



Stoke on Trent Parent Partnership Service



Summer Newsletter 2010



Summer's here and our latest newsletter has arrived!

The last few months have seen much activity with the web site becoming increasingly more popular and proving to be a really useful tool for improving access to information for parents/carers around Special Educational Needs.

We now have our own Facebook page and group. Staff members will be updating the site on a weekly basis. The page is called 'Stoke on Trent Parent Partnership'. We do hope you join our group. We felt it would be a useful page for parents to meet with other parents who may be experiencing the same difficulties and concerns.

The Service has hosted several Coffee Mornings over the last three months. We feel that these events offer the opportunity to strengthen our relationship with both parents/carers and schools.

Thank you to all the schools who have taken part for their warm welcome and hospitality.

To find out about future venues, dates and times please turn to page 2 of this newsletter.

We are now halfway through our training sessions for Independent Parental Supporters and there will be a few new faces around the office once they have completed their course and received their certificate!

The next course is due to start in September so if you know anyone who may be interested in supporting parents, please call the office to find out more.

We are also hosting a free workshop in September called 'The Graduated Response' for all professionals who would like to know more about Parent Partnership and also the role we play in supporting parents of children with Special Educational Needs.

For all of our upcoming events please visit our website.

Hope you all have a lovely summer!

Best Wishes

Lyn Fryer

Service Manager

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Stoke on Trent Parent Partnership Service,
Queensberry Education Centre, Queensberry Rd, Normacot,
Stoke on Trent, ST3 1QZ

Tel: 01782 234701 **Fax:** 01782 236858

Email: parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk

Web: www.parent-partnership-stoke.co.uk

facebook

Parent Partnership Service are now on Facebook! Join our group to find useful links. It also gives parents the opportunity to chat to other parents who may be going through similar circumstances. The Facebook page is updated regularly and will also have useful links to various events, including our Coffee Mornings! Parent Partnership staff create and manage the page/group. To find us type in 'Stoke on Trent Parent Partnership'

A Graduated Response

This FREE workshop focuses on the 'Graduated Response' with regard to SEN within mainstream schools.

It will also explore the role of Parent Partnership Service in supporting parents of children with SEN.

Date: Wednesday 8th September 2010

Time: 09.30 am - 3:00pm

Venue: Kingsland Children's Centre

For more information contact

Emma Walton

01782 234701

parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk

Please note: Lunch will not be provided on the day



PPS Coffee Mornings

We are holding coffee mornings for parents / carers to come along and find out more about PPS and the service that we provide. If you would like support with your child, feel your child has Special Educational Needs or would like to become a volunteer come along to any of the following locations:

- Thursday 8th July, 9.15am - 11.15am at Grove Juniors School, Northwood
- Friday 17th September 9.30am - 11.30am at Clarice Cliff Primary School, Fenton
- Friday 24th September 9.30am - 11.30am at Treehouse Children's Centre, Bentilee
- Wednesday 29th September 9.30am - 11.30am at Whitfield Valley Primary, Fegg Hayes
- Friday 5th November 9.30am - 11.30am at St John's Primary, Trent Vale

We are planning additional coffee mornings throughout the year. Check the website for updates:
www.parent-partnership-stoke.co.uk

Alternatively if you would like the coffee morning held in your nursery or school please call Julie on 01782 234847 to check availability.



Harry is a 10 year old boy with dyslexia. Harry and his sister decided to set up and design their very own website, which gives useful tips and advice on the struggles that Harry has faced and also the opportunity for other 'dudes' to have an insight as to what Harry goes through on a daily basis. Parent Partnership were very impressed and decided to ask him for an interview! Here is what Harry had to say....

What made you want to create a website for young people with Dyslexia?

I wanted to create my own website because when I was being assessed by all those people at school for a statement all the adults were talking about me. I was a bit worried about it all & my mum was given loads of leaflets but I couldn't understand them, but nobody talked to me about it. My mum had to tell me in a way i could understand about dyslexia. I felt everybody had forgotten about the kids who are going through this. I also had a horrible time at school & my teachers didn't understand why I found it all so hard. I was really sad & I thought 'what's the point they all think I am stupid' so I just stopped talking in class. I didn't want any other kid to have to feel like that so I thought I would like to do something. My sister, who's 15 was doing her course work at home on web design & I asked her if we could have a go at doing one. So over the holidays, when it rained for ever we decided to have a go. We asked mum to have a look; she thought it was really good & said we should publish it.

What's been the best thing to come out of the website so far?

The best thing to come out of the website is that people are finding it really helpful. We asked the paper to put a write up about it & they loved it & put it on the front page. This helped because the parents told their kids, the schools found out about it & it has changed how the teachers think about dyslexic dudes which is good news for us. Also First News found out about us & they let us write a piece about the website. Lots of kids got in touch & teachers, which is mint because the more kids know, the more they can get the help. I've also been able to speak to lots of important people who could help us.

Since finding out that you're Dyslexic, what do you think has been your biggest challenge?

My biggest challenge since finding out has been trying to get teachers & some kids understand that just because I can't read very well doesn't mean I am stupid. Everyday going to school is a challenge & I think it always will be.

How do school help to support you?

I get support in school - I moved schools this year & my SENCo is great - so are the TA's who help me. I go to a dyslexia centre one morning a week. I go to a nurture group & they help me if I have any problems with other kids but mostly that's ok.

What are your five top tips for other young people with Dyslexia?

This is hard but my five top tips are:-

1. Dyslexic dudes have talents - find your thing that you are good at. It could be sport, cooking, fixing stuff. Make sure others know what you can do - it makes you feel good & shows others how clever you are
2. Tell people how you feel. If you are feeling frustrated, angry or sad because of your dyslexia - talk to someone.
3. IT/computers or other stuff. Use equipment that may help you - it doesn't always have to be expensive. Learn how to use a PC & work on keyboard skills because this is essential for dyslexic dudes!!
4. Organising stuff such as your school bag, keeping time or remembering things such as taking your PE kit to school can be hard. Make it easier by asking for help or sorting things out the night before. Make sure your school knows about this if its a problem so they can help you to.
5. Wearing a watch (not digital) can help if you have problems reversing your numbers. I used to do this all the time but if I had my watch I could check the numbers were right on my watch before I wrote them down. It also helps in remembering left from right.



**To see Harry's website
go to:
www.dudeswithdyslexia.co.uk**

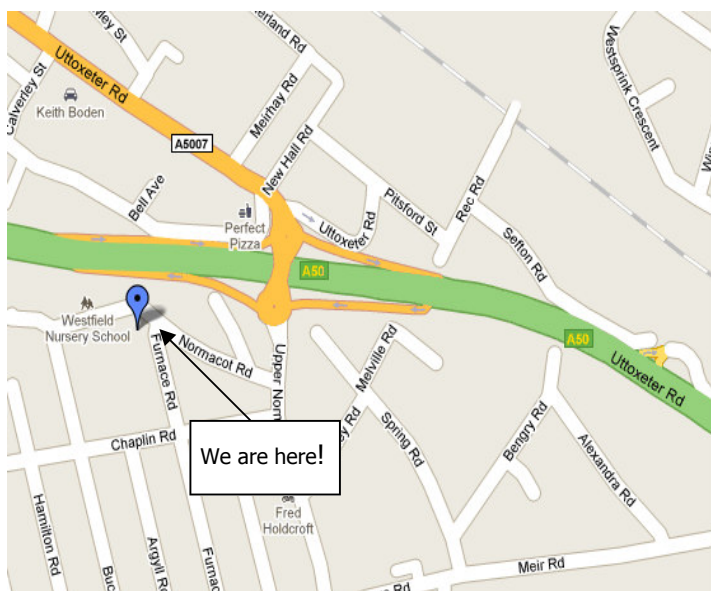
If you are a professional and would like to know more about Parent Partnership and the support we offer, please contact us on 01782 234701. Alternatively we would be happy to come along and chat to your team about the Service and our role supporting parents/carers. Please feel free to pass on our details to parents who may need support for their child / young person.

Our newsletter is circulated to over 2000 parents/carers, professionals and educational settings. If you would like to be included on the mailing list please let us know. Alternatively, if you move to a new address or change your email, please keep us updated. Want to advertise in our Autumn newsletter? We would love to hear from you but please do send the article over no later than 30th September 2010.

Our next Advisory Group meeting is taking place at Queensberry on 5th October 2010. If you are a parent/carer or professional and would like to join the group please email:
parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk

How to find us

From Stoke: Follow the A50 until the Normacot turning. Take the third exit off the mini roundabout. Go across the bridge and then straight across the next mini roundabout. Take the first turning on the right into Normacot Road. Turn left into Furnace Road and you will see Queensberry City Wide Training Centre directly facing you. The Parent Partnership Office is in the building on the left.



What we do

Mencap is the voice of learning disability.

We work with people with a learning disability to change laws and services, challenge prejudice and directly support thousands of people to live their lives as they choose.

We do so many different things. For example:

- We support people with a learning disability to get a job or take a college course, or we can help them find a place of their own to live in.
- We offer advice about things like respite care, individual budgets or transport services.
- We run residential/day care services and leisure groups that are so important to so many people with a learning disability, and their families and supporters.
- We support people with a learning disability to be part of their local communities.

We lobby the government to change laws so that more and more people with a learning disability can have control over their own lives.

To find out more, visit our website:
www.mencap.org.uk