so 16/17-year-olds will vote in the next General Election. Good resource for discussing this with children & young people is here <https://www.youngcitizens.org/resource/voting-and-the-general-election/>  AE thanked all for attending today and their input.  Next Foster Carer Reps meeting being held on 22nd August at 10.30am. |  |