



Partnership News

Summer 2002



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

The Norfolk
Parent Partnership
Management Group



Registered Charity No. 1074699

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NANSA
Norfolk & Norwich



Registered Charity No. 101746



Norwich
Community
Health
Partnership

Schools



Volunteer Independent Parental Supporters

Could you help other parents or carers?

The volunteer Independent Parental Supporters trained by Parent Partnership are, as usual, working very hard to support parents/carers around the County. They have supported over 70 new families this year in a number of different ways for example, making sure parents have the information they need, attending meetings at school with parents, reading through proposed statements, helping with report and letter writing.

Volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are parents who have children with special educational needs (SEN) themselves; some have worked with children or people with special needs; some are either gaining skills for future employment or have recently retired from work. They all have in common a genuine wish to help parents and carers of children with SEN.

We are currently holding our second training course this year and a group of enthusiastic, new volunteers will have just completed the course by the time you are reading this newsletter.

Our next 5 day course runs on Wednesdays between **September 18th** and **October 16th**. It will be held at the Assembly House in Norwich from 9.30 am – 3.30 pm . The course is accredited by the **Open College Network**.

If you feel you have the skills to help other parents, or are willing to learn, please ring either **Sarah or Alison on 01603 281044** for more information, a prospectus and application form. **You can also ask for the help of a volunteer on this number too.**

Where to get us

You can contact Sarah Merrick and Alison Watkin at the Parent Partnership Office for information and advice about support.

Parent Partnership
Boardman House
Redwell Street
Norwich
NR2 4SL

We hope that this newsletter keeps you up to date with what we are doing and other relevant ventures.

Your views and ideas are always welcome.

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



01603 281044

The back page of this newsletter has been left blank to help you distribute it more discreetly.

Let us know if you would like large print copies or if translations would be useful.

Norfolk Parent Partnership is an LEA funded initiative, working with the voluntary sector and other professionals to support parents of children with special educational needs.



'The Snappy Name Drama Group!'

Urgently require a volunteer to help with their drama/dance/music group which is for young people who have Down's syndrome and their siblings.

Sessions are held at the **Norwich Arts Centre** on **alternate Saturday mornings** during term time.

There are two groups –

Juniors (aged 8-13) 10.30 - 11.30am

Seniors (aged 14-21) 12.00 – 1.00 pm

We also have a few places left for youngsters in each group.

Please contact either **Judy Taylor 01603 279265** or **Marilyn Hoxley 01603 611327** for further details.

Norfolk Link Events 2003

March 15th 2003 – Professor Sue Buckley from Downs Ed speaking on: **The Development and Educational Needs of Children with Down Syndrome – an overview and research update.**
Full details in September or e-mail janet.butler.edu@norfolk.gov.uk to register

your interest.

As yet undated, a Link County evening meeting in September on fine motor skills and hand writing.

The Norfolk Young Down's Group

The Young Down's Group meets at **St. Ann's Church Hall, Coleman Road, Norwich** on a fortnightly basis on **Wednesday mornings** from 10 a.m. until 12 noon during term time.

We provide support and information for parents, families and carers of children with Down's syndrome. It is a chance to share the joys and the difficulties, whilst the children enjoy a wide variety of toys, craft activities and music/sing-along sessions.

The Group is part of the **Norfolk Branch of the Down's Syndrome Association** and costs 50p per family for members and £1 per family for non-members.

where the whole family are welcome, including school age children.



For more information, or to be added to our mailing list, please contact **Nicola Baxter Tel: 01508 491010.**

Dates for meetings in the autumn term are as follows:

11th & 25th September,
9th & 23rd October, 6th & 20th November & 4th December.

Details of additional activities are available on request and members already on our mailing list will be notified by post.

Karen Shingfield



Social activities are often arranged, including day trips and Christmas parties

Asperger Norfolk

News and events

This summer, Asperger Norfolk will be organising subsidised **outings for the whole family!** We have not finalised all the details yet, but please telephone us at the office to find out more.

We are continuing to run "TEACCH" workshops which cost £50 for the day including lunch. Please contact us for more information.

For parents with children who are newly diagnosed, we can offer support and counselling. You will receive a warm welcome at our **fortnightly meetings** at **Eaton Park Community Centre**. These sessions run from **10 until 12 o'clock every other Saturday**.



We also have teenage social skills groups that meet in Norwich on **alternate thursdays**.

The junior social after-school club has been

very successful. So much so, that we are starting another group for younger children. The

children invited to take part will be aged between 4 or 5 – 7 years old. The group will meet on Wednesdays at Harford Manor School in Norwich.

Our new leaflets are now ready and if you would like some copies, please get in touch. There is usually someone to take your call on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9.15 and 2.30. If this is not convenient, you can leave a message and we will get back to you.

Contact us (Marcella or Jan) on 01603 620500.

Parent Partnership would like to congratulate Asperger Norfolk on winning a plack at the **Nationwide Awards for Voluntary Endeavour** for their Saturday group. They will now go forward to the National finals - **we wish them luck!**



Norfolk Autistic Society

Holiday Help Scheme

The Norfolk Autistic Society has for many years run its holiday help scheme, providing support workers for families with autistic children during the Easter and summer holidays. This is a much sought-after service. However, this year we are finding it extremely difficult to find support workers for families. If you know of anyone who might be able to offer some time during the forthcoming summer holidays (up to 24 hours over 6 weeks) and who has experience of working with autistic children, please telephone the office in the Charing Cross Centre on 01603 631171 or e-mail:

norfolk.autistic.society@ukf.net

The society pays the workers and pays travel expenses.

Seminars on Autistic Spectrum Disorders

David Moat, DipHSW of Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Training and Advice, Colchester will be giving two seminars on the subject of ASD on Wednesday 3rd July and Wednesday 10th July at the Charing Cross Centre, 17 – 19 St. John Maddermarket, Norwich from 10 am until 1 pm.

Cost for parents: £8.00 per session or £15.00 for two

Professionals: £11.00 per session or £20.00 for the two.

Please telephone 01603 631171 for further information.

••••• SUMMER FUN •••••

SNAP's Summer Playscheme •••••



SNAP (Special Needs at Play) was formed in 1999 by a group of parents and carers of children with special needs. They have

recently joined forces with CONTACT, who offer a range of services to families of children with special needs.

SNAP have organised another summer playscheme this year. It will be held at:
Northgate St. Andrews First School
Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth (free

transport from the South Denes area)

On: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Sessions: 10 – 12.30 pm, 12.30 – 3pm
or bring a packed lunch and stay all day.

Cost: £3 per session or £5 per day (no charge for 3rd+ child from the same family)

Activities: cooking, indoor and outdoor games, treasure hunts, art, entertainers, workshops and lots of other fun things to do!

For more information telephone **01493 857482** or

e-mail: snapplayscheme@aol.com

••••• Hamlet Centre Playscheme & Toy Library

The Hamlet Centre Trust is running a summer playscheme for children with special needs from **July 29th to August 23rd**.

For further details, please contact **Marian** on **01603 616094**.

The Hamlet Centre have also recently received a grant for their toy library to go mobile.

Further information is available from **Terri** on **01603 616094**.



Summer Fun at Norfolk Libraries •••••

For the 4th year running, all Norfolk libraries will be part of **the national reading challenge**. This year the theme is **space** and at any time during the summer, children can join in this wonderful opportunity to read and share books with their families and friends.

Children joining the scheme will receive their own '**Spacescape**' collectors folder and asked to read **6** library books over the

summer. For each book they complete, they will receive a set of **alien stickers** to inhabit their spacescape folder.

Along the way, they will receive bookmarks, medals, certificates,



pencils and badges.

The scheme is aimed at encouraging children to read more widely and to talk about their reading but the main message is that **reading is fun!**



All libraries will be organising promotional events linked to the space theme – watch out for details at your local library and keep your eye out for **young aliens at a library near you!**

Dorne Fraser,
Senior Librarian,
Young People's Services

.....SUMMER FUN.....

Norfolk Childcare Information Service.....



We are open
Monday to Friday,
for parents and
carers to access
childcare
information .

Please contact us if you would like
information about:

- ♦ registered child care;
- ♦ a new career in childcare or becoming better qualified;
- ♦ the range of childcare services that are available in your local area;

- ♦ the different play schemes that are operating during the school holidays;
- ♦ funding for three and four year olds.

We would be happy to help anyone with a question related to childcare, and if we cannot answer your question we should hopefully know someone who can :

So please give us a call on 01603 622292 if you would like any information on the above.



Scouts and Guides

Did you know that there are Special Needs Advisers for both the Scout and Guide Associations in Norfolk?

We spoke to Mike Gooderson from the Scout Association who said:

“We are always pleased to talk to parents or children about what Scouting and Guiding can offer to young people with special needs. Both organisations actively seek to try and integrate all youngsters - where this is not possible we look to try and offer occasional special events such as the Norfolk Camp Together which takes place in July.”

Here are some contact details so that you can find out more:

The Scout Association:

Mr Mike Gooderson
Dickleburgh Place
Norwich Road
Dickleburgh
Diss
Norfolk
IP21 4NR
Tel: 01379 740926



The Guide Association:

Miss Helen Brocklehurst
Badgers Beck
Brook Street
Buxton
Norfolk
NR10 5HF
Tel: 01603 279009



Musical Keys Across the County



Children with special needs enjoy musical activities and 'Musical Keys' now have groups in **Norwich**,

Aylesham, Diss, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston.

As well as the children enjoying the sessions, parents can find mutual support.

To find out where and when the groups are held, please contact

Sallie Eastick on 01603 405858.

....New ADHD Support Group in Kings Lynn



A.D.H.D. SUPPORT GROUP

A new ADHD support group in Kings Lynn was launched in June. Come along and share your experiences; the highs and lows of parenting, receive support and give support to others.

The group will be meeting every **Tuesday** between **10 am and 12 noon.**

Meetings will be held at **St. Augustine's Healthy Living Centre** (near Lynnsport),

Columbia Way.

For more details contact Tania on 01553 841884.

There are also other ADHD Support Groups in Norfolk, please contact Parent Partnership for more information.

Useful Websites



We thought that some of you might find these useful. We have more website addresses that we will include next term. Please let us know of any other good ones.

www.pin.org.uk/learning/safeindex.htm

a parent's guide helping you find your way round the Net.

www.inclusion.uwe.ac.uk

for advice and information on mainstream education for all children and young people with disabilities and learning difficulties.

www.dfes.gov.uk/sen

special educational needs website.





Special Needs Norfolk 2002 Conference and Exhibition

Tuesday 1st October, 2002

Norwich Sport Village

Parents and carers are very welcome...

Now in its seventh year, the **Special Needs Conference and Exhibition** has evolved into a nationally recognised special needs event, attracting top names and exhibitors from across the country.

The theme this year is "**Working Together**" and there will be a large number of Norfolk Professional Services and Voluntary Agencies represented at the Conference including the English Language Support Service, Norfolk Traveller Education Service, Family Support Teams, the Bethel Child and Family Centre, Norfolk Careers Service, Speech and Language Therapy Services, **Norfolk Parent Partnership**, Norfolk and Norwich Scope, Norfolk Autistic Society, Norfolk Downs Syndrome Association, Mencap, Waveney Valley Dyslexia Association, Aspergers Norfolk and the Dyspraxia Foundation (West Norfolk) County Sensory Support

Services, the Occupational Therapy Service, the Jenny Lind Physiotherapy Department. As part of their annual professional development, there are seminars and "Come Along" sessions for school staff and other professionals. In addition to these **there are a wide range of exhibitions and displays** that are open to all. This year we have looked very carefully at providing relevant and useful information for parents and carers and there will be lots of opportunities to ask questions and discuss possibilities with representatives from the various agencies and services.

If you would like any more information about the Conference and Exhibition please contact either **Sue Judd on (01692)409517/402894** or **Helen Phelan on (01553) 669208** or **(01842)762289**.

We look forward to meeting you.

The Deaf Children's club

for 5 - 10 year olds meets at

**The Hut, behind the Deaf Centre, next to the Vauxhall Centre,
off Vauxhall Street, Norwich**

from **10am - 12noon**

on the **first Saturday of each month.**

**For more details contact Rowan Mantell on 01603 611935/email
rowan@number72.com or Claire Jack on 01508 571158**