



# Partnership News



*Special Edition 2003/4*

The newsletter for parents and carers of children with special educational needs

## Norfolk Parent Partnership has moved!

**Our address is: 267 Reepham Road  
Hellesdon, Norwich.  
NR6 5QH**

**Tel: 01603 301901**

**How can we help parents who have  
children with special educational needs?**

- ✧ Offer a confidential listening service.
- ✧ Provide written information.
- ✧ Produce a termly newsletter which is available from your school.
- ✧ Lend out books, information and videos from our library.
- ✧ Put parents and carers in touch with others who may be able to help.
- ✧ Offer the support of a volunteer Independent Parental Supporter



**email:**

**[parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk)**

**website:**

**[www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk)**

**For more information about  
anything in this newsletter,  
please contact the  
Parent Partnership Office.**

**Please let us know if you  
would like large print  
copies or if translations  
would be useful.**



Down's  
Syndrome  
Norfolk

Norwich  
Primary  
Care Trust



Schools



Norfolk  
County Council  
Education

Norfolk  
County Council  
Social Services

Norfolk Parent Partnership is funded by  **Norfolk** County Council

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# ConSENsus

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## Independent Special Educational Needs (SEN) Mediation Service for Norfolk

In the latest **SEN Code of Practice**, local authorities were asked to provide a service to help resolve disagreements that may have arisen between parents and schools and/or the Local Education Authority. This process of helping to resolve problems is called **mediation**. An independent organisation called CONSENSUS will be offering the service in Norfolk

### What can ConSENsus offer?

If a parent and Local Education Authority or school have been unable to reach agreement about a child's special educational needs, mediation offers the chance for an independent person to become involved to help find a solution.

### What can mediators do?

They can talk to parents, and the LEA or school staff, to find out what

has been happening and what the problems are. They can arrange a meeting between the parties to enable them to put their views to each other. This meeting will be held in a convenient place away from home, the LEA's office or the child's school.

### Who are the mediators?

They are people with experience of listening & seeing a problem from all sides. They are trained in mediation skills & basic SEN law. They will help all parties to express their views & try to find a solution.

Using ConSENsus does not affect parents' right to appeal to the SEN Tribunal if this is applicable to their case.

If you would like to find out more or would like to contact ConSENsus, please ring

**Norfolk Parent Partnership on  
01603 301901.**

## Time to help others?

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Do you have some free time and an interest in special educational needs?

Our volunteer independent parental supporters have helped hundreds of parents over the last 8 and a half years.

If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact the Parent Partnership office for details.

All our volunteers are required to complete an accredited training course, which we run in the autumn and spring.

## The Parent Partnership Management Group

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Norfolk Parent Partnership has a management group made up of representatives from local statutory and voluntary organisations. The Group

meets twice a term to discuss the work of the service and agree how to move things forward. The Management Group are also regularly invited to be represented at a variety of working parties discussing issues relating to special educational needs.

# Representatives from the following organisations are currently members of the Norfolk Parent Partnership Management Group.

## Down's Syndrome Norfolk

[www.downsyndrome-norfolk.org.uk](http://www.downsyndrome-norfolk.org.uk)

**Down's Syndrome Norfolk (DSN)** is a charity run by volunteer parents offering information, support and advice to people with Down's Syndrome, their families and the professionals working with them.

We have regular social events and informative meetings with guest speakers, addressing the wide variety of issues affecting families. These range from concerns over child health, development, education and issues affecting young adults. DSN also produce a twice yearly newsletter. We work alongside statutory organisations and other voluntary groups.

DSN is represented on the **NORFOLK LINK** Steering Group. The LINK provides training events and promotes informal contacts for those interested in the education of young people with Down's syndrome.

**The Young Down's Group** is aimed at pre-school children. The group meets fortnightly in Norwich, giving children an opportunity to play and have fun whilst parents socialise and exchange news and views. A Portage Worker is present as is the Hamlet Centre Toy Library.

The **"Snappy Name Drama Group!"** is for young people aged 8 and up and their siblings (divided into three age groups). The Drama Group meets fortnightly on **Saturday mornings** during term-time at **Norwich Arts Centre**. The members are able to experience creative and expressive activities.

For more information about DSN contact the Secretary on  
Tel. 01603 279100  
Fax: 01603 279265  
email: [nic.taylor@connectfree.co.uk](mailto:nic.taylor@connectfree.co.uk)  
or visit the website.

## Norfolk & Norwich Dyslexia Association

**Norfolk & Norwich Dyslexia Association** has a great deal of experience with the problems of identifying, facing and dealing with dyslexia.

Regular monthly drop-in surgeries are held at City College, Norwich on the first Saturday of each month. At the surgery there are opportunities for parents and professionals to discuss educational and other aspects of living with and helping people with dyslexia. Computer screening for dyslexia is also available by appointment.



For more information call  
Barry on 01379 668430 or  
Karen on 01953 483057

# Asperger Norfolk

**Asperger Norfolk** provides friendly assistance and support to children, young people and adults with Asperger Syndrome, their families and those supporting them.

## Services provided include:

- A **fortnightly Saturday morning social group** for children with or suspected of having Asperger Syndrome, their siblings and parents/carers. There are groups at **Eaton Park Community Centre, Norwich** and **The Children's Centre at North Walsham**, which offer various indoor and outdoor activities **to help develop social skills**. They also provide an opportunity for parents/carers to meet and talk to others experiencing the same or similar issues. Further groups are planned for other areas of Norfolk.
- **T.E.A.C.C.H.** workshops for school staff. Some planned for Autumn 2003 term.
- Awareness training and support in schools and other organisations.



- Anger management workshops.
- **An after school club** for junior members which aims to help develop co-ordination, gross and fine motor skills at **Harford Manor school**.
- A fortnightly teenage group
- Support with diagnosis, education and transition to independence.
- Respite care so that parents can have a much needed break.

The organisation works in partnership with Health, Social Services and Education to identify, promote and establish joint services for those with Asperger Syndrome.

For more information about our services and an understanding listening ear, please contact **Marcella Olive** or **Jan Cole** on **01603 620500**.

# Norfolk & Norwich SCOPE

**Norfolk & Norwich Scope** (NANSA) is a local charity formed in the 1950s in order to improve facilities for children and adults with cerebral palsy. NANSA offers a range of services for people of all ages with learning/physical disabilities and their parents/carers. These include:

- NANSA Centre for adults with disabilities based at Bowthorpe Road, Norwich;
- School for Parents - a pre-school support service;
- FIND Newsletter;



- Find-a-Link - one-to-one parent support;
- Cerebral Palsy Enquiry Line;
- Three Business Starter Units and three charity shops.

NANSA are based at  
33, Woodcock Road, Norwich.

**For more information contact  
Sheila Parish or Joy Mounser on  
01603 414109**



# Social Services Children with Disabilities Team

Three 'Children with Disabilities' Teams work across the County to meet the needs of disabled children and their families. They work with Health and Education to provide co-ordinated services. The teams provide services for children with severe, profound and/or complex disabilities.

Following an assessment of need by a social worker a range of services may be available. They include:

- Family support work
- Liaison with other agencies
- Support, advice and counselling
- Home Care
- Specialist equipment and home adaptations
- Special support in playgroups and playschemes during school holidays
- Short breaks - either within a family

or Shared care - provided by foster carers on a regular basis

- Direct Payment - money in lieu of services, to purchase what has been assessed as needed.

## Children with Sensory Disability

Children with sight or hearing loss may be able to access the services of the Sensory Support Unit. These services may include:

- Specialist equipment
- Individual work with children
- Help with daily living skills
- Deafblind communicator guides

For further help or information please contact Social Services on 0844 800 8014

**Sue Norgrove - Development Officer for Children with Disabilities.**

## Speech & Language Therapy

The Speech & Language Therapy Department is part of the Norwich NHS Primary Care Trust. The department provides assessment, advice and therapy in various settings. It also provides advice for statutory assessments.

Pre-school children with special educational needs can be seen in clinics, nurseries, or in central specialist groups at 40 Upton Road. The department

also provides therapy in special schools. There are a team of therapists equivalent to 2 whole time therapists who support children with special needs in mainstream school. These therapists go into school to assess, advise teachers and teaching assistants on setting up programmes of work to be carried out at school by school staff.

**Imogen Fletcher**  
**Speech & Language Therapist**  
**40 Upton Road Norwich tel 01603 505581**

## The Child Development Unit

The Child Development Unit provides a range of services to support pre-school children who have significant development delay or complex disability, with or without a developmental delay.

A team, consisting of therapists, psychologists, doctors and nursing specialists, work with families and community colleagues to determine the type of help each child will require. This may be individual therapy or group sessions together with practical advice and information.

As each child develops and progresses the support will be reviewed with parents/carers. The Child Development Unit works closely with pre-school education providers, early years teachers, educational psychologists and pupil entitlement and support officers to help, support and advise on the transition of children into school.

**Lesley Everett - Nurse Advisor**  
**(Children with special needs)**  
**tel 01603 506535**

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