

GMB@Work

The Union for Foster Carers



GMB Foster Carer Coffee Mornings

The GMB Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region are hosting a series of coffee mornings in March 2018. This is a great opportunity for foster carers to come together, meet with other foster carers and GMB Organisers already campaigning for improvements in fostering. The coffee mornings will be very informal and open to all foster carers. Non union members will be able to get information about joining the GMB on the day, as well as ask any questions about the reasons to join the GMB. There will also be updates on GMB national and local campaigns; Responses to Fostering Inquiry and Stocktake; 30 hours free childcare; and paid bereavement leave.

Monday 19 March (10am–12 noon)
GMB Wakefield, 60 College Grove Road, Wakefield WF1 3RN

Tuesday 20 March (10am–12 noon)
GMB Brighouse, Clifton Road, Brighouse HD6 1SL

Thursday 22 March (10am–12noon)
GMB Sheffield, 188-190 Norfolk Street, Sheffield S1 1SY

Confirm your attendance by email or on our Facebook events page. To keep up to date with all GMB foster carer campaigns follow:

 GMB -The Union for Foster Carers

 @RHarrisonGMB

What's next after the Fostering Inquiry & Stocktake?

When the Education Committee published its recommendations from the Inquiry into Fostering before Christmas, it brought with it real hope of positive changes in our fostering system for foster carers and children in care. The Inquiry called for a consideration of what the true employment status of foster carers should be, an overhaul of allowances and tax benefits, a national college to look at standard terms and access to training, as well as a call for increased resources for local authorities and funding for staying put.

Foster Care in England

A Review for the Department for Education by
Sir Martin Narey
and Mark Owers

February 2018

It was therefore disappointing when Sir Martin Narey and Mark Owers published the report from their Fostering Stocktake in February. They chose not to make recommendations which could have led to a much improved fostering system for foster carers and children in care.

You can read how the Stocktake Report matched up to the GMB recommendations made in our evidence submission on our website:

Fostering Stocktake v GMB Recommendations.pdf
http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/foster_carers

So, what's next? We are currently awaiting the governments formal response to the Inquiry and to the Stocktake. In the meantime, it's important that we keep up the pressure in our campaigns for improvements in the fostering system nationally and also on a local level.

For more details about GMB membership & campaigns for Foster Carers contact: Rachel Harrison -Organiser
Rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk / 0345 337 7777

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Union Legal Services

As a GMB member you have access to a wide range of legal services with UnionLine:

- Criminal Representation
- Free Will Service
- Accident Compensation Claims
- Motor Legal Services
- Discounted Conveyancing
- Free Initial Legal Advice



Other Union Benefits

- Extended Legal Services
- Motor Drivers' Fund
- Weekly Accident Benefit
- Convalescent Facilities
- Discounted Insurances
- Pensions Advice
- Funeral Benefit
- Life Assurance
- Dental Plan
- Credit Union

FREE Courses

As a GMB member you have access to free courses which can assist you in achieving the mandatory training requirements of your local authority or fostering agency. For more details contact our project worker:

emma.bew@gmb.org.uk
0345 337 7777

Foster Carers & Allegations



Are you aware of what to do if an allegation is made against you?

Do you know what the procedures are for your fostering local authority or agency?

Many foster carers don't think about the answers to these questions until they find themselves the subject of allegations.

Sometimes these allegations are related to children currently in your care, other times they may be historic allegations from children you fostered many years ago.

As a GMB member you are entitled to contact and meet with your local representative for advice, support and representation throughout the whole procedure. This is whether it is an internal procedure with the local authority or agency, or whether you are subject to a criminal investigation being conducted by the police.

You will always have access to GMB legal support whilst you are a GMB member. Retiring from fostering? Speak to us about the options for keeping your membership protection for life.

A specific GMB UnionLine flyer is available for foster carers which outlines details of their rights to access criminal representation. This can be downloaded from our website:
http://www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk/foster_carers

Are you a foster carer with additional paid employment?

If so, we want to hear from you.

GMB is working with employers to implement fostering friendly policies to make it easier for their employees to manage employment alongside their fostering duties.

For more details about this please contact:
Rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk
Telephone 0345 337 7777