



Foster carers spreading the word

This morning, foster carers Lou and Matt are being featured on Splash FM news on the hour, every hour, from 7am – 12pm.

They are being interviewed specifically about fostering teenagers, following the report in the news last week regarding the shortage of foster carers available to foster 11-15 year olds.

You can listen online at www.splashfm.com if you want to try and catch them. They both went into the studio last week and really enjoyed their radio experience!

asphaleia are not the only agency utilising this special time of the year to advertise our services through local media. Here is a brief look at what other agencies are doing around the country...

Media around the UK:

The fostering network has seen coverage from well over 50 fostering services so far, and the cuttings keep pouring in. Some stories are based around events, others on a news story, and lots more feature foster carers or young people talking about their experiences of care. And then there are the quirky angles: Reach Out Care deserves a special mention for the article on Bruno the blogging dog in the Northern Echo!

The Fostering Network is also continuing to generate media coverage. The Daily Mirror ran a fostering feature including interviews with current foster carers on Thursday.

The South Wales Evening Post and Scotland's Sunday Post are both due to run features on fostering this week.



Events around the UK:

Foster carers in London have been celebrating today at an event held by Mayor Boris Johnson at City Hall. Meanwhile in Northern Ireland, Foster Carers of the Year have been announced. And across the whole of the UK, fostering services have been holding a wide range of events to raise awareness of the need for more foster carers.

Some fostering services are out and about touring their local areas spreading the word about fostering. The fostering network have heard from Bath and North East Somerset, Northamptonshire, Wokingham and Staffordshire with their specially named "Reggie the Recruitment Van". Independent agency PACT has set itself the challenge of meeting all

the mayors across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, to get them to support the need for more foster families.

On Wednesday, all five health and social care trusts in Northern Ireland held Care for Coffee - 15 simultaneous coffee mornings for prospective foster carers.

Sports teams have again been supporting *Foster Care Fortnight*, with St Mirren, MK Dons, Glasgow Tigers and Gloucestershire Cricket Club all backing their local campaigns.

The arts haven't been missed out either: Suffolk kicked off *Foster Care Fortnight* with the launch of a new fostering film, while Northamptonshire has released a special song, *Fostering the Future*.

Birmingham city centre was taken over last Friday by a zumbathon – sounds painful!

Our events

On Saturday, asphaleia foster carers and children went off to Chessington for the day as a special treat to celebrate their hard work. They had a great day and the sun shone brightly for them all. Tomorrow's bulletin will feature photos and updates from the trip.

On Friday night, the carers are being treated to a meal out in Worthing to enjoy some time together.

Don't forget, the asphaleia fostering team will be in Worthing town centre on Saturday to promote fostering and hopefully invite some people to our information event on 1st June. Pop down and see us if you can.

Quiz question 6

- a. How many years have Bill and Lou Carter fostered with asphaleia?
- b. How many placements can Matt and Guz offer?
- c. How many young people have Reza and Fereshteh fostered?

To find out more about becoming a foster carer with asphaleia please contact the fostering team on 01903 236522 or visit our website <http://www.asphaleia.co.uk/ventures/fostering.html>.