



Partnership News *Autumn 2005*



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



Norfolk & Norwich
Dyslexia Association



Schools



Central Norfolk
Primary
Care Trust

Norfolk
County Council
Children's
Services



Norfolk Autistic
Society



Anti-Bullying Week

21st - 25th November 2005

Many of you will remember last year's national anti-bullying week. Well this year's event being co-ordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, promises to be even bigger and better! Rita Adair, Eastern Regional Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) is busy working with local schools, public sector and voluntary organisations to ensure that Norfolk's response is a positive one. Schools will be receiving packs from ABA with ideas from the end of September and will be encouraged to participate in events during the week. These resources will be available on the ABA website (www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk) which also has all the latest news, information and resources about bullying as well as advice for parents, children and young people.

What's happening in Norfolk?

All schools will be encouraged to use this week to raise awareness about anti-bullying. This year's theme is PARTICIPATION so it is hoped that everyone, including local communities, will get involved. As the creative arts is an excellent medium for involving children and young people there are plans for art activities, drama and possibly a play writing competition. In conjunction with the Playhouse and the Drama Company Class Acts, Rita has organised a series of plays during the week specifically on bullying.


Want to know more about Anti-Bullying Week?

Talk to your child's school and ask them what they will be doing. Encourage them to look on the Anti-Bullying Alliance website for information and to check with their Head teacher about the pack. Ask them if there are any activities you can attend such as assemblies/art and drama workshops.

Inform all the organisations you know and encourage them to get involved. Contact Rita on rita.adair@norfolk.gov.uk for information and to advise about local events. Rita would be particularly interested if you would like to receive publicity for an event you are organising.

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

Now available in Portuguese and Bengali.

Norfolk Parent Partnership is funded by  **Norfolk** County Council
working with the voluntary sector and other professionals to support parents and carers of children with special educational needs.

What is bullying?

Bullying is a deliberately hurtful act, which is repeated over a period of time. It causes pain and distress to the victim, and is an abuse of power where the bully thinks he or she is in

control and the victim feels powerless. It can range from physical violence to verbal abuse and exclusion from social groups. It also includes abusive texts, e-mails or nasty notes pasted on websites.

If your child is being bullied

Talk to your child.

Listen, reassure, stay calm and agree on what to do. Keep a record and boost your child's self-confidence.

Talk to the school. Make an appointment with your child's class teacher, discuss what has happened and be as specific with details as possible, agree on what to do, keep a record and keep your child informed. Good communication is vital to finding a solution.

What to expect from your child's school

You should expect the school to take your concerns seriously, give you a copy of their anti-bullying policy, agree what to do and keep you fully informed. If you remain dissatisfied with their response you can complain through the school's complaints

procedure. For a copy of this either ask the school, go to the Internet at www.norfolkesinet.org.uk then click on Education Department > Enquiries and Complaints or phone the County Council on 0845 00 8001.

If you need further advice

ACE, Advisory Centre for Education - free advice and help for parents on all school matters.

Tel: 0808 800 5793

www.ace-ed.org.uk

The Children's Legal Centre National Education Law and Advisory Unit - offers free education law advice and assistance.

Tel: 0845 456 6811

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Kidscape Hotline - advice and information for parents of bullied children. Tel: 0207 730 3300
www.kidscape.org.uk

Parentline Plus - free helpline for anyone parenting a child.

Tel: 0808 800 2222

www.parentlineplus.org.uk

ChildLine - free national helpline for children and young people.

Tel: 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

Rita Adair, Senior Educational Psychologist, Children's Services

Enter our exciting art competition and receive a free Radio 1 Blue Band to beat bullying!

We are hoping to create a stunning art display with two figures, somewhere in central Norfolk. The figures will be of two people and one will be the bully and the other the victim. The figures will be made up of a mosaic of images of the faces of the bully and the faces of the victim. Some pictures may be used for future publicity.

If your child would like to enter they can begin by drawing a head and shoulders picture of the face of someone who is bullying or someone who is being bullied.

Please send a SAE and the first 300 entries will receive a blue band, which your child can wear to show they are against bullying. Return to Norfolk Parent Partnership, Woodside Road, Norwich. NR7 9QL, by Friday 28th October 2005. Write your name and school or, if out of school, your town or village above the picture.

name _____

school _____

town/village _____

Parental permission
for picture to be used -
please sign below.

Have your say!

There are a number of surveys taking place in the run up to Anti-Bullying Awareness week. We are particularly interested in what parents think works, so if either you or your child has been bullied, please take a few minutes to answer the questions below and return it to us at the parent partnership office.

If you were bullied as a child and told someone:

- a) What did they do that was helpful?
- b) Is there anything you would have liked them to have done differently?

If your child has been bullied at school:

- a) What did the school do that was helpful?
- b) Is there anything you would have liked them to have done differently?
- c) What did you do that helped?

Please do not write below this line if your child has completed the picture on the other side



PARENTS



NEEDED

Early Support is a programme designed to deliver better co-ordinated services for parents of disabled children under the age of three, as soon as a child is identified as needing help.

In Norfolk we are seeking any parents of a child with a disability who would be interested in helping advise us about the programme and how we can improve services right from the start. We have an enthusiastic and supportive group of parents involved already but we would welcome more. Involvement can

include attending meetings, attending training sessions and workshops or just being prepared to look at information and offer your views, it depends how much time you have available. We can pay expenses and fees.

If you would like to hear more about the Early Support Programme please contact Sara Clark

Interagency Co-ordinator
sara.clark@norfolk.gov.uk
www.eastspace.net/norfolkearlysupport

Our AGM will be on the 21st October at the Norwich Diocesan House in Easton from 7-9pm.



We are holding an Asperger syndrome Awareness Week from Monday 17th October. This will

include a stand in the Forum, City Centre street collection and Art Exhibition at City College of work done by children and adults with Asperger syndrome.

For further information please telephone the Office 01603 620500

Dyslexia Exists

Despite what you may have seen on television, dyslexia is a real condition recognised by the Government Department for Education and Skills, Norfolk Children's Services and the British Dyslexia Association.

Professor Julian Elliott, an expert on the way that children learn to read (but not dyslexia), mistakenly assumed that dyslexia is just about being a poor reader.

Dyslexia is about being different and it shows as being less able in reading and writing with the inevitable result of low self-esteem. Unfortunately other children tend to equate this with lower ability and bullying can often be the result.

www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk (British Dyslexia Association)

Barry Whiting
Norfolk & Norwich
Dyslexia Association



Norfolk Parent Partnership and Sensory Support Unit Open Day

The Open Day held on a sunny Wednesday 14th September saw many people from different departments and the general public looking round the new premises of Norfolk Parent Partnership and Sensory Support Unit, where advisors were on hand to show and explain their work. Mr John Baskerville, Chair of the Norfolk County Council was one of our first visitors and had kindly made time to call in on us during his busy schedule.



New Course for Helping People with Dyslexia



Help for individuals with dyslexia at a Norwich based service - there is a new course that aims to provide people with a fully comprehensive understanding of dyslexia.

Indigo Dyslexia Services, which has been helping individuals with dyslexia since 2003, is now running a course which provides its students with a Nationally Accredited Level 3 Certificate.

Aimed specifically at people in a supportive role, the course will teach people the key characteristics of dyslexia and help students develop an understanding of the problems that individuals with dyslexia can face. They will also learn about how IT and a wide range of specialist books and coloured filters can assist many people with dyslexia.

With many people with dyslexia often finding their needs ignored in the workplace, it is hoped that such a course will help many employers understand the needs of their employees much better.

As Martin Parsonage, of Indigo, says, 'A course like this is desperately needed in Norwich, and I envisage that students on the course will find it stimulating, interesting, and ultimately, very rewarding.'

'The response to our services has been fantastic,' says Mr Parsonage, who was nominated in The Year of the Volunteer and will be receiving a medal from the Earl of Wessex shortly.

For more information about the Level 3 Certificate in Dyslexia that Indigo offers, or for fully confidential advice and guidance on dyslexia, give them a call on (01603) 766761, or visit their website: www.4dyslexics.com

*Jenny Parsonage, Chairman
Indigo Dyslexia Services*

**Parent Focus Group
Tuesday 22nd November
at UEA Sportspark,
Cringleford Room**

Free parking and refreshments
10.15 for 10.30 start till 12.30pm

Open Forum - all welcome

Come along and bring a friend
Opportunity to meet senior staff from
Children's Services
Exchange information,
raise concerns and share
good practice

For more information, contact:
Kim Barber, Disability Co-ordinator,
Pupil Access and Specialist Support,
Norfolk Children's Services
Tel 01603 259952

**Children's Services
SPECIAL NEEDS NORFOLK
2005**

10th Anniversary Celebration
Tuesday 11th October 2005
9am - 5pm

Norwich Sport Village Hotel
Drayton High Road, Hellesdon,
Norwich. NR6 5DU

We would like to invite you to
Special Needs Norfolk 2005
All Seminars Free - Book Early!
Exhibition Admission Free
For further information contact
Greenwood Centre
01603 458191

**Blue Friday
25th November 2005**

Put this date in your diary and find
something blue to wear! Everyone is
being encouraged to wear blue on this
date to show their support to
anti-bullying week. Please support
this and encourage your child's
school to do so.

**Working Together Against
Bullying**

**Norfolk's first ever conference on bullying
for parents**

23rd November 2005 7pm - 10pm
John Innes Centre, Norwich

This conference aims to inform parents about
what bullying is and what it is not, what to do
if your child is being bullied and advice on
national and local support available to parents.
We are delighted that Trisha Goddard (Trisha
show) is able to join us. We are also pleased
to welcome Rosemary Spillmann and Pat
Wright who work closely with parents on
bullying issues through their work with the
helpline -

Parentline Plus Tel: 0808 800 2222
website: www.parentlineplus.org.uk

We know this will be popular, so suggest that
you telephone early to register your place.
Please contact Norfolk Parent Partnership on:
01603 704070

**Anti Bullying Alliance and
Norwich Playhouse**

present an exciting programme of
drama for pupils in KS2 and KS3
focusing on bullying, healthy living
and the effects of drug mis-use.

Contact Caroline Richardson for
details - 01603 612580

22nd November

Top to Toe - 10am and noon
One Step Behind - 2pm and
5.30pm

23rd November

One Step Behind - 10am and noon
Rush - 2.15pm

24th November

Scream - 10am and noon
Rush - 2.15pm

Tickets: £2.50 for Top to Toe and
One Step Behind and £3 for Rush
and Scream. Ring Playhouse Box
Office: 01603 598 598

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