

Partnership Matters

Parent Partnership Service

The service is hosted by the Family Welfare Association in the voluntary sector and is funded by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council



Need Help or Advice?

Contact our Telephone Helpline Service about special educational needs

0115 948 2888

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am – 5pm

Wednesdays : 1pm - 9pm during term time

(9am–5pm during school holidays)



Inside Summer's Issue:

- Family Fun Day
- Short Breaks Pathfinder Project
- Asian Parents' Conference

Get in Touch

Visit our website:

www.ppsnotts.org.uk

E-mail us:

enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk

Give us a Call/Fax/Minicom:

0115 9482888

Send us post:



Suite 5
Clarendon Chambers
32 Clarendon Street
Nottingham
NG1 5LN





The Staff

Edwina Cosgrove	Acting Parent Partnership Officer
Carol Greaves	Acting Deputy Parent Partnership Officer
Ruth Iveson	Temporary Helpline Advisor
Wendy Storrs	Volunteer Support Worker
Helene Torr	Partnership Development Officer (Part-time)
Noreen Sheikh	Asian Support Worker (Part-time)
Bill Connor	Exclusions Worker
Deb Jones	Cool Kids Worker (Part-time)
Amanda Fletcher	Senior Admin Assistant
Lorraine Fitzpatrick	Admin Assistant

Disclaimer: Parent Partnership Service cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of information provided by external agencies, although we do our best to ensure that all information is as accurate as possible.

Animal Wordsearch

Can you find all these animals?



cow



tiger



rabbit



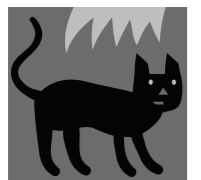
fish



bird



dog



cat



snail



zebra

s	p	e	d	l
n	r	c	o	w
a	a	a	g	a
i	b	t	m	b
l	b	p	s	i
f	i	s	h	r
b	i	o	k	d
e	g	o	t	c
t	i	g	e	r
z	e	b	r	a

Editorial

As we near the end of another school year, it's good to look back over the work we've covered - casework with individual families, new information published, training for parents and for school staff, participation in strategic groups and involvement in planning new directions both within our own service and with new initiatives within the local authorities.

Our casework staff and IPS are still in great demand and we share a perception with other parent partnership services that cases are steadily becoming increasingly complex. We recently launched our new training package for parents - see 'Newark Information Day' on page 5 - and plan to roll this out again in different areas next year.

An important focus for our service development over the next year is to increase the participation of parents/carers and children/young people in strategic planning and development. We are frequently asked to gather views from parents on important strategic initiatives, for example for the Nottinghamshire SEN Review and the Pathfinder Short Breaks Project, and we are planning better ways of doing this to ensure that we maximise the numbers of parents taking part. We also plan to offer support to parents interested in being a member of the steering groups that direct many of these initiatives; parents' views and involvement are recognised as crucial to the success of these projects but it is also acknowledged that they do not always initially have the confidence or capacity to play a full role (see the Short Breaks article on pages 9 & 10).

Finally, a bit of a lighter note! The Embankment Fun Day and our own Family Fun Day at Stonebridge Farm are opportunities to get out and enjoy yourselves with other families. We hope to see lots of you at these events - may the sun shine on us!

With Best Wishes

Edwina Cosgrove

Acting Parent Partnership Officer

Parents' Forum for the Nottinghamshire SEN Review

FEEDBACK SESSION

A feedback session is taking place in July for parents/carers to hear the messages that were put to the Review Board and the resulting proposed actions.

Date: Wednesday, 9th July 2008

Time: 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. (followed by lunch)

Venue: Mansfield Civic Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, NG19 7BH

Parents/carers interested in attending this session please contact Amanda Fletcher on Tel: 0115 9482888 or e-mail: enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk

Travel expenses can be claimed. Child care expenses can also be claimed for registered child-care providers; please contact Amanda Fletcher (0115 9482888) before the meeting.

Transition Events

Early in the Autumn Term we will be holding some Primary to Secondary Transition events across the County and City. These will be aimed at parents of children in year 5/6 who are placed at School Action, School Action Plus or Statemented.

For further details please contact us on Tel: 0115 9482888 or e-mail: enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk

Are you interested in spending time as a family finding out what happens at Stonebridge City Farm? We are pursuing funding to provide opportunities for families to learn together in a fun way and we need to find out who would be interested in these activities.

We plan to:

- Show you how to grow plants and food from seeds and how to make the best of your own gardens and window box gardens.



- Go mini beast hunting in our pond and garden environment with an underwater camera.

- Work with animals in the barn and pastures including our free range chickens



- Follow our produce from farm to farm shop.

- Work with our beekeeper to learn how bees make delicious honey.



- Involve families in craft activities - how to make scarecrows, wicker men, dream catchers and other forest crafts.

If you would be interested in doing all or some of these activities with us at the Farm call us on Tel: 0115 9505113 or E-mail at stonebridge.farm@virgin.net or fill in the form below and return it to:

Stonebridge City Farm, Stonebridge Road, St Anns, Nottingham NG3 2FR

✂ _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

COOL KIDS!!

4 kids by kids

Cool Kids have been very busy over the past few months. We have put the finishing touches to our next comic.

The Editorial Board have been making plans for the summer and taking votes on places they would like to visit. On Wednesday, 30th July from 11.00 a.m. onwards, we will be at Sherwood Forest in Edwinstowe for the day, and on Wednesday, 8th August from 11.00 a.m. onwards we will be at Rufford Country Park for the day. We hope you are able to come and join us, just look for the **COOL KIDS** banner.



The Editorial Board are getting green fingers growing sunflowers and pumpkins. They are having a competition to see who can grow the largest and tallest. Look in our autumn edition of the comic to see the results.



We are continuing to work on anti-bullying issues both with the Editorial Board and with schools across the county. Cool Kids are writing their own anti-bullying policy which they feel represents them as a group.

And finally, Cool Kids would like to welcome our new members:

Heather, Matthew, Charlotte, Chloe, Mark and Matthew

If you would like to know more about Cool Kids why not visit our website: www.cool-kids.org.uk or contact Deb Jones, Cool Kids Development Worker on Tel: 0115 9482888 or Mobile: 0775 3625414

COOL KIDS!!

4 kids by kids



Family Fun Day

This is an afternoon of fun activities for all the family to enjoy:-



Juggling Skills,
Animal Handling,
Make & Take Activities
Free Refreshments



Stonebridge City Farm,
St Ann's, Nottingham

Saturday, 16th August 2008
11.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham City Parent Partnership Service Event
Suite 5 Clarendon Chambers, 32 Clarendon Street, Nottingham, NG1 5LN
Tel/Fax/Minicom 0115 9482888

enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk

www.ppsnotts.org.uk

Newark Parents Information Day Newark Town Hall, 20th May 2008

We try to provide a local service for parents wherever possible and have put together a package of workshops and information for parents which can be delivered in different areas. We will change the workshop topics to reflect current issues nationally and locally. We plan to offer the Information Day in other areas in 2008-2009; details will be in future newsletters.



The Keynote speaker was Glynn Connolly, Lead Officer Service Development for Short Breaks project in the County of Nottinghamshire.

We had several workshops taking place during the day:-

Cool Kids workshop looking at bullying in schools facilitated by Deb Jones, Cool Kids Development Worker.



Exclusions workshop facilitated by Bill Connor, Exclusions Worker.

School Action, School Action Plus workshop facilitated by Edwina Cosgrove, Acting Parent Partnership Officer.



Primary to secondary transfer facilitated by Carol Greaves, Acting Deputy Parent Partnership Officer.

Nottingham City Council invites you to attend the **Embankment Fun Day**

**Friday, 1st August 2008,
Trent Embankment, Nottingham
11.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. Admission FREE**

This is the third Fun Day for children and young people with disabilities and their families.



Come along to find out what services are available for disabled children and their families in Nottingham City and have lots of fun at the same time.



Be creative at the arts and craft table

**Have fun on the rides and stalls.
Enjoy the games and activities**



Browse through the numerous stalls

This event is supported by the Showman's Guild.

Contact Toby Beck on 0115 915 5500, or
Email: disabledchildren.team@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Information on Care Co-ordination Network UK (CCNUK)

Care Co-ordination Network UK (CCNUK) is a networking organisation promoting and supporting key working for disabled children and their families in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Our mission is to work in partnership with disabled children, their families and professionals, to ensure that all families through out the UK have access to high quality care co-ordination or key worker services.

Membership is free to parents, carers and disabled young people and there is a small fee for organisations. Members of CCNUK receive: a membership pack, regular newsletter, members' area on the website, reduced rates at conferences and training events as well as reduced rates for publications.

A key worker is both a source of support for disabled children and young people and their families and a link by which other services are accessed and used effectively. Key workers have responsibility for working together with the family and with professionals from services, and for ensuring delivery of an inter-agency care plan for the child and family.

CCNUK have written key worker standards which are endorsed by Westminster, the Welsh Assembly and recognised by the Scottish Government. These standards should be adhered to by key worker services. The Early Support Programme supports these standards and CCNUK recognise the importance of co-ordinated services 0 to 5; years however, CCNUK will continue to raise awareness for the need for key worker services to continue to develop beyond early years through to adulthood.

I am the England development worker and my remit is to promote and support key working in England. I am keen to raise awareness and share information with all sectors to include professionals, practitioners, parents, children and young people whose lives include disability.

If CCNUK can help develop or support your key worker service, or give a short presentation about the work of CCNUK to your particular group, local authority or primary care trust, please contact me.

Cath Walder, England Development Worker
Tel: 01904 567314 Email: england@ccnuk.org.uk
www.ccnuk.org.uk



RUSH ADHD SUPPORT GROUP NOTTINGHAM

WHEN: 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 10AM-12PM

WHERE: THE ALL SOULS COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ILKESTON ROAD, NOTTINGHAM

PROMOTING
AWARENESS
NOT
IGNORANCE

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT OUR GROUP RING:

SELF HELP NOTTM ON **0115 9111661**
BETWEEN 9AM-1PM MON-FRI
OR

Email info@selfhelpnottm.org.uk

**OR RING THE GROUP MOBILE DIRECT ON:
07881645663 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE**

Counselling Sessions for parents/carers

We have twice tried unsuccessfully to launch a counselling service for parents/carers known to Parent Partnership Service. The plan was to offer free sessions based in our Nottingham offices, using student counsellors who would use the sessions to accrue the necessary practical input for their course. Both times the students involved let us down at the last moment.

We are now pleased to be able to offer free counselling sessions to a limited number of parents, supported by two students from Nottingham University. Sessions will be held in our Nottingham office, and can be booked on Mondays to Thursdays, including some evenings. Students are required to cover 100 hours of counselling as part of their coursework and are closely supervised throughout by a qualified counsellor.

If you are interested in registering for counselling please contact Amanda Fletcher or Lorraine Fitzpatrick on 0115 9482888. They will also be able to give you further information about the sessions.

Parent Partnership Service



is recruiting volunteers
to work with parents



We offer a volunteering opportunity that is rewarding and challenging.

Our volunteers:

- develop in confidence
- learn new skills
- help parents of children with special educational needs play a more informed part in their child's education.
- contribute to making a child's educational experience more positive

Parent Partnership Service is recruiting volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds who are:

- good listeners
- willing to learn
- able to develop positive relationships with people
- able to communicate effectively, verbally and in writing



The training is a free course, accredited with Open College Network.

For more information please contact:

Carol Greaves or Amanda Fletcher on
Tel: 0115 948 2888 or E-mail: enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk

This could be the opportunity you've been waiting for!

Parents' Groups

- Are you a parent of a child with special educational needs or a disability?
- Do you sometimes feel isolated and unsure of the support that is available?
- Would you like to share your experiences as a parent with others?
- Would you like further support and advice about your child's special educational needs?

Parent Partnership Service is setting up new parents' groups.

**If you are interested in finding out more
contact Helene Torr:**

**Tel: 0115 948 2888 or
E-mail helene.torr@ppsnotts.org.uk**

Asian Parents' Conference

We will be holding our 6th Annual Asian Parents' Conference on:

Thursday, 16th October 2008

at: The Trent Vineyard, Lenton, Nottingham

The topic will be Mental Health and Wellbeing.
Further information will be available in August 2008.



Parent support groups in Broxtowe

A new parent support group is being set up at:

William Lilley Infant School, Stapleford

to be held on the first Thursday of each half term
from 9.00am-11.00am.

Two of our Independent Parental Supporters, Sheila Over and Denise Bailey, have generously offered to facilitate this group for all parents of children with special educational needs or disabilities within the George Spencer Family of Schools ie not just for William Lilley parents. The group will meet as a contact and support group and there will be the facility for individual confidential support for parents wishing to take advantage of this.

The Eastwood Family of Schools already has a support group running in:

Eastwood Junior School

on Monday mornings from 9.00am-11.00am

Parent Partnership Service will visit the group on the first Monday of each half term, starting September 2008, to offer general or confidential advice to parents as a group or individually.

Further details can be obtained by calling Lorraine Fitzpatrick or Amanda Fletcher on 0115 9482888.

DROP-IN SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

Parent Partnership Service provides information and support to parents of children with special educational needs.

Come along and drop in at one of our venues:

KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD

Held in conjunction with SMILE, please see our website for dates or contact the office

MANSFIELD

Held on the **THIRD THURSDAY** in the month at:
APTCOO, Botany Avenue, Mansfield, NG18 5NF

NOTTINGHAM

Held **EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING** at:
Clarendon Chambers, 32 Clarendon Street,
Nottingham, NG1 5LN

SERLBY PARK

Dates to be confirmed please contact Wendy Storrs for further details.

All Drop In Sessions are held during term time only.

You can also make an appointment or get further information by telephoning: 0115 9482888
or by email: enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk



Nottinghamshire Short Breaks Pathfinder Project



This important project is now launched and underway, and will make a significant difference over the next two years to the landscape of short breaks provision for families with a child with a disability. The project steering group is very clear that the participation of parents and of children/young people to inform and guide development will be crucial in producing services which effectively deliver what they want and need.

This participation will take place by:

- having a number of parents/carers as members of task groups which have been set up to explore different aspects of short break provision.
- ensuring that all the parents' support groups which have contact with Parent Partnership Service receive consistent messages about the short breaks project and that parents at these groups are invited to provide views and comments that are fed back to the short breaks steering group ie that there is effective two-way communication
- using the PPS Cool Kids Project to seek the views of children and young people about the kind of activities and support they need from a short breaks package.
- setting up a Parent Participation Focus Group to bring together all views from task groups, parents' groups, views gathered elsewhere eg from incidental conversations



We recognise that parents/carers do not always find it easy or comfortable to sit on 'professional' groups - transport, child-care, time and venue of meetings can all be barriers to their participation; the difficulty parents sometimes experience in finding their 'fit' in a group of professionals is perhaps the biggest barrier of all. The short breaks steering group is committed to making it possible, feasible and even enjoyable, for parents/carers to play a key role in directing project development and will make every effort to address the difficulties that detract from this; eg meetings of task groups will be at times and venues accessible to parents who may have children to take or pick up from school; help with transport and child-care will be considered and the Parent Partnership Service will offer a series of support

groups for parents taking part in these groups to address any issues with confidence and understanding of group processes.

If you would be interested in being a part of this exciting project please contact Glyn Connolly, Lead Officer Service Development, 0115 8465550, or Edwina Cosgrove, Parent Partnership Service, 0115 9482888. You may wish to be a member of one of the task groups, or you may already be a member of a parents' support group and seek involvement that way. It is vital that parents and children/young people express their views to inform and guide the development of the project - how else will it be able to match your needs and wishes?



FREE Cinema Tickets for Carers



A carer accompanying a person with a disability may be entitled to a free ticket, thanks to a new scheme introduced by the Cinema Exhibitor's Association. The card is made out to the disabled person, and entitles them to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema.

To apply for the card, you need to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) be in receipt of the disability living allowance or attendance allowance
- b) be a registered blind person

Application forms can be requested from The Card Network on 0151 348 8020 or downloaded from the Internet at www.ceacard.co.uk.

You will need to send copies of your eligibility documents as proof, together with a passport sized photo and a one-off processing payment of £5.50. The card is valid for three years.