



Norfolk Disabled Parents Alliance Newsletter September 2007

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Have your say!

Norfolk's Children and Young People's Plan sets targets to improve the lives of all children and their families. It includes bodies like social services, schools, health services, police and further education.

The plan involves parents, and NDPA has been taking part along with playgroup and school governors, parents of children with special needs, fathers, and young parents

What do you want services to do for your children? What will support you to improve your children's lives?



To have your say

You can fill in an online survey at

www.everynorfolkchildmatters.org

or you can email Kirsten Francis, on kirsten.francis@norfolk.gov.uk or phone her on 0776 974 2621.

Kirsten will send you an electronic or paper survey form, or you can tell her about your views, until November 2007.

It asks if parents are disabled, so this is a very good chance to make our voices heard!

You're invited to our first family meeting

on Sunday 21st October 2007
at Yaxham Village Hall, Dereham
from 2.30 - 4.30pm.



Meet other members and families and get to know more about NDPA.

Yaxham Hall is accessible, has car parking and a children's playground.

We'll have some indoor children's activities.

There's more information on the invitation with this newsletter.

We need to know how many are coming, so send your reply, or get in touch with the phone number or address above by **Monday 8th October**.

Hope to see you there!

Website Corner

Our aim is to provide useful website links. If you don't use the internet but would like the information, let us know and we'll find another way of getting it to you.



Community Legal Service.

Free, high quality legal information with over 30 leaflets on common legal and community matters such as Care Proceedings, Education, Community Care and Equal Opportunities. These can be downloaded from the CLS website, and are also available in Audio and Braille. 0800 345 4 345
www.clsdirect.org.uk



In The Picture is a project to encourage pictures of young disabled children in children's books. Set up by Scope to help illustrators and publishers "get it right", the website is a huge resource of reference images to inspire illustrators, writers, art students and early years teachers to include images of disabled children in their work.

There's even a BSL signed video of Little Bo Peep as you've never seen it before!

In The Picture is working with publishers to include disabled parents too. If you can suggest useful examples, let us know about them!

www.childreninthepicture.org.uk

Disability, Pregnancy & Parenthood international (DPPi)

DPPi is a small UK based group controlled by disabled parents, which promotes better awareness and support for disabled people who are thinking about becoming parents, around pregnancy and as parents.

DPPi has published new booklets to support deaf or visually impaired parents be involved in their children's education.

Information for schools working with deaf parents & parents-to-be. (Code G3)

Supporting children in school: a guide for visually impaired parents and education professionals. (Code G4)

Choosing and applying for schools: a guide for visually impaired parents. (Code T6)

Education resources and contacts: a guide for visually impaired parents and education professionals. (Code T7)

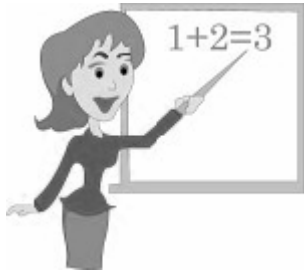
These guides are free to disabled people, £6.00 to others.

DPPi also has guides on pregnancy and having a baby for visually impaired parents, and a BSL signed video on childbirth for deaf parents.

There's a wide range of other resources for disabled parents including an information service on equipment and other general resources.

0800 018 4730

www.dppi.org.uk/publications/index.html



Disability Discrimination Act - Disability Equality in Schools

Schools and colleges must now be more active in encouraging disability equality for their pupils, employees and visitors.

They must aim to provide equality of opportunity, to stop discrimination and harassment; to encourage positive attitudes and to enable disabled pupils and others (including parents) to take part in all school activities.

Schools must take steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

Secondary schools should have had theirs by December 2006 and primary schools and others by December 2007

Schools should involve disabled pupils, staff, parents and others in their Disability Equality schemes to build in disability equality from the start at every level from planning and management down to the classroom.

Many schools do well in making reasonable adjustments for their pupils with Special Educational Needs, as well as helping disabled parents and others, but they must now do more.

They must include anyone who is "disabled" under the DDA, and make all schools look at and improve what they do to promote equality.

Disabled people in schools are good role models for all children and good for the whole community.

If you're a parent who would like to help more with your child's education but can't because of a disability, now is a good time to talk to your child's school about it.

If you're a disabled adult who is interested in how schools are run, now is a very good time to get involved. Make your disability experience work for you!

More details on

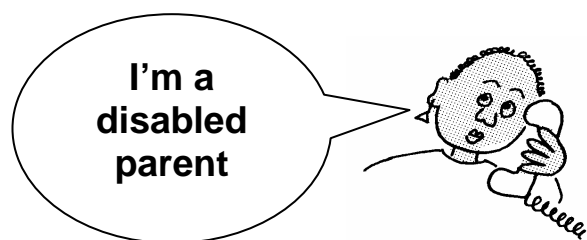
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sen/disabilityandthedda/>

New children's book includes Dad using wheelchair!

My Daddy and Me is a picture book for children up to 5. Each page shows Dads enjoying different activities with their children from eating dinner to splashing in puddles to reading bedtime stories. It includes singing with a Dad who uses a wheelchair. £4.00

www.kidpremiership.com 01484 536553.

Are you a disabled parent who needs more support to look after your children well? Phone Social Services on 0844 800 8014, and ask for an assessment.



Say you are a disabled parent and if you are unsure, ask someone you trust to be with you.

Local News

Hidden Histories Access for everybody at museums in Norwich is being improved. There will be a talk on a temporary display about the lives of disabled people at Norwich Castle Museum on Tuesday 23rd October.

This and other accessible talks and tours must be booked on 01603 493636 or museums@norfolk.gov.uk. Access guides and a report on the museum's search for "disability" exhibits in their collection on www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk

West Norfolk Centre for Independent Living could become a reality. There's an open meeting about plans on Friday 28th September 10am – 13.00 pm at Professional Development Centre, Kilham's Way, Kings Lynn, PE30 2HU. More details from Susan Hanson 01366 382911 or email susan.hanson@norfolk.gov.uk

Our committee needs you!

We need more people to join our committee to help us develop more information for disabled parents. Most of our work is by telephone or email.

If you're a disabled parent with a few hours to spare each month and want to support us, please contact Kathy on 01553 768193 for more information by Monday 29th October.



Our own website! We're trying hard to fund our own website and we'll soon need a team to organise what should be on it.

No experience needed, just a few spare hours a month, internet access and a passion for making information easy to read! Interested?

Email Kathy on (address removed)

Our AGM Please note change of date

Our AGM will be on Friday 30th November in Dereham. Members will get more details nearer the time.

Your contributions to the newsletter are always welcome! Please send to Editor Russell Simpson,
(address removed)

Also available on  audiotape,  floppy disc, and  email Word file

Norfolk Disabled Parents Alliance
Independence and equality for all disabled parents

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