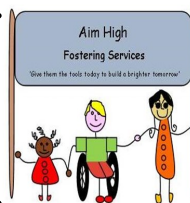




AIM HIGH NEWSLETTER



October 2021

Edition number 3

Hi again! Once more we have received fabulous contributions from carers, children and staff to put together our third newsletter. Thank you for all the written contributions from adults and children as well as the original artwork!

TM

LYNN BUSBY— REVIEWING OFFICER

Hello, I am the Independent Reviewing Officer for Aim High. I have been with the company since June 2018 and very much enjoy working with a small Independent Fostering Agency and being part of its growth and development.

I started my career in social work in 1982 when I went to work in a children's home. Things were very different then and I was only 19 myself when I was responsible for the care of 16 8-18 years olds, some of whom remembered me from school! I loved the work and stayed for five years until I went to college to train as a qualified Social Worker. I qualified in 1989 and went to work for a Local Authority in a child care team. The Children Act 1989 was just about to come into force and the world of social work was ever changing. When I started we would see the children through from child in need to child protection; support them in foster care, search for adopters and support them through the next transition and to adoption order.



When I had my children I needed a more predictable working pattern so moved into a Fostering Team as a Supervising Social Worker. I stayed with the same Local Authority in various capacities within the fostering service until 2007 when I decided to take a break from social work to explore other ways of life. I soon discovered that for me there is no other way of life and I started to seek work as an Independent Social Worker, building it up gradually alongside a part time post as a Local Authority Reviewing Officer. I am now fully self-employed undertaking tasks I love which includes chairing foster carers annual reviews for Independent Fostering Agencies and Local Authorities and as a Panel Chair on



both adoption and foster panels. I have also been known to present a little training occasionally!

On a personal note I have been married 30 years and have two adult children, one step-grandchild and a grandchild on the way. We all live in Bedfordshire and enjoy spending time together when we can. I am looking forward to slowing down a little and helping my daughter when the baby comes early next year.



Now we are coming out of lock-down I am looking forward to seeing you all again in person and meeting those of you I have not yet met. I never cease to be impressed and humbled by the work foster carers do. This year you have all, without exception, gone above and beyond what is expected of you to ensure the children in your care have continued to thrive in these unprecedented times. Thanks to you all for your dedication and commitment.

LB

Our Family

by Michael and Bruno

As well as the human variety, our family consists of our four legged members as well, one Labrador and three basset hounds : Lillie, Stella, Wendy and Daisy.

We have found them to have a very positive effect on the children we have fostered. The children seem to develop an affinity with our girls, providing them with even more unconditional love and no judgements.

When a child has come into our home, I can only imagine how daunting it must be, however they can see the dogs, they are able to stroke then and in return they will show affection towards them straight away,



Art by
Bruno

so already they have that reassurance.

The children will often talk to the dogs, offloading their fears and worries, with no fear of being judged, thereby bringing some relief to some of their difficulties. Every child we have fostered has had that in common. In our conclusion, dogs do have a positive impact on fostering.

M R-B

All Pets give pleasure, help people to relax and give unconditional acceptance. Having a pet at home supports positive feelings, reduces

anxiety and builds a sense of caring and responsibility. As well as dogs, there are many other pets you can choose -

TM



For the Love of Lexi

by Donna and DT

What Donna says: Lexi is our family dog. Lexi is a Cockerpoo and five years old. Lexi is tan in colour and has button brown eyes. Lexi is friendly, full of energy and likes playing with her ball and toys. Having Lexi in our home from a puppy has been the best decision for the children I have in placement. DT smothers her with love and affection at every opportunity. I often hear him telling her he loves her especially when he rushes home from school excited to see her.

DT&DT

What DT says:

When I first came to live with Aunty Donna Lexi use to bark at me now she sits, licks and kisses me. Lexi is very cute and I love her very much.





Hello there!

My name is **Justine Blake** and I am the newest member of Aim High! I am one of the Supervising Social Workers in the team and

started in July 2021. Unfortunately, shortly after I started I took sick and was off for an

extended period of time but since my return I have enjoyed working with my carers and meeting lots of lovely children. I hope to continue to settle into my role and shall endeavour to be a pillar of support to you all. Thank you all for welcoming me into the Aim High family, I hope to meet you all soon!

JB

**Welcome
to the
Aim High
Team!**

Cheerio, but be back soon!

In June 2021 we bid a very fond farewell to our colleague, Supervising Social Worker (SSW) **Christine Simpson**.

Christine had been with Aim High since our early days in 2017 and helped us shape our Agency into the nurturing and supportive company it is today. She initially worked with Aim High as a Form F Assessor and then became our first Supervising Social Worker in 2018. Her knowledge, professionalism and genuine care was apparent to all who worked

with her, she was a very valued team member.

Whilst Christine is enjoying a well-earned retirement, she will be providing some training sessions for Aim High in the future and so we have not lost her entirely. Many thanks Christine for all your help and dedication...and see you soon!



DB

