

Support Groups

The NFCA have been tasked with taking over the running of the support groups to ensure that they meet the needs of the foster carers that attend them. To this end the support groups will now be run by carers for carers.

Each support group will be led by 2/3 foster carers. This is not a time-consuming role, it will entail booking the room, providing refreshments and liaising with the assigned SSW and the rest of the group members. Please see attached policy for more detailed guidance.

If you are interested in acting as one of the lead foster carers, please contact the NFCA.

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Policy for Support Groups in Northamptonshire

We have 7 support groups, from April 1st 2019 these will be led by 2/3 foster carers with an assigned SSW for each group;

1. South Northants – SSW ….
2. East Northants – SSW ….
3. Northampton – SSW ….
4. Kettering – SSW ….
5. Corby – SSW ….
6. Men’s – SSW ….
7. Carers of Teenagers – SSW ….

Role of the Lead Foster Carer

* Book the room for the support group, arrange for the bill to be sent direct to NCC.
* Provide refreshments and collect contributions from members, if necessary – refreshments may be included in the room cost.
* Liaise with SSW about attendance. The level of attendance by the SSW is totally dependent on the group and SSW wishes, but as a minimum the SSW should attend for part of the meeting every 3 months.
* Feedback to NFCA meetings
* Feedback to SSW any issues that need raising by them
* Provide contact details to be included in Share the Care
* Provide NFCA dates for the support groups, to be included in the information emails.

Role of SSW

* Liaise with lead foster carer/s to agree attendance at meetings depending on the groups wishes. Minimum suggested attendance is once every 3 months
* Help to book speakers that the group would like.
* If a group books a speaker, publicise this to all foster carers to encourage good attendance, and access for anyone interested in the topic

General

* We would also like new carers to be signposted to their nearest group by their SSW, but all carers can attend any (or all) groups