The Birmingham Foster Care Association (BFCA)

The Birmingham Foster Care Association exists to support carers who foster for Birmingham Children’s Trust in their role of parenting our City’s most vulnerable children and young people.

We are an independent, collective voice for those Foster Carers.

Our role is to be there to support and advise our carers, to do their job to the best of their ability in order for the children to reach their full potential. BFCA have a dedicated committee representing all areas of fostering. The BFCA is funded in part by Birmingham Children’s Trust and work with them in partnership, advancing Foster Carers views and recommendations at senior management meetings and representing carers on working parties to improve the support, profile and remuneration of Birmingham Children’s Trust Foster Carers.

Our Support team are a dedicated extremely experienced team of Foster Carers who can assist Foster Carers with any aspect of their role from financial issues, through complaints, allegations, (up to and including Panel) and give their time voluntarily to help other Foster Carers.

They are the best placed people to support you as they have the most up to date knowledge of all BCT local Policies and Procedures. We work in partnership with the Senior Fostering Management Team and have regular update meetings.

We have a staffed Resource Centre which makes contact with BFCA easier for our carers. The Resource Centre has a well-stocked library of the most recently published books on a range of subjects from Attachment Disorder through to Pedagogy etc.

The stated aims of BFCA are as follows:

- To discuss terms, conditions and payments with the Trust on a regular basis
- To provide an experienced peer support team
- To facilitate foster carer training
- To have a staffed resource centre, making contact with BFCA easier for foster carers
- To provide 3 newsletters per year
• To consult with carers on a regular basis and feedback to the Trust

B.F.C.A is a group of experienced Foster Carers and they can provide you with a ‘buddy’ in your area to help you in your role as a Foster Carer. We also have 3 Buddy groups throughout the City and these are groups ran by Foster Carers for Foster Carers. These groups are a safe place for you to discuss and debate any issues you are experiencing with your fostering. The children are all welcome so they have a play day also. BFCA will endeavour to answer any questions you may have and be there to listen to you any time you need us.

Fostering is by nature an isolated Job role, BFCA are here to ensure you have someone you can talk to at any time day or night as our Support line is manned 24 hours a day 52 weeks per year (including Christmas Day and New Year’s day)

The B.F.C.A. co-ordinator is available 9.30am – 3pm Monday to Friday on Tel: 0121 464 3037 or email Info@bfca.org.uk

Or our dedicated support line Tel: 0121 5152749 or email Support@bfca.org.uk

For more information you can visit the BFCA website www.bfca.org.uk

Or visit the resource centre at 150 Church Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham, B20 2RT