A couple of cartoon images of kids holding a scale

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**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

*“Family isn’t defined only by last names or by blood; it’s defined by commitment and love.”* **– Dave Willis**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Name** | **Contact Number** |
| Tuesday 26th August | Chelsea | 07872 817 174 |
| Wednesday 27th August | Mohammed | 07713 261 216 |
| Thursday 28th August | Marina | 07872 818 284 |
| Friday 29th August | Anju | 07912 308 943 |
| Saturday 30th August | Anju | 07912 308 943 |
| Sunday 31st August | Anju | 07912 308 943 |

FYI - West Midlands Foster Carers WhatsApp group number **07831 177 950** managed by Sam

Please see below the EDT numbers for local Authorities

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Local Authority** | **OOH Number** | **Local Authority** | **OOH Number** |
| Birmingham | 0121 675 4806 | Staffordshire | 0345 604 2886 |
| Coventry | 024 7683 2222 | Stoke-on-Trent | 01782 234234 |
| Dudley | 0300 555 8574 | Telford and Wrekin | 01952 676500 |
| Hammersmith & London | 020 8748 8588 | Walsall | 01922 650000 |
| Peterborough | 01733 234724 | Warwickshire | 01926 886922 |
| Sandwell | 0121 569 3100 | Wolverhampton | 01902 552999 |
| Shropshire | 0345 678 9040 | Worcestershire | 01905 768020 |
| Solihull | 0121 605 6060 |  |  |

**Message from Area Manager**

*I want to thank all our carers who have taken the time to respond to our carer survey.  An overwhelming**amount of our carers responded, this will help to shape how we do things in meeting the needs of our carers and children.*

*I appreciate carers openness and transparency, we have listened, some things we can change others not. We will do our very best to continue to change and improve on what we can; to support you our carers and children.  We will learn from all arears of the survey; continue to do what we do well and build on areas for development.*

***Update***

*There will be some changes to our weekly Newsletter, moving forward we are seeking to update carers through a monthly Newsletter. You will still have access to key information with the service as the need arises.*

*There have been some changes to how we manage recruitment of foster carers. As you know recruitment was managed previously within another area of the service. There has been a redesign and Recruitment now sits within local teams.  This is great news, and I do look forward to having our carers on board to support our new approach and recruitment activities.*

*In saying this we have appointed a Recruitment Manger Debbie Hamil, some of you may know Debbie as an assessor or from chairing your annual review. Debbie will be joining our carer events, where possible, and will speak with any of you to share ideas and take suggestions around opportunities for recruiting foster carers.  Should you have any ideas or are aware of upcoming local community events please do not hesitate to reach out to our admin staff who can arrange a direct link to Debbie around her availability and diary commitment.  As we move forward, I look forward to us working together to build our carer community.*

*Thank you all for your ongoing support.*

*Diane Green*

*Area Manager*

*TACT West Midlands*



**Change of School Details**

Dear Carers,

If your YP is changing school in September, please could you let Admin know the new school/contact details in order to update our records. [westmidlandsadmin@tactfostering.org.uk](mailto:westmidlandsadmin@tactfostering.org.uk)

Thank you

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



**Carers Coffee Morning**

**25th Sept 2025 – 10.00 am – 12.00 noon**

Hub at Primrose Hill Community Church, Chapel Street, Dudley, DY2 9PN

A cup of coffee with a heart shaped foam

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**Carers Coffee Morning**

**6th October at 12.00 noon**

for coffee / tea and cake

Middlemarch Farm Pub, St. David’s Way, Nuneaton

A group of cartoon characters with speech bubbles

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Dear Carers,

Would any carers be interested in delivering a short session/ discussion around recording :-

* Writing the child’s log,
* The benefits of recording from a carer perspective and what it means writing to the child.

Please contact [westmidlandsadmin@tactfostering.org.uk](mailto:westmidlandsadmin@tactfostering.org.uk)

**London Theatre Kids Week**

A child aged 17 and under go for free when accompanied by an adult paying full price. Plus, an additional two children can attend for half price.

Kids Week performances run from **Monday 21 July – Sunday 31 August.**

<https://officiallondontheatre.com/kids-week/>

**‘Italian Brainrot’ Trend**

Please follow the below link to information regarding a seemingly harmless trend however this isn’t as innocent as it looks.

<https://cybersafetyproject.com/italian-brainrot/>

**Training**

**A person sitting at a computer

Description automatically generatedPLEASE CAN ALL CARERS TAKE SOME TIME TO COMPLETE THE MANDATORY ONLINE COURSES THAT ARE OUTSTANDING ON YOUR TRAINING PORTAL. YOU ARE NOW AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED ON THE MISSING COURSES AND THEY ARE READY TO GO ON YOUR DASHBOARD**

**JUST LOG INTO YOUR ACCOUNT HERE – MANY THANKS 😊: -**

[**https://tact.fosteringtraining.com/dashboard**](https://tact.fosteringtraining.com/dashboard)

**TACT Mandatory Training – 2025 – 2026**

Carers are expected to undertake Mandatory (Core) Training within their first year of approval and refresh every 3 years. Each year will change and the training for 2025-2026 is below.   
Online training **certificates** must be in the individual carer’s names, not joint names.

1. **First Aid for Foster Carers - Face to Face - One day Course - 4.5hrs**
2. Health and Safety in The Fostering Home - Online Course - 1.5hrs
3. Administering Medicine to Children in Care - Online Course - 1.5hrs
4. Attachments - Online Course - 1hr
5. Child Development - Online Course - 1hr 20mins
6. Safeguarding and Safer Care - Online Course - 1.5hrs
7. Safeguarding and Child Protection - Online Course - 2 hrs
8. Online Safety - Virtual 3hrs or Online Course
9. Keeping Data Safe (includes a section on GDPR)- Online Course - 1hr

**Link to TACT Fostering Training Website to complete the online courses – Please sign into your own user portal and complete any of the online training as soon as possible.**

<https://tact.fosteringtraining.com/dashboard>

**Carers can access local first aid.**

**Highly Recommended Courses of the Month**

Please see below our highly recommended courses of the month for August...   
A close-up of a computer screen

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To access this training, you will need to log in to the TACT training website via the link below:

<https://tact.fosteringtraining.com/>

This training will be available from your dashboard, if all carers could aim to complete this course by **Thursday 31st August.**

**Training**

**A white and orange text and a yellow rectangle

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Please contact [westmidlandsadmin@tactfostering.org.uk](mailto:westmidlandsadmin@tactfostering.org.uk) to book a place

**Updated courses**

A close-up of a person's arm

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Self-harm awareness -** *1hr 30mins*

Self-harm is when someone deliberately harms their own body as a way of dealing with difficult thoughts and emotions. This updated version of the course contains information regarding ligaturing, the act of tying something around the body to restrict breathing or blood flow. Self-harm is a serious safeguarding concern. This course helps carers understand how to support a child who self-harms, covering ways to manage self-harm urges, introduce healthier coping strategies, and respond to emergency situations.

**Family time** *- 1hr 10mins*

Family time, also known as contact, is an important opportunity for foster children to maintain their relationships with their birth families. This updated course looks at the benefits and potential challenges of family time and offers practical tips on how to support your foster children before, during and after family time. We also look at how to build and maintain a positive relationship with birth families.

**Courses of the month**

A close-up of a young child and child laughing

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Caring for siblings** *– 2hrs*

The summer holidays can be a challenging time if you’re caring for siblings, as more time together often leads to more opportunities for conflict. This course offers practical strategies to help manage sibling rivalry and encourage a strong, positive sibling bond. Topics include how to give each child individual attention, build communication skills, and choose activities that encourage cooperation rather than competition.

**Positive parenting** *– 1hr 15mins*

This practical course is perfect for navigating the long summer weeks without school. Positive parenting is an approach that focuses on children’s strengths, aiming to build trust, encourage positive behaviour, and empower the children in your care. It’s grounded in empathy and looks at the root causes behind behaviour, while still setting clear and consistent boundaries. When used effectively, it can lead to a calmer, more cooperative environment for both carers and children.

**Booklet: Measles**

Measles cases are sadly on the rise again in the UK. Here you will find a link to a short booklet, which includes information about the disease and key advice regarding vaccination. [Click here to download.](https://docsend.com/view/67a4ew4ymkgmr4n6)

Find all the courses in your catalogue here: <https://tact.fosteringtraining.com/catalog>

Happy learning!

The Fostering Training Team

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| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  | | --- | | **Open access courses** | |  | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | [Learn more](https://goto.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/click/gfl7-6942r-mt5ye-2hlzgn2/) | |  |  | |  | | --- | | **Introduction to DDP PACE: Building trust with children who’ve experienced developmental trauma** |  |  | | --- | | Join our two-day Introduction to DDP PACE training with Dr Billy Smythe. Learn how PACE—Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy—supports traumatised children to feel safe, rebuild trust and form secure relationships. Discover how this DDP-informed approach can deepen emotional connections and help children recover from developmental trauma.  **Date:** 25 and 26 September 2025  **Time:** 10am – 2pm​  **Where:** Virtual – Zoom | |  | |  | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person sitting at a table with a computer and a pen  Description automatically generated | | |  |  | |  | | --- | | **Recording and disclosures** |  |  | | --- | | Gain a clear understanding of legal and ethical record-keeping in safeguarding. This course emphasises keeping the child at the centre, clarifies responsibilities, outlines best practices for handling disclosures, and promotes positive, safe approaches to documentation.  **When**: 1 October  **Time:** 10am – 2pm  **Where:** Virtual – Zoom |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Learn more](https://goto.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/click/gfl7-6942r-mt5yf-2hlzgn3/) | | |  | | |

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**Issues opening Documents on MacBook, iPhone or iPad**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_A cartoon of a child sitting in a chair with a computer

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Please see links to 2 videos below which show how to open word documents using pages on Mac devices. You can access pages (included) or download Google docs, Libre office or other free apps from app store to open them

MacBook - [8 Ways To Handle Microsoft Word Documents On Your Mac](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ykLbFdeKvM) (skip to 2.30 as the first part of video suggests buying word)

iPhone/iPad [How to Open Word Documents on iPad | How to Edit Word Documents on iPad](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixbhV8wzXnk&t=63s) in addition to this, you can also download Google docs from the App store

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**Messages to all carers**

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**Childrens Christmas Party**

**13th December 2025**

**Primrose Hill Community Church (PHCC),** Chapel Street, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9PN

**Unannounced Visits**

Dear Carers,

Please note that as we continue to support each other, there may be a member of the team, other than your SSW, that will undertake children and unannounced visits.

Please note that during **unannounced visits, all areas of the home need to be seen**, this includes all bedrooms, the garden and any outbuildings.

Diane

**Events to Promote TACT**

As you know we are keen to recruit more foster carers in your local areas, so please get in touch if you are aware of any events or good recruitment opportunities we can explore. This could be through your local church, mosque, community centres or even a big supermarket with lots of footfall, we would love to hear your ideas! If you would also like to be involved in our recruitment events sharing your experience as foster carers, please get in touch.

**Foster Carer Records and Childrens LOGS**

**Please take some time to ensure you have taken the foster carer records course online -** [**https://tact.fosteringtraining.com/catalog/info/id:686**](https://tact.fosteringtraining.com/catalog/info/id:686)

**Important: Please keep the logs up to date.**

It is very important that logs are kept up to date as they can be requested at any time. Thank you.

**Examples of foster carer log writing can be discussed with your SSW and also an example copy can be sent to you by the team if you would like – please email us -** [westmidlandsadmin@tactfostering.org.uk](mailto:westmidlandsadmin@tactfostering.org.uk)

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