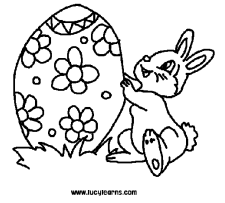




SUPPORTIVE PARENTS Newsletter: Spring 2010



Providing the Parent Partnership Service for Bristol North Somerset & South Gloucestershire

Parents offering information and support to other parents of children with any kind of special educational needs (SEN).

Lamb Implementation Plan

In February 2010, the Government published Improving Parental Confidence in the SEN system an Implementation Plan, as its response to the Lamb Inquiry and its 51 recommendations.

Annex A (p38) gives the response to, and the timescales and responsibility for these recommendations. This Plan and all the background paperwork is available at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/>

21st Celebration!



Barn Dance Update! Parents, friends and supporters we have had to change the date of our Barn Dance from 18th June to 11th September in Tickenham Village Hall 8pm til late. Tickets costs £7.50 to include a ploughman's supper and a live Bristol based band — The Jellied Reels, have a look at the fun on their website www.jellied-reels.co.uk

Disclaimer

The opinions and information in this Newsletter have been given in good faith and, as far as we know, are correct at the time of publication. We do not accept any responsibility for any errors of fact and advise readers to check with authors of original publications before acting upon them.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held here at Royal Oak House in our meeting room on the Ground Floor on Wednesday 14th July at 7.30pm - 8.30pm. At the meeting our Treasurer will be standing down after 4 years service. During this time he has simplified our accounts for which we are very grateful and reports to the Trustees 4 times a year. This means we are actively looking for a someone who has an interest/experience in finances to join us. The meeting is a great an opportunity to find out more about our service and meet our Board of Trustees.

Inside this Newsletter

- Helpline News
- Details of our latest Information and Support Course for Parents
- Together for Disabled Children events
- Local area News
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North Somerset News-Jackie Oxley

In February the Inclusion Advisory Team came to tell us what interesting and creative approaches they'd observed in Canadian mainstream education for children with complex learning, communication and social needs on their recent visit, and how some of these innovative approaches will be used to enhance local provision. In March the recently formed Dyslexia and Dyspraxia Association North Somerset (DADA) came to talk about their group and how they can support parents, schools and children, for further information see their website: www.dadauk.co.uk

Locality and Children's Centre developments in North Somerset have offered new opportunities for us to provide parents with our information at an early stage of their child's education. We are working to develop partnership working with localities and to increase awareness of the Parent Partnership Service (PPS) through more out-reach sessions at children's centres and at Springboard, Weston and Clevedon. Meetings with Paul Jacobs, School Improvement have taken place to discuss how PPS can be part of the School Improvement agenda. We recently addressed a Pupil Support Network meeting and will be meeting with the Excellence Cluster - Parent Participation strand in May to look at developing out-reach to parents via schools. In April Vol reps will become part of the newly developed Parent Participation Forum, as one of the sub groups representing parents and carers with concerns and issues around special educational needs. Last term in Voluntary Representatives (Vol reps) were asked about the current lack of access to Educational Psychology assessments for pupils.

A focus group of parents have been brought together to assist the Educational Psychology Service in a pilot project to canvas parents' views in Central and Weston South localities about what they would find helpful from direct access to the EP service. Once they have done this they plan to pilot and evaluate a model of direct access.

Bristol News-Davina Evans

Information for Parents

There is a new set of parent information leaflets about the School Action Plus Enhanced (SAPE) scheme for delegation of the SEN budget to schools. These can be downloaded from the Bristol website <http://www.bristol-cyps.org.uk/services/sen/sen-parents-information.html>

There are two versions of each leaflet - one with the corporate logo and style and the other in plain text. If you want to print a copy of a leaflet (they are not available in hard copy at the moment) use the plain text version otherwise you will find that you need a new ink cartridge pretty quickly!

SENCO Conference

I attended the annual SENCO conference in January, taking our display boards and loads of information which was snapped up by SENCOs.

The theme of the day was "The Changing Role of the SENCO". The keynote speaker was Lorraine Petersen, Chief Executive of NASEN (National Association for Special Educational Needs). Her talk included a reference to the mind-boggling total of publications issued by the Government around Education which runs to several thousand since 1997. No wonder we all feel that we are having to run really quickly to keep up with all of the information!

National

As you will know, the Lamb Inquiry final report and implementation plan have been published. Bristol Local Authority were asked to give a presentation on involving parents in developments to a conference organised by the Local Government Chronicle around the Lamb Inquiry. Annette Jones (SEN Manager and Lead Officer for the SAPE team) and I gave a joint presentation about how parents were involved in the design of the SAPE scheme and the lessons which were learned. Although we were the last presentation of the day we managed to keep the delegates awake!

South Gloucestershire News-Anne Jerrom

We have been working with colleagues in SEN, Extended Schools, and School Improvement to raise awareness of our work as the PPS and the entitlement of parents of children with SEN to information and support. Several different services now deliver Parental Support in South Glos - here is a quick run down:

Parent Partnership Service provides Independent Parental support for parents of children with SEN and is delivered by Supportive Parents. Contact 0117 9897725 or www.supportiveparents.org.uk
Learning Mentors - schools can choose to employ Mentors to address social, emotional and behavioural barriers to learning. The job bridges academic and pastoral support - working with pupils on a 1:1 or group basis, working with teachers & support professionals and linking between families and schools: www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/learning-mentors/fag

Choice Advice Service - a service for parents/carers who have children starting in Reception or Yr 7. Contact 01454 868008 or put CYP-07-0112 in search box at www.southglos.gov.uk

Parent Support Advisers - Barnardos and Southern Brooks Community Partnership PSA's assist schools in tackling pupil underachievement and barriers to learning by supporting parents with issues, such as parenting support, parental engagement with their child's learning, school attendance, behaviour and exclusions. Put PSA in the Search box at www.southglos.gov.uk

Parenting Consultancy Service - Offers Parenting courses supporting parents to build positive relationships with their children, increase self esteem and encourage better behaviour. Contact 01454 866051 or search for Parenting Consultancy Service on the S Glos website.

Contact Us:

Our Information and Support Line 0117 9897725 is available 10am -2pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday term time only; answer machine all other times.

Web www.supportiveparents.org.uk

Address: 3rd Floor, Royal Oak House, Royal Oak Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4GB

Admin/Fax: 0117 9897724



Our Information and Support Line 0117 9897725 is available 10am - 2pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday term time. We operate a limited service during the school holidays and an answer machine at all other times. Or take a look at our website www.supportiveparents.org.uk

Information and Support Line News - Maggie Wilmore

The Helpline now has four dedicated members of staff and again has had a very busy two terms. During the winter/spring terms we also send out our Service User Satisfaction Survey (SUSS for short) to each Helpline caller to try to find out how we are doing and what we can improve. By Easter all 100 copies will have gone out. This time we've enclosed a feedback letter based on suggestions we've received in earlier years. These include the fact that we provide school holiday Helpline cover at certain times, and that our extra staffing means that callers who leave their name and number on our answer phone out of hours will get a prompt call back usually on the next Helpline day. We've also let callers know about our fast-developing website and the SEN Partnership Manual which will soon be in all our area schools. From the present 100 SUSS questionnaires being sent out we are very pleased to be getting a high return as we appreciate that most Helpline callers have very little spare time! We are also delighted to be able to report already that more parents are being given Supportive Parents information by their schools and pre-schools. In earlier surveys most contacts were through friends, Health contacts or local authorities.

The reason that nurseries and schools are more involved is important to us so that we are there for parents at the beginning of special need processes and at school action (early years action) and school action plus (early years action plus) stages of the Code of Practice. We can really help parents understand the processes and clarify what they can ask for, contribute to and reasonably expect. To this end we had a very good meeting in February with our local authorities' senior SEN officers. An important point which Helpline

staff raised was that planning documents from schools, including Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and also provision maps, Health-care plans and Pastoral Support Plans (all only when needed) are still crucial for supporting a child with additional needs. All of these help parents, teachers and support staff work more closely together to enable that child to make progress. Parental input to planning seems to be increasing and is excellent practice in line with the Lamb Report. We hope our Helpline can continue to support it.

INFORMATION & SUPPORT COURSE FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

You have an opportunity to:

- ◇ Meet other parents
- ◇ Share your own experience
- ◇ Gain an overview of relevant Education policies and procedures

Planned to run every Monday evening throughout June here at Royal Oak House from 7pm—8.30pm. So far 8 parents have signed up, 4 places left. Please contact us to book a place.

HAVE A SAY ABOUT SERVICE DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR AUTHORITY!

Together for Disabled Children (TDC) is a government initiative that currently provides funding to parent groups in each authority nationwide, enabling them to set up Parent Participation Forums so that their voice can be heard at a strategic level. This will enable us to influence service planning and development for our children, so look out for forum meetings in your area where you can join in and have your say. In North Somerset, Our Voice Counts! will be holding their first Forum Open Meeting on 20th April. For details go to their website: www.nsppf.org.uk or email enquiries@nsppf.org.uk.

In Bristol, Bristol Parent Carers launch event is taking place Friday 21st May 10am—2.30pm at The Council House, College Green. In South Gloucestershire, there is an Open Day Our Voice Matters (OVM) and lunch on 27 May at BAWA. Detailed posters with booking forms will be widely distributed shortly. For events in Bristol & South Gloucestershire call Carersline on 0117 9652200.