



# Partnership News

Winter 2002



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

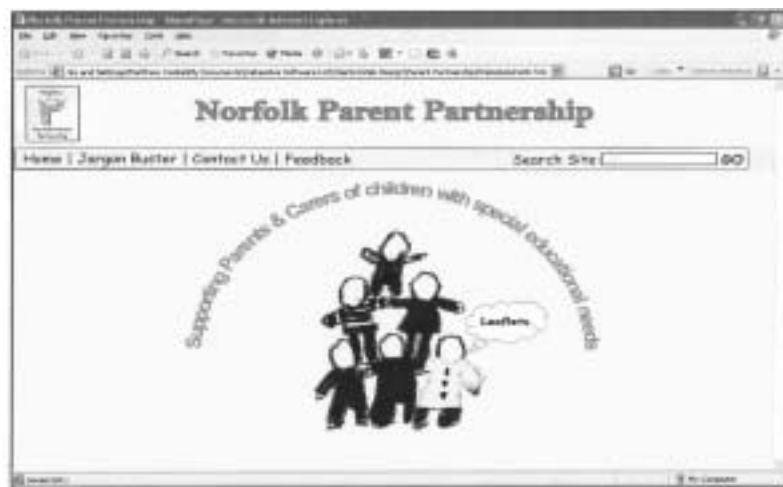
## Parent Partnership goes online!

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

Parents can now visit our new website. You can read newsletters, leaflets and up-to-date information on our noticeboard. There are also links to other sites that offer more specialist information.

We hope you will find the website 'friendly'. Just move your mouse over the little people on the home page to explore. You can print out the page you are viewing.

If you haven't got access to the internet at home, why not visit your local library where they will be happy to help you.



As this is new, we would be really grateful for your comments and suggestions. You can contact us from the website link or at our usual telephone number.

**Happy surfing!**

## Contact us for information and support



**Tel: 01603 281044**

**Parent Partnership  
Boardman House  
Redwell Street  
Norwich  
NR2 4SL**



### email:

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

### website:

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

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

## The Norfolk Parent Partnership Management Group



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

# Parent Partnership "Roadshow" 2003

We are visiting your local area soon and hope you'll drop in for a chat and a cup of tea with us between **09:30a.m. and 12:30p.m.** at...

**Dereham**      **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
Function Room,  
Dereham Town Football Club

**North Walsham**      **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
Children's Fund Centre  
19a Mundesley Rd

**Gt. Yarmouth**      **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**  
Central Library  
Tollhouse St

**Norwich**      **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
The Forum

**King's Lynn**      **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**  
West Norfolk Professional  
Development Centre  
Kilham's Way

**Fakenham**      **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**  
Clinic Room, Health Office,  
Baron's Close

**Thetford**      **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**  
Small Court  
Council Offices



There will be an information display about Parent Partnership and local voluntary organisations with leaflets for you to take away.

You can also speak with us if you are interested in supporting parents who have children with special educational needs and finding out more about our accredited training course.



**Please bring any interested friends.  
We look forward to meeting you!**



## Have you made your New Year's resolution?

### Would you like to help parents and carers of children with special educational needs?

If so, Parent Partnership are arranging a free 5 day training course, accredited by the Open College Network. All travelling expenses are paid, lunch and refreshments provided. You will learn about the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, Disability Awareness, communication skills and much more.

In return we ask you to give your time to parents and carers by helping them access information, reading through reports, helping write letters or attend meetings. The amount of time you give is entirely up to you and depends upon your other commitments. However, some free time during school hours is preferable. Details for training are as follows:

Venue:      **The Assembly House  
Theatre Street  
Norwich**

Day:      **Tuesdays**

Dates and Times:

**April 1st, 9.30a.m. - 1p.m.**

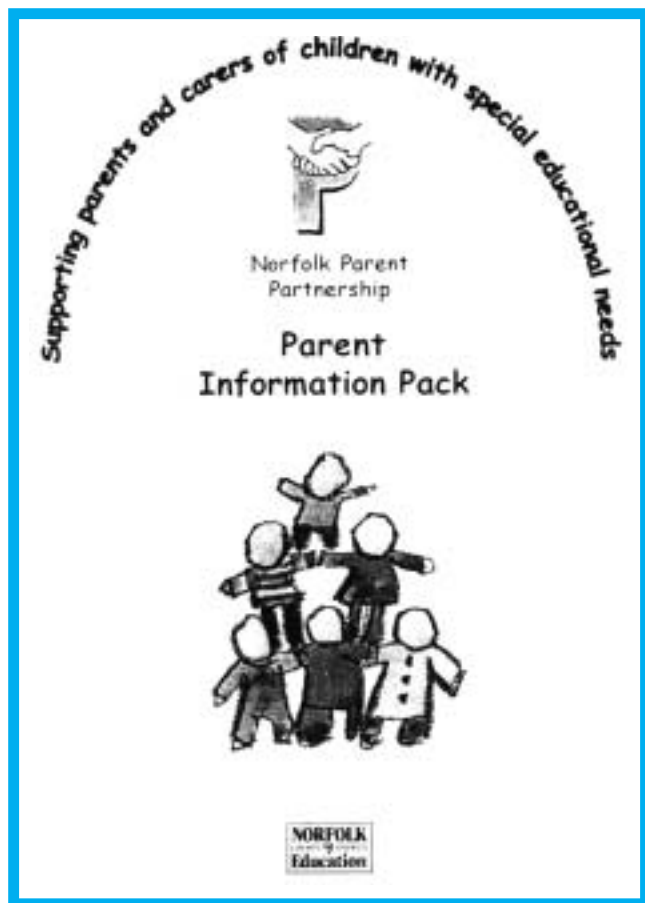
This first session is a chance to look at paperwork and learn about the level of study required in order to successfully complete the course. Also an opportunity to talk to existing volunteers and discuss the work of the Independent Parental Supporter in more depth.

**April 8th, 29th 9.30a.m. - 3.30p.m.**

**May 6th, 13th, 20th 9.30a.m. - 3.30p.m.**

Ring us at the Parent Partnership office for a prospectus or further details.

# New Booklets from Parent Partnership



**Look out for our new and updated range of booklets for parents.**

Parents will be sent a complete pack of booklets at the start of Statutory Assessment.

Parents and teachers will be able to request any of the individual booklets by ringing us at the Parent Partnership office.

You can also see the booklets on our website and print off information from them.



All our booklets are printed in black and green on cream. We have used illustrations drawn especially for us by Jim Kavanah. The titles of the booklets we have produced are as follows:

- **Norfolk Parent Partnership**
- **Information and support for parents and carers**
- **The Independent Parental Supporter**
- **Helping children in pre-school, nursery and playgroup**
- **Finding out about a school**
- **Helping children in school**
- **Working together to help your child**
- **Statutory Assessment and Statements**
- **Annual Reviews**
- **What if we cannot agree**
- **Jargon Buster**
- **Useful Contacts**
- **Funding in mainstream schools**



This service offers confidential advice and support for anyone who finds that issues around Learning Disabilities arise in their day to day lives and / or work. This includes people with learning disabilities, their families, their carers, the professionals who support them and Social Services.

## New Learning Disability Helpline

By calling our free-phone number you can obtain advice on anything from housing, education, child care, leisure activities, money and benefits to the service and support groups in your area. Whatever the question we would like to help.



**You can call the Helpline on  
0808 808 1111**

## New Caseworkers to help with Statutory Assessments and Statements

If your child is going through statutory assessment you may be aware that Norfolk has a new team of caseworkers. They will keep in close contact with parents, supporting them throughout the process and beyond.



A number of former Statement and Assessment Officers have become Pupil Entitlement and Support Officers (PESOs) who have a lead role in ensuring that all children have a school place.

Both Caseworkers and PESOs are based in local area offices.

You can contact them on the following numbers:

**Central (Norwich) 01604 764707**

**North (North Walsham) 01692 402 894**

**South West and South East (Attleborough) 01953 456545**

**East (Great Yarmouth) 01493 336300**

**West (Kings Lynn) 01553 669200**

## Special Educational Needs and Disability Act

Since September 2002 it has been against the law for disabled children and young people to be discriminated against in education. LEAs are required to develop strategies and schools to develop plans to improve accessibility for disabled pupils over time.

In Norfolk there are plans to make adaptations in schools where possible over a period of time, but other changes will be dependent upon the needs of individual children. The new duties cover areas such as admissions, education, associated services and exclusions. Ofsted

will be inspecting schools from September 2002 with these new duties in mind.

Guides published by the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) are available for parents and schools. You can contact the DRC on 08457 622 633 or by post at DRC Helpline, Freepost MID 02164, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9BR  
e-mail: [enquiry@drc-gb.org](mailto:enquiry@drc-gb.org)  
website: [www.drc-gb.org](http://www.drc-gb.org)



## News from Asperger Norfolk



TEACCH workshops run by Asperger Norfolk are now being included in the INSET training offered to teachers by the Professional Development Centre.

It is really encouraging that local voluntary organisations and the education authority are continuing to work together and share expertise.

Asperger Norfolk is also running a pilot workshop on "Anger Management" on December 6th. This is aimed at teachers and support assistants and will be repeated in the New Year if it is successful.

The Christmas Party is at Eaton Park Community Centre on December 14th. Please ring the office for details.

**You can contact Asperger Norfolk on 01603 631171**



# People First of Norfolk



## Growing up, Moving on

Growing up is a difficult business – for everyone.

As children with learning difficulties grow up they have an organisation which can support them as adults to speak up for themselves.

People First of Norfolk is an independent self-advocacy organisation run **by** adults with learning difficulties **for** adults with learning difficulties.

They are supported by staff and volunteers to do their work. People First supports adults with learning difficulties to be confident self-advocates.

This means:

- speaking up for themselves
- standing up for their rights
- making their own choices and decisions (with as much support as is needed)
- being more independent

- taking responsibility for themselves
- trying new things, and
- taking risks.

People First also offer training and development, advice, the opportunity to learn office skills, to sit on management committees, be part of sub-groups, get involved with fundraising and take part in social events. They ensure that people with learning difficulties have their say and are listened to.

People First also offer training on “Disability Equality”; “Self Advocacy” and “How to Empower People with Learning Difficulties”. They also held a conference last year called “Say No To Bullying”.



To find out more about becoming a member or volunteer supporter call the **Norwich office on 01603 789889** and ask for Isabel Murphy, Membership and Supporters' Adviser.



## Book Reviews

### Karma Wilson ‘Bear Snore On’



In the deep dark woods Bear sleeps soundly as his friends party around him. When he finally awakes he thinks he may have missed all the fun.

### Paul Geraghty ‘The Hoppameleon’

At the beginning of the world a strange creature swims into the swamp. It starts to ask all the other animals if they can help find out what he is, but finally all he needs is a very special friend of his own.

### Julia Donaldson ‘Room On The Broom’

The Witch shares her broomstick with a whole host of friends and they repay her kindness when it seems she'll become dragon food.

### Graeme Base ‘The Water Hole’

A fabulously illustrated picture book with animals from every continent. As the water hole shrinks the animals decline in number and then the rains come again.

Many thanks to Dorne Fraser,  
Senior Librarian,  
Young People's Services





**Leapfrog are a friendly service for families in the North Walsham and Mundesley area. They work with children between the ages of 5 to 13 years.**

They can offer support at

- School
- Home
- Our Centre



**You can find them at: The Children's Fund Centre, 19a Mundesley Road, North Walsham Norfolk. NR28 ODA. Tel: 01692 405814**

They support children with:

- Friendship problems
- Bullying problems
- Understanding and managing feelings
- Helping to feel good about themselves
- Separation and divorce difficulties
- The effects of domestic violence

They support their families with:

- Understanding their children's behaviour
- Parent led support groups
- Drop-In mornings, every Thursday



The organisation was started by parents of children with special needs. Volunteers and staff have knowledge, experience and training in the concerns of families of children with any special need. We also have strong working links with all the statutory agencies and many voluntary organisations.

Contact provides a free confidential support service offering information, befriending, counselling and advocacy services. They have a helpline, run support groups for parents and carers, produce a regular newsletter, offer home visits, help and advice regarding Educational Statements, assistance with Disability Living Allowance forms for children and young people and tribunal representation.

The projects include:

- **"I'm a Special Tool"** - offers support for the brothers and sisters of children with special needs



## Great Yarmouth Contact

- **"Others Like Me"** - offers support to children with special needs in main stream schools
- **S.N.A.P. - Special Needs At Play** - offers inclusive playschemes and other social activities for children with special needs and their brothers and sisters
- **Alpha centre Toy Library** - safe, stimulating play environment, including soft play area, messy play room and enclosed outdoor play space. Wide range of toys and equipment with advice

and a new project commencing this autumn:

- **Social Activities Scheme** - weekend and evening opportunities for children and young people with special needs/ disabilities to extend their social development.

**For more information ring Contact on 01493 330930 - Helpline 01493 853547**

## Notice Board

### **Cheeky Monkeys**

#### **Family support group**

Supporting Parents of children with special needs:

A.D.H.D.

Autism - Dyslexia

Tourette's Syndrome

Asperger Syndrome

Speech and Language - Dyspraxia

Hyperactivity - Conduct Disorder

Learning Disability

**Join us for a coffee and a chat.  
Mondays (Not school holidays)**

**9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m.**

**St Francis Church**

**Rider Haggard Road**

**Heartsease**

Or phone for information

Sheena - 01603 472899

Amanda - 01603 700664

Yvonne - 01603 486863

E-mail

[cheekymonkeys@postmaster.co.uk](mailto:cheekymonkeys@postmaster.co.uk)

Check out our new website  
[www.cheekymonkeys.netfirms.com](http://www.cheekymonkeys.netfirms.com)

Our aim is to support the children  
and also the parents  
who are often forgotten.



### **Norfolk Link**

for people interested in the education of pupils with Down syndrome

4th annual conference on

**The development and educational needs of children with Down syndrome.**

Guest speaker

**Professor Sue Buckley**

Director of Research, The Down Syndrome Educational Trust, Portsmouth

**Saturday 15th March 2003**

9.30a.m. - 4p.m.

Easton College, Norwich

cost

£18.50 including Lunch

### **Norfolk and Norwich Dyslexia Association**

is the new name for the Waveney Valley Dyslexia Association

Regular monthly surgeries are held on the

**first Saturday of each month at City College.**

For more information call

**Barry on 01379 668430**

or **Karen on 01953 483057**

*Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas holiday  
and a very Happy New Year!*

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