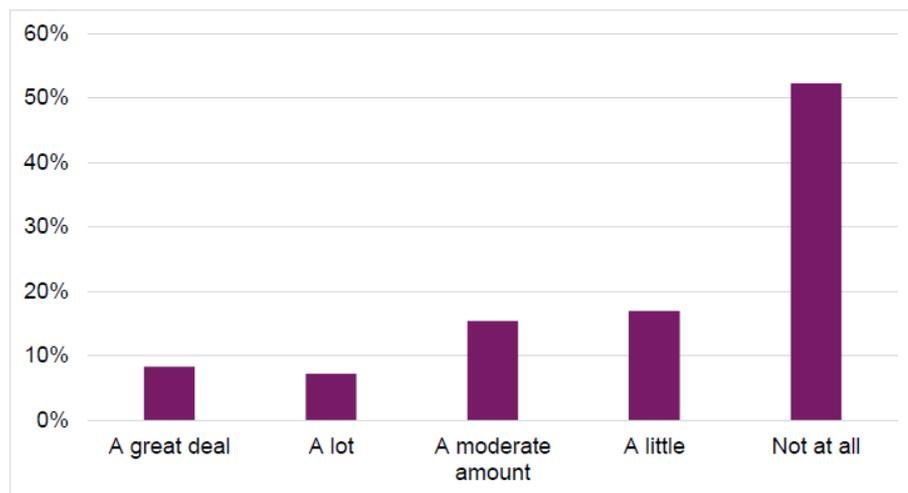


This change in understanding is critical to the role that foster carers play in supporting a child in the transition to their new family or living arrangements, and advocates a need for the supportive and positive presence of the foster carers throughout and beyond the transition process. While there will be some occasions when it is not in a child's best interests to keep in contact with their previous foster families or others, these will be the exception rather than the rule. We need a culture shift to ensure that the starting position in any transition planning is for ongoing contact. The Fostering Network's State of the Nation survey 2018 revealed that foster carers are being prevented from maintaining contact with their former fostered children with alarming frequency and are rarely supported to keep in touch. Read the results.

Q.23 In general, how supported do you feel in maintaining contact with former fostered children, where appropriate?



69 per cent of foster carers told us they received little or no support to maintain contact with their former fostered children, while just 15 per cent felt they get a great deal or a lot of support. That more than two thirds of foster carers feel unsupported suggests systemic change is needed to create an environment when children can easily stay in touch with the people that are important to them.



YOU'RE A STAR

Celebrating Success Stories and Good News

All the children's names have been changed for confidentiality and safeguarding reasons

Cyrus and his Taekwondo Journey

He's never had confidence to do anything alone before.

He is calm and protective of others, ensuring he doesn't overpower the smaller children.

He goes to classes weekly. He is a natural. He has won 3 gold medals in grappling and a bronze in board breaking.

He is now blue belt and in the advanced class. Then his teacher nominated him for a Melksham Young Person Award and he won this! Amazing...



Passion for Cycling

A young person who loves to ride his mountain bike

and has taken the lead in setting up a Fusion mountain bike club. We had the first group bike ride on Friday 30th August and he is very excited to be taking ownership of this fun group and future upcoming rides.

Student of the Year

A big congratulations to Mahala who has won student of the year at the end of her first year at Exeter College. We are all very proud of her achievements this year and wish her all the best next year.

Celebrating Sons and Daughters Month

One of our South West Supervising Social Worker Becky Barnett, took her foster Carers, their young people and the foster carers sons and daughters out for a meal to celebrate sons and daughters month. Everyone had a fabulous time and enjoy the all you can eat food at Za Za Bazarre.



Paddle for life

Leevi attended a paddle race on Thursday, 20th June 2019 in Newquay, Cornwall. He came second in his race. The 'Paddle for Life' event happens every year in Newquay over the last 12 years. It is a very popular happening that raises money for various charities. This harbour event started after lifeguards from Fistral Beach held a Joe Way memorial paddle to raise money for charity in 2008. Joe was born with a rare genetic condition and died at the age of 4. He was an inspirational little boy who touched people's lives around the country and beyond. Since this time the total donated to over twenty different charities has amounted to an excess of £150,000.00.



Leevi went with his foster carers Andy and Suzy to the event and enjoyed taking part in the paddle race and raising money for a good cause. Leevi is a keen and talented surfer and loves water sports. It was a great achievement coming second in his paddle race while having to compete with twelve other young people. Well done Leevi for taking part and doing so well!

A Work of Art

This is a picture that Brooklyn aged 11 has just produced whilst on a short break with Henri and Marcus. Henri has an art room in her garden and he is clearly making the most of it. Think we have a budding artist in our midst! What an achievement... we are so proud of him.



Charity walk in London

We got involved with this charity to give something back and to thank the Oxford Renal Unit who successfully carried out a kidney transplant on my daughter in law, this happened in December 2016 making her nearly 3 years post-transplant and doing really well. After dialysis and poor health for months this procedure has given her a new lease of life and enabled her to be a proper mother to our grandson. Myself, my son and daughter in law, grandson (in a pushchair) and Taya took part in the walk along with hundreds of others. We completed the walk in exactly 4 hours. It was a very successful, enjoyable day incorporating a lot of sightseeing on route.



Participation Day in London!

Some of our foster families in the South East region spent the day at the National History museum where they got to learn and see lots of interesting exhibits. They all had a fantastic day and especially enjoyed the dinosaur displays.

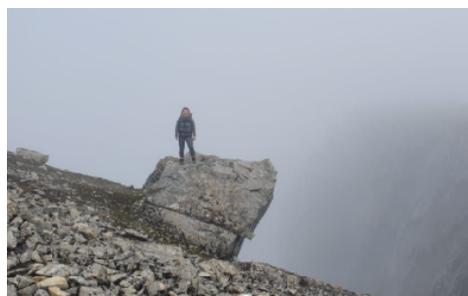


Super Star Marathon Runner



Our Fabulous North West Regional Manager Jen Luwaji took part in The Race to the Stones is an ultra marathon with 100k race or 50k (31 mile) option (which is the one I did). This race runs from Oxfordshire to the Neolithic monument in Avebury. The route takes in Field of Dreams which provides great photo opportunities in a stunning crop field, the prehistoric White Horse in Uffington which is believed to date back to the Late bronze age, and ends with the largest stone circle in Europe, Avebury Stone Circle. "Having turned 45 and never run a marathon I decided to run this event which is 5 miles longer than a marathon and definitely was not the flat course I was promised! I got off lightly with all toenails intact and only one blister. I have just about recovered and will start training for my next event in October which will be my first marathon (Yorkshire Marathon) I'm going to have to find a less exhausting way to relax.

Fantastic Work Jen.



High Climber

Our fantastic new North West deputy manager Eve has also been getting very active and has gained a new amazing personal achievement. "I joined a walking club around 4 months ago and fell in love with the climbing/hiking/ walking. I decided to raise funds for charity and said that I would set myself a challenge. I have climbed Mt Snowdon, Mt Scafell Pike, Swirrel Edge and Mt Helvellyn and finally the other weekend climbed Ben Nevis. The photo is from one of the highest points on Ben Nevis where I also over came some of my fears." Eve is also took part in the 50km Trek Fest on the 31st August to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer research.

What a brilliant achievement. Well done Eve.



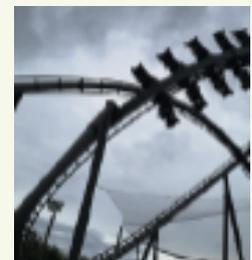
New College Starter

Caitlin, age 16 years, is placed in St. Austell since the beginning of July. She has been accepted to attend Callywith College to study Art. The SSW Hilde spent a day with Caitlin in St Ives, visiting the Tate Gallery and the Barbara Hepworth Museum. Caitlin loved the museum with the sculpture garden and enjoyed the exhibition in the Tate where a Lebanese artist called Huguette Caland displayed her art work. Caitlin found the day in St Ives inspirational and it gave her exciting ideas for her forthcoming study. Her mother and the Foster Carers are very proud of Caitlin achieving her GCSE results as her former placement ended during this time, which made life very hard for her. She managed to secure herself s place in College, which is a real achievement.



Thorpe Park Day Out

What a day! We had a brilliant time at Thorpe Park with our fabulous foster parents and young people. Slightly rainy but we all had so much fun! Thanks to everyone who came! Here's to our next trip. Thanks from Mark, Katie, Mike and Beth in South Central.



Summer Camp Experience

Alex, who came into foster care last August after a long period in hospital, has gone from strength to strength and has just completed a two-week camp with the NCS (national citizen scheme). Through the camp he developed confidence, tried a range of new activities and made a lot of new friends.

Foz has been a very busy frog this summer and been out and about visiting lots of events over the country. Here are just a few places and people he has met over the last few months.



Charity Event at Holyrood School in Chard

Foz made lots of new friends when he attended a charity event at a Secondary school in Chard. Holyrood school were holding an event to promote awareness of Child Exploitation. Foz enjoyed dancing with the majorettes, where they even gave him his own set of pompoms and having lots of fun with all the children that attended. He also came away with a greater understanding of Child exploitation.

The Royal Navy International Air Day at RNAS Yeovilton

Foz also paid a visit to The Royal Navy International Air Day which was held at RNAS Yeovilton where Nigel Bell and his team had set up a stand. Foz was able to watch the fantastic flying display which he loved. He also got to help give out free glitter tattoos to all the children that wanted one and take photos with lots of lovely people who were at the Air Day.



South Gloucestershire Show

Foz enjoyed the South Gloucestershire Show on the 3rd and 4th of August. He loved meeting all the children who were excited to say hello and give him a high five. Foz was so popular that he couldn't get through the crowds of children who were so keen to meet him and get a balloon. On day two he met the John Lewis ladies and enjoyed spending time with the police officers from Avon and Somerset Police who also enjoyed having face glitter. Foz was the talk of the show and people were overheard saying, 'has anyone seen that green frog!' It was a busy few days and Foz needed to rest his feet for a while once he had finished. A fantastic weekend was had by all and we can't wait to return next year.



Dog Surfing Championships – South Coast

Summer holidays and spent a fun filled day at the UK Dog Surfing Championships down on the South Coast! He had the best of days watching all the Dogs and owners compete to see who would be crowned the UK's No1! Katie, Mark and Mike from Fusion attended to support the event and see Foz in his element. There were lots of Families, Children and their dogs as well as Fusion Foster Parents and young people. The Radio station 'Hot Radio' came busting out the music for all to dance to, Foz included. Katie, Mike and Mark also gave away a Fusion green Body Board to a very grateful winner in their competition on the day! The event even went viral and ended up on LADbible. "



There is a need for over 7000 new foster families in the UK. Can you help?



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