

**Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 6pm**

**Conference Room 2 – Old Town Hall, Blackburn**

**Blackburn with Darwen Foster Carers Association (BwDFCA) Presentation**

Blackburn with Darwen Foster Carers Association (BwDFCA) is run, voluntarily, by a group of Foster Carers, who believe that regular meetings with Foster Carers will help maintain placements, help Foster Carers to “let off Steam”, realize that they aren’t alone and help them create a larger support network. BwDFCA want to ensure the best for all our Fostering Families and to provide them with the best possible help, information and support available.

**The BwDFCA Committee Members are:**

Sharon Burns – Chair

Antony (Tony) Matthews – Vice Chair

Bernadine (Bernie) Tomlinson -Treasurer

Carole Bennett – Vice Treasurer

Paula Quinn -Events and Fundraising Manager

Anthony (Tony) Perrie – Website Administrator

Samantha (Sam) Briggs – Secretary

**BwDFCA hold meetings approx. every 6-8 weeks**

**2019 BwDFCA Meeting Dates are:**

13<sup>th</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> May/12<sup>th</sup> June/10<sup>th</sup> July/18<sup>th</sup> Sept/30<sup>th</sup> Oct and 11<sup>th</sup> Dec.

These meetings are all on Wednesday’s -12.30pm until 2.30pm at Ivy Street Community Centre, Blackburn. Buffet Lunch is included. NON members would need to contact BwDFCA Secretary -Sam Briggs – [funkybudda@talktalk.net](mailto:funkybudda@talktalk.net) or [sjbriggs61@gmail.com](mailto:sjbriggs61@gmail.com) to confirm they wish to attend a specific meeting and give a valid reason why they wish to attend/speak/observe.

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BwDFCA also have a website for Carers/Prospective Carers to visit. Please look at it if you get the chance. [www.bwdfca.co.uk](http://www.bwdfca.co.uk) The secure area on the website can only be accessed by registered Foster Carers with BwDBC. Main site is public.

**BwDFCA Meetings- 2019.** At present ... We have the following speakers booked:

**13<sup>th</sup> March Meeting - Mike Dixon** – Fostering Recruitment Officer. Relaunch of Lets Foster Website. Provide meeting with relaunch plans, relevant info from xmas gift tags/cards competition etc. Answer any questions members may have.

**1<sup>st</sup> May Meeting - Charlotte Hesketh – Virtual School Head and Aldo Staffa - Education Manager** - To provide meeting with Pupil Premium info and answer any questions members may have.

**12<sup>th</sup> June Meeting -Pat Lewis** – Foster Talk –To Provide meeting with Taxation and Benefits advice and answer any questions members may have.

**18<sup>th</sup> Sept Meeting - AGM – Annual General Meeting. \*\*Members only \*\*-Elect FCA Committee members.**

**EVENTS** – Our events are open to all our Fostering Families/ Children's Services Staff/Corporate Parent's. We would appreciate it if any Corporate Parent could attend any of our events, Cllr Bateson and Cllr Gunn regularly attend our Summer Gala/Xmas Parties.

#### **LAST TWO EVENTS:**

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018** – **Peter Pan Pantomime at Empire Theatre Blackburn** – Paula Quinn organised this Event – 102 Tickets sold – Great success and a brilliant afternoon, Fostering Families and Children's Services Staff enjoyed a great performance together. It really helps our Looked After Children (LAC) to see their Social Workers in a relaxing, family environment.

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**LAST TWO EVENTS – CONTINUED**

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018 - Fostering Families Christmas Party** – Organised by FCA Committee – Brilliant Turnout – Visit from The Mayor and Father Christmas. £2.00 Raffle Prize – Xbox One Console -Donated. £1. 00 Raffle Prizes – Travel Suitcase/£50 x 2 Food Vouchers/£30 and £20 Gift Cards/Signed Blackburn Rovers Football/Huge Soft Toy Dog/Plus loads of other great prizes – All Donated. Cllr Bateson and Cllr Gunn provided some brilliant prizes – BwDFCA receive a massive amount of support from them and we really appreciate everything they do for us. BwDFCA also receive a huge amount of support from Fostering Support Officer(FSO) – Tracy Mosley - She encourages carers to attend our meetings and promotes all our meetings when she attends any training, she attends as many meetings, events as she can, She sold loads of tickets to our 2018 xmas party Tracy is a big part of our fostering family – She goes above and beyond her role as FSO to ensure the best for all our fostering families.

**2019 Provisional Event Dates are:**

Summer Gala – Sat 13<sup>th</sup>/ Sun 14<sup>th</sup> July at Ivy Street Community Centre, Blackburn.

Xmas Party - Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Dec at Longshaw Sports and Social Club, Blackburn.

This is Blackburn with Darwen Foster Carers Association...

Do you have any questions or have any advice that could help us?