



Partnership News

Autumn 2008



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

Members
of the
Management
Group



Norfolk &
Norwich
Dyslexia
Association

NANSA
Norfolk & Norwich

SCOPE
Association
for people with
cerebral palsy

Schools

**UPPER
EAST ANGLIA**



Norfolk
County Council
Children's
Services



Central Norfolk
Primary
Care Trust

connexions
NORFOLK

Norfolk Parent Partnership

Who are we?



Sarah Merrick
Parent Partnership
Officer

Janina
Schiebler

Parent Partnership
Support Worker



Wendy Bradnam
Transition to
Secondary School
Officer



Elizabeth
Fletcher
and John Bale
Administrators



and our volunteers

What do we do?

We support families and carers of children with special or additional educational needs by:

- offering information about education and the statutory assessment procedure
- information leaflets
- termly newsletter
- website
- volunteer

Would you like to become a volunteer?

We are looking for people who would like to help others and have some free time available to become volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please see our advert on the notice board in this newsletter (page 5) for details of our next training course or ring the office for more information.

This is what some parents have said about our service:

"Thank you so much for being there for me when I didn't know where to turn"

"It seems like you are the only people who care what happens to my child"

"We feel we can trust you"

Norfolk Parent Partnership
Woodside Road

Norwich
NR7 9QL



Tel: 01603 704070

Fax: 01603 704072

email: parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk
www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk





What's happening in Norfolk during national Anti-Bullying Week 17-21 November 2008?

This year's theme is 'Difference and Diversity' so schools will have lots of scope for activities. All schools will receive an anti-bullying pack in September from the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Some events happening in Norfolk:

Anti-Bullying Launch at Northgate High on 17th November 9.30 – 12.00.
Contact rita.adair@norfolk.gov.uk

Norwich Playhouse will be showing 'CLASH' (an interactive bullying drama/workshop for Key Stage 3) on 17th and 18th November (10am and 1pm). To book contact info@norwichplayhouse.co.uk. Parents and carers are welcome to both these events.

Also some supermarkets have agreed to display the artwork of children and young people. Contact heather.haycox@norfolk.gov.uk. Ask your school if they are too.

In addition to the performing arts competition, Parent Partnership and Connexions are running a visual arts competition for young people between the ages of 13 and 19. There are 6 prizes of vouchers worth £25 each, 1 for each Connexions area office.

To enter young people need to:
Make a picture or model about being different and belonging together.

Then they need to take a photograph of their entry and send it to the Parent Partnership office (see front page) by 20th October, clearly labelled with name, address and telephone number. The winners will be notified and the winning picture or model will need to be taken to the local Connexions office for display during Anti-bullying week. Photos of the winners will be on the Connexions and Parent Partnership websites and photographs of all the entries will be in the Connexions offices for young people and their parents to drop in and look at.

Anti-Bullying Week Performing Arts Celebration for Young People

This competition is open to all young people between the ages of 5-19 years. We want them to come up with an original creative performance on the theme of bullying and 'Difference and Diversity'. It could be a poem, story, piece of drama, dance, song, rap, piece of music - you name it! Those entering the competition must ensure that performances take no longer than 5 minutes. Entries will need to be submitted in a suitable format e.g. DVD for dance, CD for song and cannot be returned. There are three age groups (5-8, 9-12, 13+) with a winner in each age group and area. **All entries need to be in by 6th October.** Judging will be in local areas and winners will be notified before the end of October. The three best entries in each area will be invited to perform to an audience at the Anti-Bullying Launch on 17th November at Northgate High School, Dereham. Full details of terms and conditions and entry forms are available from Rita Adair – rita.adair@norfolk.gov.uk

Tell us about bullying

contact a family
for families with disabled children

Contact a Family is joining forces with Parentline Plus to produce a guide for parents of disabled children to help them cope if their child is being bullied and we're looking for your help.

Research suggests that more than one in three disabled children have been bullied at school and many parents can feel they have nowhere to turn. Bullying can take place at school, on school transport, in playgrounds, at leisure activities, online; bullying can take place anywhere.

The guide will be a tool for parents to help them cope if their child is being bullied. As well as containing information about the law relating to bullying and the action schools should be taking, it will include parents' experiences.

If your child has been bullied or is being bullied because of their disability and you'd like to share your experiences to help other

parents, please get in touch. We would also like to hear from you if your child has been bullied because they have a disabled sibling.

We want to know how you spotted signs of bullying, the strategies you used to deal with the bullying, how you coped with the situation and any advice you would like to give to other parents in similar situations. Your experiences will be used anonymously in the guide.

The guide is due to be published in November in time for Anti-Bullying Week 2008. So watch this space!

If you would like to share your experiences or have any questions about the project, please contact Penny Roper on the Contact a Family freephone helpline 0808 808 3555 or email: penny.roper@cafamily.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

SureStart
Catton Grove, Fiddlewood and Mile Cross
Children's Centre

Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs

A support group that gives parents and carers an opportunity to meet with others and share experiences or information in a relaxed, friendly, welcoming environment.

The group meets twice monthly

on Wednesdays and you can drop in any time between 9.30-11.30am.

Held at Catton Grove Clinic, Hunter Road, Norwich.

For more information call Jill Tanner or Frances Hughes on (01603) 413393.

Is your child moving to a secondary (high) school in September 2009?



If so, please read on.....

What will happen?

By the end of September 2008, your child will have brought home from school an admissions application form and a booklet about Norfolk's secondary (high) schools.

Must I reply?

Yes. Fill in the form before the closing date, as your child will not automatically get a place at your preferred school.

If your child has a statement, please phone the same telephone number and speak to Parent Partnership

What if I don't reply? Your child may not get a place at the school you prefer, but will be given a place at the nearest school with a vacancy, which may not be very near your home.

Who can help me?

For independent advice, help with forms, or more information contact:

Wendy Bradnam
Transition to Secondary School
Officer

Norfolk Parent Partnership,
Tel: (01603) 704070 or
text: (07747) 757540 or
e-mail: wendy.bradnam@norfolk.gov.uk

Children's Services Special Educational Needs (SEN) Strategy Update

In future all special schools will be called **complex needs schools** and will provide for children and young people aged 2-19 years. The Strategy will also increase the number of specialist units in mainstream schools to 59 **specialist resource bases** and each will have an area of specialism.

The 11 August 2008 SEN Strategy report to Norfolk County Council Cabinet recommended:

- 59 Specialist Resource Bases and 13 Complex Needs School locations
- Specialist Resource Bases will be set up over a 2-year period, beginning in September 2008

- The change of designation process for the current special schools to become complex needs schools will begin from September 2008 for an anticipated start-date of September 2009

The change from the current moderate learning difficulty (MLD) and severe learning difficulty (SLD) special schools to complex needs schools will be a slow and carefully managed process to ensure that the already high standard of our special schools is maintained and continues to improve. The start date for change is September 2009 and will be put in place very gradually.

For more information call the
SEN Strategy Team on
0844 800 8001

FREE SEMINARS

for parents of children with an
Autistic Spectrum Disorder

kindly sponsored by Options Group

AUTISM - WHAT WORKS? GEOFF EVANS

Lowestoft - 25th September
2008 10.30-1p.m. at the
Hatfield Hotel

Norwich - 25th September
2008 6.30-9p.m. at the
Quality Hotel

Kings Lynn - 26th September
2008 10.30-1p.m. at the
Ramada Hotel

If you would like to book a
place, please phone
01652 631280 or
email office@newopt.co.uk

Professionals have also found
these seminars useful.
Please note that we may not
be able to take more than
two bookings per organisation.

Dyspraxia Foundation

West Norfolk

Office 16, Tuesday Market Place
Kings Lynn, PE30 1JN

For information and support

Tel: 01563 774447
(Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm)

or e-mail:

dyscoverers@dyspraxiawn.org.uk



Free training course for Volunteers Spring 2008

Would you like to support parents
who have children with special educational
needs with educational issues?

Our next free, OCN accredited training
course for volunteers will be held at:

South Norfolk District Council
Wednesdays at 9-3.30pm on
25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th and
and 25th March and 1st April, 2009
and a post course meeting (date to be
arranged).

Book your place now!!

For more information contact:

**Norfolk Parent Partnership on
01603 704070**

email: parentpartnership@norfolk.gov.uk
www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk



APPROACH Meeting

Allowing Positive Parents
Real Opportunity for Action,
Change and Help

Tuesday 7th October 2008

Diocesan House, Easton (just off A47)

10.30am - 12.30pm All welcome

Refreshments from 10.15am

For further information contact:

Kim Barber 01603 671415



out &
about

Corrections

Tel: 0845 2412576

Fax: 0845 2412577

Email: info@oaa.co.uk

Website: www.oaa.co.uk

Wills & Trusts

Tel: 020 7696 6925

Email:

willsandtrusts@mencap.org.uk

Useful Contacts

Contact

Great Yarmouth and Waveney Contact for special Needs Help

The Alpha Centre, Alpha Road, Gt Yarmouth NR31

Help Line: 01493 661000

NANSA

Norfolk & Norwich

SCOPE Association

for people with cerebral palsy

Family Services, Norfolk

School for Parents, General Information

Tel: 01603 414109

e-mail: familycentre@nansa.org.uk

**Norfolk Disability Information
Service (NDIS)**

Tel: 01603 729802

Asperger East Anglia

Charing Cross Centre, St John Maddermarket

Norwich NR2 1DN

Tel: 01603 620500

E-mail: info@asperger.org.uk

Website: www.asperger.org.uk

Disability Rights Norfolk

Unit 15/17 Manor Farm Barns

Fox Road, Framingham Pigot

NR14 7PZ

Tel: 01508 491570

www.norfolk.gov.uk/NDIS

National Debt Line

Free, confidential and independent advice

Tel: 0808 808 4000 (free)

www.nationaldebtline.co.uk

Norfolk Autistic Society

Charing Cross Centre, 17-19 St John

Maddermarket, Norwich NR2 1DN

Tel: 01603 631171

E-mail: info@norfolkautistic.org.uk

Indigo Dyslexia Centre

Charing Cross Centre,

17-19 St John's Maddermarket

Norwich NR2 1DN

Tel: 0845 347 9322

E-mail: indigo@4dyslexics.com

Website: www.4dyslexics.com


Disclaimer



Norfolk Parent Partnership is not responsible for articles or events provided by third parties. Any views or opinions are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Norfolk Parent Partnership.

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

Now available in Portuguese

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.