



# Supportive Parents

WINTER 2011

Providing the Parent Partnership Services for Bristol , North Somerset & South Gloucestershire

Information & support for parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), promoting partnership between parents and professionals.

## New school year — new developments!

Change is on the horizon for us all at this time of year. Our children will have changed setting, moved class or are looking forward to an entirely new phase in their lives. Local Authorities are restructuring and some of the familiar faces have moved on, services might have changed too and it is important to know what is happening so we can plan for our children's future with confidence. Supportive Parents will focus on learning about developments so that our information is up to date and supports parent to work in partnership with their child's school and with the Local Authority.

We continue to work with and offer support to our parent participation forums, Our Voice Counts! (N. Som), Bristol Parent Carers and Our Voice Matters (S. Glos).

### Parent Course a great success!

We recently held our "phase 1" course for parents in South Gloucestershire. This looks at special education and how our experience can support our child's learning. Parents told us "the course was very beneficial to me. I learned a lot and really appreciated meeting other parents with similar problems and worries." Another parents said it was "a good combination of given information and group work". One participant said "I got a huge wealth of knowledge which I am using and have also discussed with a school governor and will discuss with SENCO later this month".

We would like to congratulate all parents who attended our course and look forward to the next one!

### Inside this Newsletter

- Local Area News
- Network & Collaboration-update on parent forums
- Support Group Details
- Next Parent course (Phase 1) starts 16th January in Bristol, for four weeks.

*Coming soon - Phase 2  
after Easter 2012*

Our Information and Support Line 0117 9897725 is available 10am - 2pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday term time. We operate a limited service during the school holidays and an answer machine at all other times. Or take a look our website [www.supportiveparents.org.uk](http://www.supportiveparents.org.uk) Address: 3rd Floor, Royal Oak House, Royal Oak Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4GB Admin: 0117 9897724



## Bristol News – Davina Evans

On 20<sup>th</sup> October the Children's Services Scrutiny Commission held an Inquiry Day into Services for Deaf and Hearing Impaired children. The day had presentations from Brian Gale from the National Deaf Children's Society about the National Picture, the chairs of the sub-groups of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Development Group (DHI DG) and public submissions. The day produced 10 draft recommendations including visits to areas where best practice has been established, and further work to secure parental confidence. To see the recommendations visit [https://www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2011/sc/agenda/1117\\_1400\\_sc006.html](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2011/sc/agenda/1117_1400_sc006.html)

Other visits undertaken this term have included the Inclusive Education Group of the Bristol Disability Equality Forum, the Amana Trust to talk about training for Somali parents, and a parenting group at Knowle West Health Park.

The Children's Hospital held a fun day for Disabled Children and their families where they showcased the improvements they made as a response to consultation with parents and families including the Hospital Passport for disabled children. Bristol Parent Carers, the Carers Support Centre and Supportive Parents had a stall at the event. Details of the passport can be found at <http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/your-hospitals/bristol-royal-hospital-for-children/information-and-support/hospital-passport/>

## North Somerset News-Jackie Oxley

Support Group—Julie Lanham from Lighthouse WSM came to talk in November about their current Parentwise courses run for parents and plans for developing courses for parents of children with additional needs, see [www.lighthouse-weston.org.uk](http://www.lighthouse-weston.org.uk) for further information. Look out for details of speakers coming in the New Year to include Vulnerable Learning Service (VLS) previously known as the Complex and Additional Needs Service (CANS) and also the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

Changes to Children and Young People's Services—Consultation is still ongoing regarding the re design of Children and Young People's Services. Nearly £14m of savings have to be made over the next four years out of a budget of around £41m. The plans are to establish 11 Community Family Teams based in hubs around the Authority. It is intended that these locations will provide a "shop window" for accessing universal children's centre services with some early intervention services provided through these hubs by volunteers and community groups. Specialist staff and services will sit behind the "shop windows". The plan is to implement these proposals from April 1, 2012.

Education Working Group - Following the focus of the Our Voice Counts Forum, Education workshop in March this year - Building Effective Communication between Schools and Parents of Children with Special Educational Needs - a group of parents have been working with the local authority on an SEN Action Plan, we are currently working on a document to support parents as their child starts pre or Primary school.

## South Gloucestershire News - Anne Jerrom

Most Education, Health, and Social Care personnel supporting children with SEN are now working in Integrated teams from new premises at Patchway and Kingswood Hubs. Go to the CAF and Locality Hubs Page at <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies> for more information about what is on offer.

The SEN Section, Inclusion Support, Child Health and Disability team, and CAF Coordinator are based at Badminton Road, Yate. The Head of SEN post has gone with reorganization and Christine Jamrozy is the new SEN Team Manager. Case and Education Officers remain the same.

The New Horizons Learning Centre is another development, bringing together the new BESD School and the range of Education Otherwise than at School services, Pupil Referral Unit, Home Hospital Education Service, Behaviour Support Team and 6-day excluded pupils provision. All services are now managed by the Executive Headteacher. Full details of developments within Integrated Services for Children can be found at <http://www.sgcyp.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=rIF8gdzT6vw%3d&tabid=36&mid=12>

Raising awareness of our PPS role with new staff and updating information for parents in this rapidly changing world has kept us busy! Future parent courses will be included in the Parenting Consultants Directory. We have visited settings and schools to meet up with parents groups. The successful Communication Conference, organized by the Parent Participation Forum [www.ourvoicematters.org.uk](http://www.ourvoicematters.org.uk), highlighted the Hello campaign with Champion Jean Gross as key speaker and provided workshops for differing disabilities. Parents were asked for their views on what works/does not work in supporting Child Communication Development. This feedback will contribute to the Campaign evaluation. We provided an information stall and a leaflet "Don't know what you don't know about SEN" written in response to previous Conference feedback.

## Other news

Ofsted initiative: Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. It asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of your child's school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. They will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect, and when. By sharing your views, you'll be helping your child's school to improve.

You will also be able to see what other parents have said about your child's school. Or, if you want to, view the results for any school in England go <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results> Please note that Parent View does not currently include independent schools.

"Hello" is the 2011 campaign for the national year of communication. It's aim is to increase understanding of how important it is for children and young people to develop good communication skills. In the UK today over 1 million children and young people have some form of speech, language and communication need. Hello aims to make communication for all children and young people a priority in homes and schools across the UK so that they can live life to the full. Learn more about this interesting work and discover practical ways you can support your child . Go to <http://www.hello.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents.aspx> Take a look too at the parent pages of the Talking Point website, with free parent resources in the Directory and a Progress checker for concerned parents.

Well at School aims to provide information, advice and resources for everyone working with children and young people who are affected by a medical or a mental health condition. They also provide up to date information and practical strategies from school staff, medical staff and students. <http://www.wellatschool.org/>

Update on the SEN Green Paper: There is a delay before we expect the White Paper to be published; currently it is expected by Christmas. However the Department for Education has established pathfinder projects to test out the main proposals. These include Education Health Care Plans, personal budgets and extending the role of the Voluntary Sector. There are three pathfinders in the South West and we hope that their work will help to support the government's plans and inform our developing practice as a service.

And finally..... look out for our website re-launch in the New Year. It is still under construction at the moment, but we hope it will underpin our new publicity materials and revised publications .so,..... watch this space!



*Happy Christmas from all of us at Supportive Parents  
& our very best wishes for 2012!*

Disclaimer: The opinions and information in this Newsletter have been given in good faith and, as far as we know, are correct at the time of publication. We do not accept any responsibility for any errors of fact and advise readers to check with authors of original publications before acting upon them.