

## **South support group join team meetings**

The South Notts fostering team invited foster carers from the locality to join them for regular training mornings in 2014. Since then, the meetings take place up to 4 times a year and include a presentation about a specific topic, followed by an opportunity for discussion and questions. Following this, there has been an opportunity for foster carers to network over coffee and cake.

Previous meetings have looked at foetal alcohol syndrome, MAPA (Managing Actual & Potential Aggression), Income Tax and National Insurance issues for foster carers and internet safety for looked after children.

Feedback from foster carers who have attended these events has been very positive. As well as finding out more about a particular area relevant to fostering, they have met different carers and helped expand their network of links in the fostering community. Now that the South Notts team has merged with the Newark team, the intention is to continue to provide several training events each year, offering Newark and Sherwood foster carers the opportunity to attend and participate. To encourage this, the events will be held alternately between the Gedling and Newark areas.

Forthcoming events include helping children connect with their life experiences through creative story writing and a first aid course.

If South carers have any suggestions for future events, please discuss with your supervising social worker.

Malcolm Jones  
Supervising social worker - SouthLocality