



STOKE-ON-TRENT PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Summer Newsletter 2009

Looking for support and advice on special educational needs?

What do we do?

- Provide parents/carers with a wide range of information and support about matters relating to their child's/young person's special educational needs
- Offer support to parents & carers through the statutory assessment process
- Help with paperwork & attend meetings/reviews
- Help parents/carers to express their views and concerns
- Provide a telephone helpline
- Offer support to parents & carers in the form of an IPS (Independent Parental Supporter); most are parents with children who have special educational needs
- Help parents/carers through the appeal process including supporting parents/carers at the Special Educational Appeals Tribunal hearing
- Provide access to an Independent Mediation Service



We have moved!

Our new address is:
Parent Partnership Service
Queensberry Education Centre
Queensberry Road
Normacot
Stoke on Trent
ST3 1QZ

Tel: 01782 234701
Fax: 01782 236858
E-mail:
parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk

Parent Partnership Website

We are currently in the process of creating a web site for the Parent Partnership Service. All of our helpful forms will be available to download online and it will also be updated weekly to ensure we keep running an efficient service.



There will be separate pages for Parent Partnership and the Choice Adviser and we will inform you of the website address in our Summer newsletter.

The Parent Partnership Service would like to welcome back Debbie Gilson (Independent Parental Supporter) and Julie Massey (Support Officer). Julie & Debbie are an asset to our team and it's good to have them back.

PPS Advisory Group

The Service has a multi-agency Advisory Group representing the various agencies and groups who work with children with special educational needs and their parents/carers in the City of Stoke-on-Trent. Members of the Advisory Group have different knowledge, expertise and experience to offer. Their role as a member is to support the work of the Parent Partnership Service, not to promote the specific interests of their own department or organisation.

The Advisory Group meets termly, or occasionally more often when necessary to inform the Parent Partnership action Plan, to monitor the performance of the Service and to ensure that it has an arm's length relationship with the LA.

The group are asked to advise on the development of the service and to identify gaps in current provision and unmet needs, to contribute their views on current policies and documents, respond to local, regional and national developments, assist in planning and prioritising the work of the Service and support partnership work in practice, enabling the mutual informing of good practice. The Advisory Group is required to receive termly reports and parental feedback.

The current chair of the group is Mr John Bostock.

If you would like to be involved in the Advisory Group or would like to know more, let us know. We always welcome feedback and comments.

Lifestyle Triple P

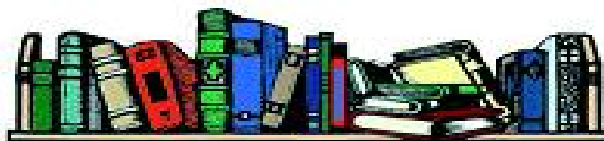
What is lifestyle Triple P?

It's a Positive Parenting Program for parents who want to help their children (aged 5-10 years) achieve a healthy weight. It is based on the award-winning Triple P that promotes good communication and strong relationships between parents and children. Lifestyle Triple P has an additional focus on promoting children's physical health.

It aims to improve children's nutritional intake and levels of physical activity.

The programme will increase parents' skills and confidence in managing children's weight and related behaviour.

Call them now for more information on 01782 652769

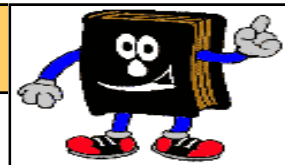


***** Have your say! *****

**This leaflet will be circulated across Stoke on Trent.
If you want to be included in the next newsletter or you're an organisation wishing to include an article in the next addition, let us know.**

**E-mail: parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk
Tel: 01782 234701 / 236414**

Keeping you up to date!



Following our recent move to Queensberry Education Centre, we are currently in the process of expanding our current team and we are recruiting for a Casework Officer, Training Officer and an Administration Officer. The new staff should be on board by May and we will introduce them in our Summer newsletter.

We are also welcoming to our team a Choice Adviser. Their main role will be to provide support and confidential/impartial advice to parents/carers whose children are in Year 5 and Year 6 preparing them for transition to Secondary School. They will help to make the school Admissions process clearer, fairer and more equitable by supporting families who would like help.

We are sure the new staff will make a big difference to Stoke on Trent PPS and look forward to them joining our team.

Volunteers Wanted!

Are you interested in becoming an Independent Parental Supporter?

IPS's provide guidance, advice and support to parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs.

Full training, support and ongoing supervision will be provided.

If you would like any of the following leaflets, let us know. We are more than happy to send them to you.

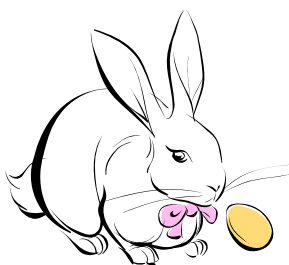
- Statutory assessment
- Abbreviations & Jargon explained
- Checklist when visiting new school
- Early Years
- Tribunals
- What are Special Educational Needs
- Which school
- Concerned about your child, need to know more
- Portage
- Advocacy
- Ombudsman
- Annual reviews
- 'P' scales

These leaflets are also available in several languages

Items to look forward to

In our Summer newsletter we will be focusing on the following:

- New staff and their roles within Parent Partnership
- Introducing the website
- New leaflets
- New logo
- Choice Adviser and their role



Easter

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter.

Useful contact numbers

Face2face Parents supporting Parents of Disabled Children	North Staffs Asperger's & Autism Association
Tel/fax: 01782 874974 Mobile 07921046511 E-mail: denisedeakin@face2facenetwork.org.uk	3 Andrew Place, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 1DL Tel: 01782 627002
British Epilepsy Association	Children's Legal Centre
The Dudson Centre, Hope Street, Hanley Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 5DD Tel: 01782 255872 / 272083 / 784805 E-mail: nsdasta@yahoo.co.uk	Tel: 01206 872466 Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com
Local Government Ombudsman	Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)
The Oaks, 2 Westwood Way, Coventry CV4 8JB Tel: 024 7682 0000	Tel: 0808 800 5793 Website: www.ace-ed.org.uk