FCA Meeting Minutes 11th Dec 19 12.30 till 2.30 Ivy St Community Centre.

Present – Sharon Burns, Antony Matthews, Bernie Tomlinson, Carole Bennett, Sam Briggs, Carol Smith, Rubena Patel, Mohammed Qadir, Fran Shaw, Shirley Radnedge, Erika Cummings. Guests - Cllr Maureen Bateson, Tracy Mosley.

Welcome everyone and Introductions.

Christmas Party on Sunday 8th Dec was a great success, very well attended and lots of fantastic prizes were donated.

**Cllr Maureen Bateson** Executive Member for Children’s Services and Education – Safeguarding an issue, MASH – now advice service seems to be working, approx. 4 million overspent, Signed off on the 2% pay increase, Secret Santa doing well, Bulk of children entering care are currently younger children, looking at better ways to recruit foster carers, Seeds is working well, Pantomime was great, If need entertainment Mike Falcon – Punch and Judy – might be able to attend FCA events for free.

**Tracy Mosley** – Fostering Support Officer – Pam Price has now been officially appointed as Service Lead for Placements. Whalley New Road now empty -Any ideas on what it could be used for?.... Some ideas given – Training, Voice group meetings, Revive, Nurturing and Attachment training.

Pam Price, Service Lead for Placements has asked FCA Chair and Secretary to attend Duke St on 20th Jan to discuss any issues, concerns etc any carers may be having. Is there anything bothering you? We will tell her about remittance forms need to have a breakdown so we can see what has been paid. Sam has also been asked to discuss mandatory training requirements are difficult for working carers to attend so could more twilight sessions be made available for carers who work.

We need to arrange FCA meetings for next year, are we going to continue with Wednesday’s, same time and place? Also, we need to start thinking about possible speakers you would like us to try to get. Any thoughts?.... Members happy to have 2 monthly meetings – approx. 6 per year…

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Possible speakers – School Readiness/Preparation for leaving care/Staying Put.

Carol Smith informed members that she has had a good experience with Foster Talk – Better Mortgage – NatWest – doing offers for foster carers.

Hope everyone has a great Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Next Meeting Weds 22nd Jan 2020 – Ivy Street Community Centre 12.30 till 2.30 . Buffet Lunch provided.