



Winter Newsletter 2010



Welcome to the Stoke on Trent Parent Partnership Winter Newsletter.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from all the staff here at the PPS.

Lyn Fryer
Parent Partnership Coordinator



What we do

- We provide independent and impartial information, support and guidance on the processes and procedures around special educational needs (SEN) to parents/carers of children and young people with SEN
- We offer support and guidance around fixed term and permanent exclusions
- We emphasise the importance of listening to, and taking account of, parents'/carers' views
- We are solution focused and are informal mediators
- We promote and enable parent-to-parent support
- We provide training and workshops on the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice

What we don't do

- Make decisions for parents or tell them what to do
- Discuss the parent or child/young person with other people without their permission (unless the safety of the child is at risk)
- Assess children/young people or diagnose their problems



Keeping you informed

Three people were successful in completing the recent IPS course that ended in August. One of these has already shown an interest in becoming an active volunteer for the PPS and is shadowing case workers. This means that the service will have three active volunteers available to provide additional support to parents.

The PPS leaflets are in the process of being updated, both in content and style. The restyling was recommended by the Parent Engagement Partnership. New leaflets on Post-16 provision and a child-friendly leaflet on statutory assessment will soon be available

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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

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: Monday 24th January 2011
Time: 11.00 am - 4:30pm
Venue: Crescent Children's Centre

For more information or to book a place contact
Emma Walton
01782 234701
parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk

Please note: Lunch will not be provided on the day

Parents workshops

The PPS is planning to hold three new information workshops for parents. These will be held at various schools across the city.

- Understanding School Action and School Action Plus
- Understanding Statutory Assessment
- Understanding Fixed Term and Permanent Exclusions

More information on these workshops can be found on our website:

<http://www.parent-partnership-stoke.co.uk/training->

Please contact Emma on 01782 234701 for more information or to find a workshop near you!

Free training for schools

The PPS can provide free training on '**Working effectively with parents**' for schools within Stoke-on-Trent.

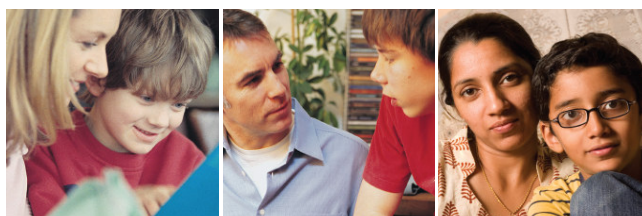
Please contact Emma on 01782 234701 for more information.

Would you like to help parents of children with SEN?

The Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership Service is looking for new volunteers to support parents of children with SEN.

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.parent-partnership-stoke.co.uk/volunteering>





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:

- Wednesday 24th November, 9.30am - 11.30am at St Gregory's Primary, Longton
- Tuesday 30th November, 9.30am - 11.30am at Hollywall Lane Primary, Sandyford
- Thursday 13th January 2011, 9.30am - 11.30am at Abbey Hulton Primary, Abbey Hulton
- Wednesday 19th January 2011, 9.30am - 11.30am at Treehouse Children's Centre, Bentilee
- Wednesday 26th January 2011, 9.15am - 11.15am at Hillside Primary, Baddeley Green

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.

We are looking for parents/carers to support our Steering Group

Would you like to help to drive the Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership Service forwards?

We are looking for parents of children with special educational needs to help us to improve the service that we offer to parents.

Our steering group meets twice a year to discuss how the Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership Service is performing in supporting parents of children with special educational needs. It also helps us to identify areas for development for the future.

Your views and guidance would help to steer the service towards providing the support that parents need and want.

If you would like to join the steering group or would just like more information, please contact.

Telephone: 01782 234701
email:parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk

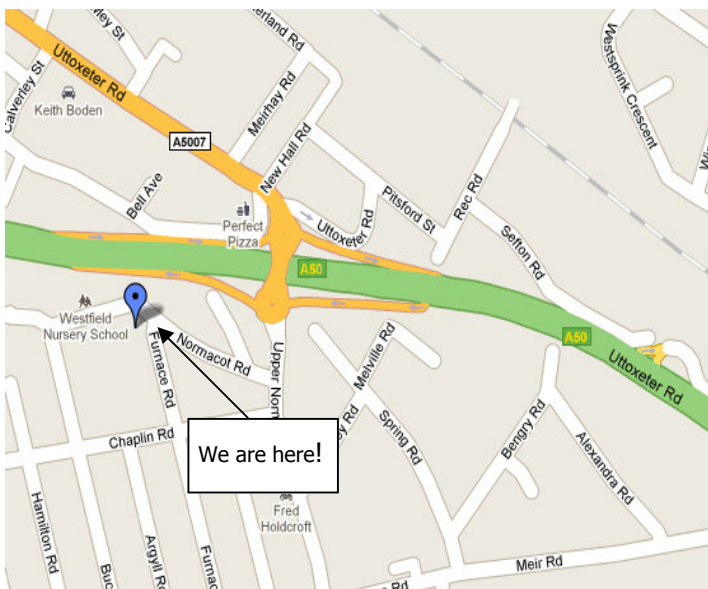
If you are a professional and would like to know more about Parent Partnership and the support we offer, please contact us on 01782 234701. Alternatively we would be happy to come along and chat to your team about the Service and our role supporting parents/carers. Please feel free to pass on our details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

Our newsletter is circulated to 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 Spring newsletter? We would love to hear from you but please do send the article over no later than 30th February 2011.

Our next meeting is taking place at Queensberry on 13th April 2011. If you are a parent/carer or professional and would like to join the group please phone: 01782 783829 email: william.bostock972@talktalk.net

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.



Parent feedback

“The best thing about Parent Partnership is...”

they are there for the best interests of the child with SEN and the family.

they are non-judgemental and helpful, providing insight into what to expect when attending meetings and the process of what should be happening.

they understand the parents and want the best for the child, which is paramount to every parent.

they are knowledgeable and supportive.

They are a very helpful service and they point you in the right direction and advise you well.