



## Family Voice Norfolk Conference

Karen Taylor and John Rous-Milligan attended the Family Voice Norfolk Conference at the John Innes Centre on Saturday 18th March 2017 to represent VSSS. A series of workshops, presentations and speed-dating events were held. VSSS were part of the marketplace and met with lots of families who were interested in support available as well as reports of good practice from staff.

Family Voice contact information for all families of children and young people:

Twitter @familyvoicenfk

Facebook Family Voice Norfolk

Email [membership@familyvoice.org.uk](mailto:membership@familyvoice.org.uk)

Tel 07950 302937

Join and get lots of information!

## SEND Café drop-in session

Are you the parent / carer of a child or young person with a visual impairment? Would you like to meet with a range of people who will be able to guide you through the range of support and services available?

Come and visit staff from NNAB YoungEyes, Norfolk Local Offer and Virtual School Sensory Support for a coffee, cake and informal discussion about what is available. There is also the chance to visit the Equipment and Information Centre to look at a range of gadgets to assist people with a vision loss.

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### CONTACT US



Check us out on Facebook

Telephone: 01603 704040

[sensorysupport@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:sensorysupport@norfolk.gov.uk)

Web: [vsss.virtual-school.org.uk](http://vsss.virtual-school.org.uk)

Virtual School Sensory Support - deaf children, young people and families

Virtual School Sensory Support - visual impairment

### USEFUL LINKS

SEND PARTNERSHIP

Telephone: 01603 704070

[sendpartnership.jass@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:sendpartnership.jass@norfolk.gov.uk)

PORTAGE TEAM

Telephone: 01603 704049

[portage.service@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:portage.service@norfolk.gov.uk)

Venue: Bradbury Activity Centre

Date: Wednesday 31st May

Time: 10am to 2pm

For further information please contact Dorothy Bowen at NNAB on 01603 629558 or John Rous-Milligan at VSSS on 01603 704040.

## Teddy bear's picnic and walk

Join Virtual School Sensory Support for a 1 mile walk in the woods, in beautiful Sandringham Park with a Teddy Bear Trail for sensory impaired children and their siblings. Bring a picnic for your family (don't forget Teddy) and meet other families.

If you are coming, please let your Teacher of the Deaf / Visually Impaired know or call the office on 01603 704040.

Date: Saturday 20th May 2017

Time: 11.30am to 2.30pm

Venue: Sandringham Visitor's Centre car park

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Nystagmus Family Day

On Saturday 22 April VSSS hosted a Family Day for those families with children who have Nystagmus. The event, held at Garrick Green Infant School, provided the opportunity for families

to meet together, discuss the support available in and out of school with VSSS staff and enjoy lunch together.

We looked at ICT, assessment, mobility and Habilitation as well as giving the children free rein to play together, be creative and produce enough Rocky Road biscuits to sink a battleship!

Feedback from families was very positive including:

"Thank you all so much for today. It's wonderful to feel supported and learn from other families and their fantastic children".

"Such a super day 😊. Thanks so much to Alison and the team for organising it - we learned a lot, and the boys had a great time!"

Plans are already being formed for the next event but if there is something in particular you feel would be useful do get in touch or post on the Facebook page - Virtual School Sensory Support – visual impairment.

## Digital Resilience

The following article can be found in the Securus customer newsletter.

Children need to be educated about potential dangers and risks, both in life and online. Every day in school there are situations that arise, that are examples of how their online resilience can be enhanced, providing them with the tools to look after themselves better.

Top tips to help build digital resilience:

- Children and young people should have a positive digital footprint - profiles that don't show personal information.

- They should recognise and manage their own feelings and understand the feelings of others online.

- Encourage them to develop a positive attitude, self-belief and communicate online concerns.

- Make sure they understand risks of grooming, radicalisation and bullying.

- Help them so they can make informed decisions to situations.

- Encourage them to develop life skills by thinking and acting in a practical way.

-Help them build a trusting pupil and staff relationship.

-Encourage them not to bully back, to tell a teacher and keep evidence.

## Deaf Awareness Event

The Sensory and Communication Service are going to hold a 'Deaf Awareness Event'. Please see below for details of what you can expect at the event.

-Find out what services are out there for deaf people.

-Find stalls with information about deaf equipment.

-View displayed work made by children and young people.

-Meet others and share deaf experiences.

-Take part in a quiz.

Pop in and join the Sensory and Communication team at the Deaf Awareness Event!

Date: 15th May 2017

Time: 11am - 3pm

Venue: Conference Room, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**We promise to support children and young people who have a sensory loss by offering them and their families outstanding services based on expert knowledge – we also support educational settings in meeting the needs of children with speech, language and communication needs.**

**Contact: [Melissa.Twait@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Melissa.Twait@suffolk.gov.uk) for more details.**