



# BOOKING FORM



## Fun Activities (City and County Families)

Provisional Dates	Activity	No. of Children
17th January	Inclusion Skating, Nottingham Ice Arena	
13th February	Climbing Centre	
29th March	Bowling, Nottingham Tenpin, Redfield Way (next to Showcase Cinema)	

## Forum Meeting (City Parents'/Carers')

Date	Venue	Book
21st January, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm	Barnardos, 2 Clinton Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham	

## Empowerment Training Event (City and County Parents'/Carers')

Dates	Venue	Book
18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> of March 2010	Patchings Farm, Calverton, Notts	

Name: ..... Tel: .....

E-mail: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Age of disabled child: ..... Disability: .....

Please complete and return to:

Helene Torr or Beverley Denby at PPS, Clarendon Chambers, 32 Clarendon Street, Nottingham, NG1 5NN



# Partnership Matters

## Parent Partnership Service

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

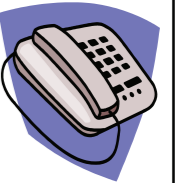


## Need Help or Advice?

Contact our Telephone Helpline Service about special educational needs

**0115 948 2888**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9.30am – 5pm  
Wednesdays : 9.30am - 8pm during term time  
(9am–5pm during school holidays)



## Inside Autumn's Issue:

- Early Support Pilot Project Update
- Achievement for All
- Volunteer Training Course

## Get in Touch

Visit our website:

**www.ppsnotts.org.uk**

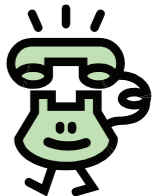


E-mail us:

**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	Parent Partnership Officer
Scott Smith	Deputy Parent Partnership Officer
Carol Greaves	Helpline Advisor
Ruth Iveson	Temporary Volunteer Support Worker (p/t)
Wendy Storrs	Volunteer Support Worker
Helene Torr	Partnership Development Officer (p/t)
Noreen Sheikh	Asian Support Worker (p/t)
Bill Connor	Exclusions Worker
Deb Jones	Cool Kids Worker (p/t)
Amanda Fletcher	Senior Admin Assistant
Lorraine Fitzpatrick	Admin Assistant
Israel Eliezer	Temporary Admin Assistant
Naomi Stewart	Early Support Volunteer Support Worker
Jayne Nesbitt	Early Support Key Worker
Tonia Lambley	Early Support Key Worker

**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.



City Parents'/Carers' Forum



Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) is the Government's transformation programme for disabled children's services in England. The vision behind AHDC is for all families with disabled children to have the support they need to live ordinary family lives, as a matter of course.

The City Parents'/Carers' Forum (CPCF) aims to represent the voice and views of Parents' and Carers' within the City of Nottingham through meetings, workshops and discussion from stakeholder groups.

### What is planned for January - March 2010?

- A further **3 participation fun activities** including City and County parents'.
- The next **City Parents'/Carers' Forum meeting** in January
- A 2 day **empowerment training** course for parents and carers in March.

Please tick your preferences from the activities over the page and return to the address indicated as soon as possible. **This is just provisional, it does not indicate a commitment to attend at this time or a guarantee that we will be able to allocate everyone a place.** Siblings are welcome at all events and upon booking, a deposit of £3 per child will be applicable which will be returned upon attendance at the event. Parents/Carers are responsible for their children at all times.

If you are unable to access any of the above but would still like your voice to be heard please register as an **email voice** so we can ensure that you are represented and keep you up to date with any news and points for discussion and consultation from the program. You can also find out more by visiting:

[www.pps-speakup.org.uk](http://www.pps-speakup.org.uk)

For further information please contact - Beverley Denby on  
Tel: 07815299551 or E-mail: [bev.denby@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:bev.denby@barnardos.org.uk) or Helene Torr  
on 0115 9482888 or E-mail: [helene.torr@ppsnotts.org.uk](mailto:helene.torr@ppsnotts.org.uk)

Please turn over...



Nottingham  
City Council

Aiming High for Disabled Children  
in Nottingham City



# Children's Page

## Autumn & Winter Scramble

Can you unscramble the letters to make words about Autumn & Winter?

1. wosn      \_ \_ \_ \_
2. plpae     \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. rde        \_ \_ \_
4. ireofbn    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. verahst    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. eeavsl     \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
7. rfsot      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
8. ieimcepn   \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
9. okrnec     \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
10. tsaan     \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Kimberly Martin is to join PPS as Choice Adviser around school admissions from mid-January 2010.

Carol Greaves will be on a 3 month secondment January - March 2010 with the Disability Support Team.



# Editorial

You will all be aware that councils across Britain are having to make cuts in various parts of their spending in order to balance their books, including Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. Many services are looking to change the ways they work in order to accommodate this.

The Parent Partnership Service is no exception, and we are now engaged in some deep thinking about how we can work smarter, and streamline the activities we carry out, to minimise the downside and promote the positive effect of this situation. Times like these offer opportunities to think again about why we do what we do - is it because we are comfortable doing that or because our service users find it helpful? Sometimes the answers to these questions are not easy to look in the eye; change is never easy but is an essential part of the cycle of service improvement and must be coupled with greater efficiency in order to ride budget cuts with buoyancy.

With this issue of Partnership Matters you will find two questionnaires. One is concerned with how satisfied you are with services you have experienced from us; the second is about your own priorities for this service - what do you find the most useful of the various activities we offer?

Please, please take the time to complete and send back those questionnaires. You can do it online if you prefer (visit [www.ppsnotts.org.uk](http://www.ppsnotts.org.uk)). If you don't tell us what you find useful, or where we need to sharpen up, we are in danger of using our resources in ways that are less efficient than they could be, and of not providing what our service users need into the bargain.

So, sit down with a mince pie and a glass of ginger wine and give us some constructive feedback to help us in our service development plans for the next year! Consider it your Christmas gift to PPS!

*Edwina Cosgrove*  
Parent Partnership Officer

# Early Support Pilot (ESP) Project Update

The Pilot Project is now well underway, providing holistic support for 12 Nottinghamshire families with a child with complex needs between 5 and 7 years old. Staff have been in post since September, and have attended training encompassing a wide range of skills and knowledge - safeguarding, benefits, social care and health issues, education, the Family Support Model.....- in fact, they can hardly believe where they started from, looking down now from high up on the learning curve! It's been a fast and furious three months since the project properly began but the fruits are really beginning to develop.

Part of the plan is to set up a team of volunteers able to support families with short-term specific issues eg filling in a Disability Living Allowance form, or tracking down a support group which operates at a weekend. We now have a small team of 6 trained volunteers within the Pilot just beginning to work with families, and once they are confident to operate with less intensive supervision, we will be looking to extend the team by running some further volunteer training outside Nottingham.



A number of common issues have emerged from this work:

- Many of the families have experienced difficulties around education issues eg. some children initially did not attend school full-time either because they could not cope with such long days or because the school could not accommodate their behaviour. The schools have all been enthusiastic, and in some cases very creative, in finding ways to gradually lever children into a longer week. School staff are working closely with ESP staff and supporting the pilot very effectively.
- The appropriateness or otherwise of statutory assessments and CAFs (Common Assessment Framework - a multi-agency assessment of the child's needs within the family context) have been further issues.
- Getting benefits and housing sorted out have also featured largely in the support requested.
- Gaining clarity over which health professionals are involved and what exactly they are doing has been helpful for families.

- You can enjoy Christmas.
- Be kind to yourself.

*Take care*

*Ivy x*

p.s. I have just seen R Sage's list. Be afraid, very afraid.....

p.p.s R Lilly's wish list is a real expression of making choices - a battery charger (we adore stuff that needs batteries), shower gel, socks, handkerchiefs - am I afraid? No, delighted making choices that are important to you is fab!

p.p.s. Asbo, he hasn't got a Christmas list, cos every day is Christmas so long as you have a long walk.

p.p.s. Well Dhill, he buys his own presents as he doesn't like surprises!! Novelty undies are a definite no go chez nous!!!!

p.p.p.s. My wish list? Not quite sure about that one - maybe a nice bottle of wine with a slice of peace and quiet to go with it.



*All good wishes of the season to one and all - Ivy*

## Aiming High for Disabled Children - Nottingham City One Year On!!

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 in the Council House, Market Square** - mark the date in your diary! Want to find out what's been happening for families with a child with a disability since the launch event back in February 2009? Then come along and hear about the thinking, planning and doing that's filled the year. All Nottingham City families with a child with a disability should be receiving the Aiming High newsletter containing stories of the successes, and sometimes of the frustrations, of plans to date - more details of the 'One Year On' event are in the November issue of the Nottingham AHDC Newsletter.

# Ivy's Place

The second instalment of Ivy's domestic diary. Last time we met Ivy, her husband Dhill (works a lot, takes lots of vitamins, always poorly), teenager Lilly (ASD, extremely healthy person), about-to-become teenager Sage (endless unanswerable questions), and dog Asbo (scared of carrier bags and birds). Now read on.....



Well here we are again. I had written the "Ivy Update" as to how the Summer Holiday had been managed or even survived when, lo and behold, I realise that Christmas is almost upon us. I have been known to say that I don't enjoy Christmas that much, but this in reality is a bit of a fib. I *love* Christmas and recognise that it's all the hard work I don't relish.

I don't profess to be a great Christmas manager, after all I have only just realised it's almost upon us! The shopping, cooking etc are fairly easy, that is, of course, if you don't lose the lists! Living with our Lilly's A.S.D. and the changes in routine Christmas brings about, can make us actually relish the routines which can on occasions seem to rule our lives. So being a bit long in the tooth which roughly equates to being old, here are my Christmas Rules for what they are worth.....

- Encourage the writing, drawing or cutting and sticking a "wish list" for those desired gifts - always remembering/reminding that not all wishes come true!
- Xmas tree going up on the 1<sup>st</sup> December; the excitement is almost agonising and by the 3<sup>rd</sup> December too painful!!!! - less hope for the 25<sup>th</sup>!
- Minimise your own expectations for the holiday season - i.e. you don't need to clean up, just invite a few visitors round and they will hide the dust, smudgy floors and NO ONE WILL NOTICE I PROMISE.
- Dusters are banned until next year!
- It is okay to think about the Super Mum plan but it is even more okay to ignore it or even forgot you made it in the first place.
- It is okay to plan some special time for yourself.
- Set your worries aside - nowhere is open to make a difference.



- Probably the biggest and most commonly sought area for support was in finding suitable leisure and sports-type activities for these children and families. It can take days of diligent phoning around to track down a swimming club that meets the needs of both child and family, taking into account location, time and level of ability.



Some families expressed a desire to meet other families like them, maybe for a support group or in one case, just to meet another family with a child with the same rare disorder as theirs (and yes, we managed to make that happen).

- There will be an evaluation of the Pilot Project early next year, a summary of which will be available on the PPS website, and learning from this will be taken forward into the next stage, whatever that may look like.



 WELCOME 



My name is Naomi and in September of this year I found myself in the fortunate position of joining the Early Support Pilot within the Parent Partnership Service after a 23 year career within the banking industry. My interest in working in the community was inspired by my own experiences of working for voluntary counselling organisations since 2003.

As Volunteer Co-ordinator, I look forward to the opportunity of broadening my current managerial skills to co-ordinate the ESP Volunteers who have been recruited to support parents, who have disabled children between the ages of 5 and 7 years with special educational needs.

On a personal front, I have a wonderful family, with two children. My interests range from counselling vulnerable adults and children, walking, reading and socialising.

I recognise this role as an ideal opportunity for broadening my current skills and knowledge. This will no doubt be invaluable as my work in the community continues in the future.



Let me introduce myself. My name is Jayne Nesbitt. I am married, mother of two delightful children who are both maturing into adulthood.

My role within Parent Partnership is a Key Worker in the Rushcliffe area for the Early Support Pilot Project.

Why did I want to be a part of this Pilot? From personal experience, I know how precious and valuable it is to have someone to turn to when life with a young person with additional needs becomes complicated and frustrating. To have had the services of a professional who would hold my hand, be a support and help tackle issues and find pathways would have been invaluable.

To be offered the opportunity to be that person for some families is a true privilege. My background of working as a nursery nurse and T.A. supporting children with additional needs in a one to one situation, coupled with being a Mum to a young man with Asperger's Syndrome has I feel given me a level of experience and empathy to understand some of the issues.

I hope my input into the pilot will be valuable to families and services and I look forward to an enriching experience over the next few months. I am not Superwoman (would like to be!) but I hope I make a difference.



Hello, my name is Tonia Lambley.

I have had the pleasure of working on the Early Support pilot as a Key Worker since September 2009. In the past I have worked as a qualified social worker with families and children who have additional needs in Education, Social care and private home settings.

In my spare time I really enjoy craft activities including cross stitch, and jewellery making. I also like to spend time with my family and friends on days out to the countryside and parks.

I have really enjoyed supporting some fantastic families and professionals in many areas during the last few months. I am looking forward to the future in my Key Working role which brings new joys each day.

### The 'Red Tape'

I am a second year social work student on a 4 month placement at The Parent Partnership Service. Prior to starting my placement I had very limited knowledge of the experiences and issues that face children with Special Educational Needs along with their parents/carers. As my time at PPS has progressed, the two things which have struck me the most are the vast range and diversity of the problems facing the people requesting advice and support with educational issues, and the complexity of the policies and procedures of the education system relating to those having 'special needs'.

The cynical ones amongst us would say that all the 'red tape' is designed to confuse and hinder ordinary people in their struggle to make provision for their children's education. I think there's more to it than that!

When you look at all the Government legislation and policies relating to the provision of education, you begin to see there is a need for much of the so called 'red tape' to regulate the education system and all professionals involved and ensure a good standard of education for all, irrespective of the individual's circumstances.

Having said that, I would agree that when an ordinary person is confronted with the 'red tape', it can be very confusing and frustrating for them. That is when The Parent Partnership Service can help out. Their members of staff are a mine of information and have a great deal of experience in all issues relating to Special Educational Needs.

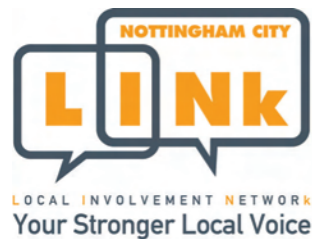
Their expertise in this area never ceases to amaze me; in my time here I have asked many difficult questions relating to complex cases and have always received an immediate answer.

I have also worked alongside many of the workers here and without exception they have acted professionally, treating all their clients equally with dignity and respect.

I believe the Notts PPS provide a vital service to parents and carers in what can be a very emotional and distressing time for them. They will go to extremes to offer support and I would have no hesitation in recommending their services to people in the future.

Long may they prosper!

**Patrick Kenny, Social Work Student**



*Making your voice heard!*  
**Nottingham City and County Local  
Involvement Networks (LINKs)**



*Here is a way for parents to raise issues around poor quality or unsatisfactory services in health and social care. LINKs do not pursue individual issues or complaints, but gather comments together under themes and, where a common thread begins to emerge, they will take that issue forward. Knowing how many parents generally comment on very similar issues concerning health and social care, it would seem well worth the effort of raising awareness at LINK.*

Everyone has an opinion on their local health and social care service, be it good or bad, so don't keep it quiet... let the **LINK** know!

The **LINK** is an independent network of local people, groups and organisations who want to improve publicly funded health and social care services in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. We provide a *link* between the public and various governing bodies and councils, but we need to know about the experiences and opinions of service users in order to decide what issues need to be investigated. LINK is a government initiative and has certain powers to act on what *you* tell us!

Presently your local LINKs in are looking into a number of issues, including 'The shortage of health visitors for people with young children in Bassetlaw' and 'The public transport links to the city's medical centres'.

LINK also needs volunteers (aged 18 or over) who want to do something rewarding and make a difference in their community. There are a variety of ways you can help, such as running a coffee morning, joining a Task and Finish Group or attending a workshop.

To find out more call the LINK on 0115 975 4647, email [info@strongerlocalvoice.com](mailto:info@strongerlocalvoice.com) or look on [www.strongerlocalvoice.com](http://www.strongerlocalvoice.com).



## Standing Frame Use

At the University of Nottingham we are interested in the use of standing frames with children and adolescents.

### Can you help?

Building on previous work we are surveying the views of parents and carers who use standing frames with their children. All responses will be entirely anonymous. You can access the survey at:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nmp/physiotherapy/SF-use.html>

Or if you prefer you can request a postal or e-mail copy by contacting Sarah Westwater-Wood at [mczsew@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:mczsew@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Closing Date: 29th January 2010**

## Challenging Behaviour Foundation

This Charity supports families of children with challenging behaviour; they produce a newsletter aimed at parents/carers. The newsletter gives information about national policies around working with children, together with articles contributed by families sharing their experiences. This newsletter can be obtained free of charge from:

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation - [www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk](http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk)  
or by telephoning 01634 838 739

# Achievement for All

This is a national programme to boost the educational achievement of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). The programme runs from September 2009 to September 2011, and is operating in 10 local authority areas across the country; Nottinghamshire is the area for the East Midlands region.

£35m is being spent on the programme, divided between the 10 areas, to support the schools taking part to do three things:



- Track the attainment over 2 years of all pupils in Years 1, 5, 7 and 10 with SEND (ie at School Action, School Action Plus or with a statement)
- Engage with their parents in a focused way, listening to parents' concerns and suggestions, planning and acting collaboratively to support the child
- Improve the outcomes for these children in wider areas eg after school clubs, having friends, being involved in their local community, decreasing the impact and occurrence of bullying etc

Schools will be expected to be creative and to try out new ways of supporting these children. Parents of children with SEND should see their child become a more confident learner, more engaged with school and happy to be there. Parents should better understand their child's attainments and achievements and the crucial role they play in supporting those. Schools should also develop a deeper understanding of children's needs across academic and more social areas, and of the fruitful partnerships that can emerge with parents.

If you are a parent of a child with SEND in Yrs 1, 5, 7, or 10 in one of the schools taking part in the programme, you should already have had information about this exciting work. You can find additional information on the PPS website [www.ppsnotts.org.uk](http://www.ppsnotts.org.uk). There is likely to be some consultative work with parents once the programme is properly underway, and this will also be publicised on the PPS website.

Children without any additional needs will also be affected by this work - if the children with SEND benefit, then so will the whole class!

# COOL KIDS!!

4 kids by kids

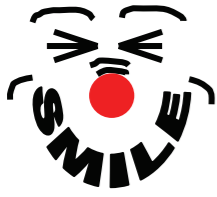
Hello and welcome to Cool Kids update. We have been doing lots of exciting things over the summer:

- We joined the National Trust and have visited some of our local places of interest including Southwell Workhouse.
- Summer was spent doing activities at Sherwood Forest and a very wet day at Rufford Country Park. We also had a great day at Flamingo Land.
- We went pond dipping with the Rangers at Clumber Park.
- In September we had a very successful Talent Night and Barn Dance which also raised lots of money for Cancer Research.



- Halloween saw the Cool Kids having a fancy dress party and some yummy food.
- We have said goodbye to one member and welcomed five new ones.
- We have a new meeting taking place regularly in Arnold.
- The new edition of 'Places We Like To Go' directory has been sent out to families in Nottinghamshire.

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



Run for parents, by parents of children with special educational needs in the Ashfield area!

Future Group Meetings will be held on:

January 2010

14<sup>th</sup> Bracken Hill School  
20<sup>th</sup> Morven Park School  
28<sup>th</sup> Coxmoor Community Centre

February 2010

4<sup>th</sup> Bracken Hill School  
10<sup>th</sup> Morven Park School  
25<sup>th</sup> Coxmoor Community Centre

March 2010

4<sup>th</sup> Bracken Hill School  
17<sup>th</sup> Morven Park School  
25<sup>th</sup> Coxmoor Community Centre

April 2010

15<sup>th</sup> Bracken Hill School  
21<sup>st</sup> Morven Park School  
29<sup>th</sup> Coxmoor Community Centre

May 2010

20<sup>th</sup> Bracken Hill School

June 2010

10<sup>th</sup> Coxmoor Community Centre  
16<sup>th</sup> Morven Park  
24<sup>th</sup> Bracken Hill School

**East Midlands Region Parent Partnership Group Conference  
held at Beaumanor Hall, Loughborough, November 11<sup>th</sup> 2009**

This was a collaboration between all the Parent Partnership Services in the East Midlands (Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Derby City, Lincolnshire, Leicester City, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Rutland and Milton Keynes). The administration for the conference was supported by the Schools Development Support Agency, funded by the Regional Hub (a partnership of local authorities in the East Midlands region working within the field of SEN); it was a huge relief to hand that side of things over to someone with long experience of handling large events.

The title of the conference was '**Exclusions and Attendance: SEN Issues?**' and we entertained around 100 professionals working in the field of SEN and disabilities with a keynote speech by a nationally recognised expert on exclusion issues, Ingrid Sutherland, and a series of diverse workshops by professionals from across the region.

I'm proud to say that Nottingham and Nottinghamshire fielded several contributors and thanks must go to David Stewart, Head of Oak Field School in Nottingham, Phil Gawthorpe, Senior Area Education Officer for Nottinghamshire, Caron Cox from the Nottinghamshire Learning Centre, and Bill Connor from PPS. Special thanks must go to Tammy Woodward and her mum, Karen, who spoke very powerfully in Bill's workshop about the impact of exclusions on the family.

Feedback from the conference was really good - on the day there were lots of parting comments like 'When will you be doing this again?' (*if I have my way, not for a long time*). 'Pity it wasn't longer!' 'Excellent'. 'Very informative day-lots of helpful resources made available'. 'Spoilt for choice with workshops, perhaps a two day session next time?' 'It was a really good idea to involve parent/carers in running the workshops and in the Plenary Panel and I hope their role will continue and even be extended in future conferences'.

The evaluation of the conference is on the PPS website.



**Aiming High in Nottinghamshire  
Supported by Short Breaks  
Pathfinder**



**Information Day for Parents of Children with Additional Needs**

Tuesday, 9th February 2010, 9.45 a.m. - 2.30 p.m. at  
The Summit Centre, Pavilion Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7LL

- Programme:**
- 9.45 a.m. Tea/Coffee and Registration
  - 10.15 a.m. Welcome talk from Chris Harrison - Head of SEN & Inclusion for Notts County Council
  - Session 1** - Primary/Secondary Transition or
  - Session 2** - Exclusions
  - 12.00 p.m. LUNCH (light lunch provided)
  - Session 3** - Inclusion in Schools or
  - Session 4** - Support after diagnosis
  - 2.30 p.m. Finish

Parents will be presenting case studies to a panel of professionals at each workshop for their comments and discussion

To book a free place call Israel on Tel: 0115 948 2888 or  
e-mail: [enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk)



## The work of an Educational Psychologist...

Educational psychologists (E.Ps) work on behalf of children and young people aged from birth to nineteen years old, in order to support their learning, development and well-being. Much of E.Ps work is centred upon children and young people who have complex special educational needs. Nevertheless, E.Ps also work with schools to help develop their policies on a wide range of issues such as behaviour and attendance. All Local Authority schools in the City and County have a named E.P. who provides a service to a 'family' of schools.

E.Ps provide training to school staff, and occasionally other professionals, on a wide range of issues relevant to their work with children and young people, for instance; behaviour, learning styles, stress management, and bereavement and loss. E.P.'s work is firmly based on strong psychological research. E.P. Services also carry out research in order to inform schools and others who work with young people.

The County and City E.P. Services both use a consultation approach to supporting children and young people. Possible referrals of individual children to the Service are discussed during regular Multi-Agency Meetings in school. Parental permission is required for a child to be initially discussed at the meeting and before children are referred to an E.P. E.Ps frequently consult with appropriate school staff, other relevant professionals and parents or caregivers. Parents' or caregivers' information and views are extremely important in order that a child's special educational needs can be fully understood and their needs met.

E.Ps can work directly with children or with groups of children, through observations in school, a wide variety of assessment techniques, and occasionally through more direct interventions, such as providing anger management training. E.Ps provide psychological advice to the Local Authority for children requiring a statutory assessment of their special educational needs. E.Ps therefore work closely throughout this process with many Services, including the Special Educational Needs Team, and the Parent Partnership Service. A new and exciting venture started in September when the City's E.P Service began providing a consultation service to the PPS. This has been a wonderful learning opportunity for members of both Services.

# 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.

### Hucknall Course

Taking place on **Thursdays, 10.00 a.m. — 2.30 p.m.** The dates of the course are as follows:

*14th January 2010*

*21st January 2010*

*28th January 2010*

*4th February 2010*

*11th February 2010*

*25th February 2010*

*4th March 2010*

**Venue:** New College Nottingham (Hucknall Site), Portland Road, Hucknall, NG15 7SN (next to tram terminus).

For more information please contact Scott on  
Tel: 0115 948 2888 or E-mail: [enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ppsnotts.org.uk)

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