




Stoke on Trent Parent Partnership Service



Autumn Term 2009



Help and advice for parents in Stoke-on-Trent

Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership

Home
Mission statement
Publications
Newsletter
Schools choice advice
Training/volunteering
Support Groups
Disagreement resolution
Policies & development plans
Notice board
Links
Contact us

Home

Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership

We are an impartial and confidential advice, information and support service for parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs.

We can help by:

- Listening to parents' views and concerns about their child or young persons special educational needs.

Supporting parents in expressing their views by:

- Attending meetings
- Assistance with writing letters/reports and filling in forms
- Offering advice to the Parent Partnership's advisory panel

To make Parent Partnership more accessible to parents/carers, schools and other organisations, we are pleased to launch our new website, which is live as of 31st July 2009!

The website is full of useful links and a range of resources, giving parents/carer information relating to their child's special educational need. A user friendly website that will enable parents/carers and other organisations to find all they need on the SEN processes and procedures. The website is being managed by Stoke on Trent Parent Partnership so we will be updating the website monthly with up and coming events and news.

Find out more now: www.parent-partnership-stoke.co.uk

Feedback from Open Day held on 24th July 2009 at Hope Centre, Hanley

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Parent Awareness Day. It was a successful day and we also took the event out into the town; handing out bags and balloons to parents/carers.

We are hoping to hold Drop In Centres on a monthly basis as of October so look on our website for upcoming events.

We were also joined by Voluntary Action Stoke on Trent (VAST) at our event at the Hope Centre and we look forward to joining them at their events over the next few months.

Look on our website for further information and dates - we look forward to seeing you there!

Stoke on Trent Parent Partnership, Queensberry Education Centre, Queensberry Road,
Normacot, Stoke on Trent, ST3 1SF

Welcome to the Choice Advisory Service!



Introducing the new Choice Advisory Service for Stoke-On-Trent! This new service is now up and running, and is currently networking with professionals to ensure that the service reaches those that need that little bit of extra support.

Newly launched from July, the Choice Advisory Service is independent and impartial and in order to maintain this stance, sits within the Parent Partnership Service. The service will be focusing on supporting parents in being able to make a preferred choice for a school for their child. This service is open to all parents from all different backgrounds, to ensure they have equal opportunity to access good education for their child.

The service aims to support parents with impartial and independent advice to ensure that their child has a place at a school which will cater for their needs. Support will be offered to parents who need support through the admissions process focussing on the transition between primary school and secondary school. Advice will be given regarding the admission criteria for the Local Authority and schools within the area.

Information will be given to parents to help them make their preferred school choice. This can range from information regarding the schools and their specialism, Ofsted reports and also the admission numbers for the year, and if the school has been oversubscribed in recent years.

Support can also be given if you would like to appeal against the decision of your school allocation. The choice Adviser will be able to support you through the process and can also support you through the Admissions Appeals hearing.

What ever support you need, we can cater for individual needs, whether it is support in filling in application forms, giving one to one support or making a home visit.

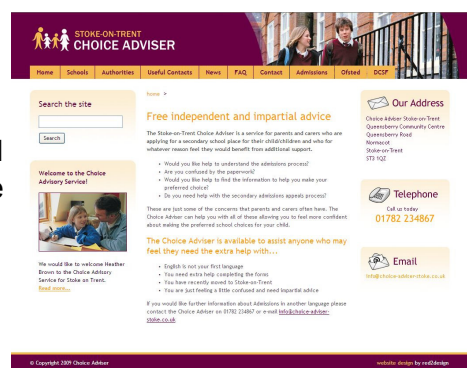
If you need support in making a preferred choice for your child's school, or you need further advice about the school admission process then please contact the Choice Advisory Service:

Tel: 01782 234867

E-mail: info@choice-adviser-stoke.co.uk

As of 31st July, The Choice Adviser website will be live! You can find information on the admissions process, schools and Ofsted report.

Have a look at our new website - www.choice-adviser-stoke.co.uk



Training Opportunities

From September 2009, the Parent Partnership Service will be offering free training courses both to schools and parents. Schools will be able to request training on 'The Role of the Parent Partnership Service' and 'Managing communication with parents'. Parents will be able to attend training sessions on 'The Special Needs Code of Practice' and 'Graduated Response - the processes and procedures involved in Special Education Needs'.

Please contact the Training Officer on 01782 234854 for more information.

Help Needed!

The Parent Partnership Service is looking to recruit volunteers to work as Independent Parental Supporters (IPSs). An IPS supports and advises parents/carers whose children have been identified as having a Special Educational Need. Volunteers will complete a 12 week training course, covering a range of topics including the role of an IPS, the SEN Code of Practice and the Statutory Assessment process. All we ask is that volunteers dedicate 2 hours per week to their role as an IPS.

If you are interested in becoming an IPS contact the Training Officer on 01782 234854

Points of View

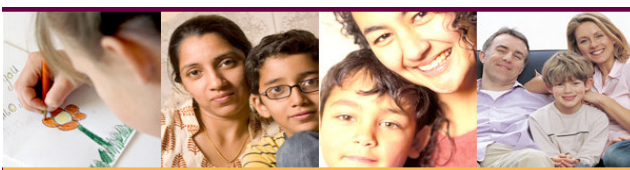
"I've volunteered as an IPS for 3 years, supporting parents/carers of children with special educational needs. I found the role both rewarding and challenging at the same time, knowing that the support I was giving was making a real difference to the families I worked with"

IPS, S-O-T Parent Partnership

"When my child was going through the statutory assessment process, the IPS helped in a variety of ways - they helped me with paperwork, accompanied me to meetings and were always at the end of the phone to offer me additional support"

Parent, Stoke on Trent

If you have an event you would like us to advertise or you would like to feature in our next issue please contact us on 01782 234701 or e-mail parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk



NPPN
national parent
partnership network

New Stationery!

You may have noticed on the front page that we have a new logo! The logo was agreed upon by the Advisory Group and to go with the new logo, we have designed new stationery including new leaflets and pens etc.

If you would like any of our new leaflets or any brochures, please let us know.

Alternatively, if you would like leaflets in a different language we can arrange this for you.

Congratulations!

We would like to say a big congratulations to our Choice Adviser, Heather Weston who got married on 7th August at St Philomena's in Caverswall, Staffs following a reception at Caverswall Castle.

Heather then jetted off to Florida for her honeymoon on 8th August for 3 weeks (lucky girl!)

All the team wish Heather & Neil all the very best for the future!

Our Mission Statement

By effective, impartial and confidential partnership working we aim to promote a culture of communication and cooperation between parents/carers, the LA and voluntary and statutory organisations for the benefit of all children and young people with special educational needs. Through reconciliation we serve to lower or remove barriers of misunderstandings. We actively work with parent/carers and value parental contributions. We seek to empower parents/carers to play an active and informed role in their child/young person's education.

A Final Note - Poem called 'Unity'

I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind, and they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher; the tools he used were books and music and art;
One a parent with a guiding hand, and a gentle, loving heart

Day after day the teacher toiled, with touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent laboured by his side and polished and smoothed it oer

And when at last their task was done, they stood proud of what they had wrought.
For things they had moulded into the child could neither be sold or bought.

And each agreed he would have failed if he had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood the school and behind the teacher, the home