



South fostering team carers and social workers picnic

On Saturday the 16th June, the south fostering team hosted a picnic for foster carers, looked after children and birth children. The South fostering team arranges four events each year for foster carers and social workers often linked to training related to the fostering task. Foster Carers had requested that at least one of these sessions be a more social gathering and the picnic was organised in response to this. It was organised by supervising social workers from the team and held at Oxton Village Hall.

The event was well attended including children ranging from new born babies up to teenagers. There was face painting, cake decorating, craft activities and outdoor games. The face painting was a great success and by the end of the event most children had a design on their faces and indeed so too did some of the foster carers. The cake decorating also went down well and Oxton Village Hall proved to be an ideal spot having lots of space both indoors and outside as well as a children's play area within the grounds.



We were also lucky enough to be joined by a fire brigade crew with their fire engine from Blidworth as part of their community role. They were a real hit with children and adults alike. The fire crew were more than happy to allow the children to climb up into the fire engine and have a good old look around at all of their equipment. On a more serious note, the fire crew were able to talk to the children about fire safety and I, for one, was very impressed with their child centred approach and easy manner with the children. Whilst with us, the fire crew had to test a number of items of their equipment and one crew member, dressed in full protective clothing, took on a number of children as they fired footballs at him as a goal keeper. As we know, children love to play with water and before leaving the children had opportunity to test the hoses and spray water into a neighbouring field, under supervision of course as otherwise I suspect it would have been more than the field getting wet!

One of the main purposes of the event was to give fostering households the opportunity to come together and have a good time. It was lovely to see carers and children mingling and I know that several support carer links were made so a successful day all round.

Jayne Hall
Supervising Social Worker